

***The Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life***  
***Acts 4:23-36***

*This Sunday we are taking a brief break from the Book of Romans to focus our thoughts on the Holy Spirit. It is clear that within this community there is an outbreaking of the Holy Spirit that is deeply touching the lives of many folks. The Church universal, apostolic, patristic, medieval, traditional, and contemporary, have had an internal battle to the significance of the Holy Spirit in everyday life. Because of this internal battle over the years, there has been much confusion, lots of apprehension, and a few stick in the mud's that would prefer the Godhead only to consist of the Father and the Son. There has also has been significant periods in the Church where God's Spirit has created a revival of repentance and restoration and renewal so that the child of God can experience the Kingdom of God on earth as it is in Heaven. Open your Bibles and your hearts to the "Greatest Story Ever Told" as we look together in the Book of Acts.*

**I. LAYING THE GROUNDWORK**

- A. The Problems that are Falsely Identified with the Holy Spirit (Polarization)
  - 1. An Old-Fashioned Problem: Holy Ghost instead of Holy Spirit
  - 2. A Theatrical Problem: Human Manipulation instead of the Holy Spirit
  - 3. A Discernment Problem: False Prophets, teachers, and healers instead of truly a work of the Holy Spirit
- B. The Reasons We Need to Understand the Ministry of the Holy Spirit (Power)
  - 1. It will Help Us Follow Jesus without Embarrassing God (Empowerment)
  - 2. It will Bring the Kingdom of God on Earth as it is in Heaven (His Rule and Realm)
  - 3. It will Provide a Personal Quality of Life that Stretches Beyond Our Human Limitations (Eternal Life, Filling of the Spirit, Gifts and Fruit of the Spirit, Peace, Joy, Righteousness, Power)

**II. STUDYING THE TEXT –**

**Acts 4:23-36**

- A. The Context of this Passage: The Outbreak of Persecution, Acts 3:1-4:31
  - 1. In the Midst of Healing, There was Opposition, 3:1-10

2. In the Midst of God's Word, There was Opposition, 3:11-4:22
- B. The Vibrant Dynamics of the Holy Spirit Outlined
1. Nurtured in Prayer and Worship, Acts 1:14; Acts 4:24ff; v. 31
  2. Expressed in Boldness about Jesus and the Word of God, Acts 4:20,25,29,31
  3. Observed by Significant Changes in Life, Acts 4
    - i. Healings: Physically, Emotionally, Spiritually
    - ii. Miraculous Signs and Wonders
    - iii. Sharing and Loving (One in Heart and Mind)

### III. Receiving the Anointing of the Holy Spirit Today

- A. Not All of the Experiences of the Holy Spirit are the Same: He comes at times unplanned, & unexpected without a single prevailing pattern! The Holy Spirit is not a formula, but is a Person in the Trinity. Prepare for His Presence! I
- B. The Holy Spirit will give you a love for the Scriptures, new dimensions for worship, lower denominational boundaries, and power to go in peace to love and serve the LORD. Be Thirsty and Hungry for His Presence!
- B. The Holy Spirit will provide you the tools to live as Jesus lived and to do what Jesus did! It was true in the First Century and it is true in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Be Willing to Receive All that He Desires to Give and then Give It Away!

Trinity Sunday, Alpha Weekend, May 18, 2008. St. Anne's Anglican Church. Fr. Tony Baron, Rector. All sermons are on CD and are available in the narthex or they can be heard on our web, [www.saintanneschurch.net](http://www.saintanneschurch.net).

#### Table Talk:

- Why does the Nicene Creed state that the Holy Spirit is the Lord and Giver of Life? "We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, with the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. In what way can we worship and glorify the Holy Spirit?"
- Some people say that the Holy Spirit has caused "splits" in the Church? The Holy Spirit comes for unity, so what really caused the splits in some churches?
- Read Acts 1. The Holy Spirit was given in fulfillment of a promise from our Heavenly Father. Why?
- In what ways do you see the Holy Spirit evident at St. Anne's or in your own personal life?