

Sermon Series: The Holy Spirit, My Best Friend

9/1/24 “Receiving His Gift,” Luke 11:5-13 (esp. 9-13), NLT

INTRODUCTION: How do you feel when you try to do something & just can’t? Or too afraid, too anxious? Quit?

Pray but nothing, witness but just words—nothing

Maybe had “it” once but not lately...

MAIN IDEA: Receive God’s empowerment. How do I do that? Here are three things to do.

I. First, pursue God for the sake of others (5-6)

- A. the person came in the middle of the night for a friend
 1. not only waking up his friend but his family
 2. because he couldn’t meet the need
- B. God commands us to witness so others might be saved
 1. we can’t meet the need on our own
 2. God wants to empower us (Luke 24:49)

ILLUSTRATION:

II. Second, believe God rewards us for our persistence (9-10)

Persistence: importunity (KJV) = shamelessness, audacity > earnestness & perseverance

- A. He wants us to persist (*Fire Bible*: Shows our “trust & dependence on Him”)
 1. we admit we need Him
 2. we show Him our desire for Him
- B. He responds to our persistence
 1. ask seek knock...not necessarily our first request
 2. comes against teaching that we should ask once
- C. He answers with good gifts (11-13)
 1. need not fear what we will receive from Him
 2. God is greater than the enemy, so don’t fear him

ILLUSTRATION:

III. Finally, receive the Holy Spirit when He sends Him (10)

A. at salvation, we are filled automatically

John 20:22, NLT: Then he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 1:13, NLT: And when you believed in Christ, he identified you as his own by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom he promised long ago.

B. we participate when “empowered” (Luke 24:49)

1. He comes to us
2. we cooperate in receiving

Acts 2:4, TPT: They were all filled and equipped with the Holy Spirit and *were inspired to speak in tongues*—empowered by the Spirit to speak in languages they had never learned!

as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability: Hayford in *The Beauty of Spiritual Language* says this about the Greek word underlying utterance (*this ability* in NLT), “a word in common Greek usage that not only describes outspoken, declarative speech but is also used for speech thought to be motivated by a divine, prophetic impulse.”

- Spirit gives us words
- we speak them
- He clothes us, empowering us
- 3. we continue to cooperate with Him

ILLUSTRATION:

CONCLUSION: We are not seeking an experience but more of God to help us.

don’t want to make it up OR “be of the devil”

ALTAR: Wish to be clothed? Wish to be refilled?

Seek the gifts of the Spirit (**1Cor. 14:1, NLT:** *Let love be your highest goal! But you should also desire the special abilities the Spirit gives—especially the ability to prophesy.*)