

WAITING FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT

For the last few weeks, our series has been WAITING. We have looked at what the scriptures teach us concerning....

1. **Waiting for Provision**
2. **Waiting for Answers**
3. **Waiting for Miracles**
4. **Waiting for Jesus to Return**

Today, on Pentecost Sunday, I want to close out this series with this message...

Waiting for The Holy Spirit

Acts 1:1-5 (NIV)

1 In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach **2** until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. **3** After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. **4** On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. **5** For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

Acts 2:1-4 (NIV)

2 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. **2** Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. **3** They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. **4** All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

1. Waiting is tied to the HARVEST

- a. Shavuot (Feast of Weeks) or Pentecost meaning 50 days after the feast of first fruits
- b. It is tied to the summer wheat harvest
- c. Jesus spoke of a spiritual harvest that was “White or Ripe” unto harvest”

John 4:35 (NIV)

³⁵ Don't you have a saying, 'It's still four months until harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.

Matthew 9:37-38 (NIV)

³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. ³⁸ Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”

- d. As the farmer waits for his crop to come in and knows the importance of taking care of that crop and preparing for the harvest, so we wait for the empowerment of the Holy Spirit that allows us to gather in the harvest for the Kingdom of God

James 5:7-8 (NIV)

⁷ Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. ⁸ You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near.

- e. Without this power the harvest will be lost
- f. On the day of Pentecost 3000 were added to their numbers

Acts 2:41 (NIV)

⁴¹ Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

- g. What would happen if we all waited until we were all filled with the Holy Spirit?

2. Waiting reminds us of the PROMISE

- a. Do you remember being a child being promised something special by your parents. Something like... “Next week we will go to the store and you can pick out a toy.” Or “If you good we will go to the park” Or “When schools out we are going to take that trip to Disney Land”
- b. Jesus made us a promise too

John 7:37-39 (NIV)

³⁷On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. ³⁸Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.” ³⁹By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

Luke 24:49 (NIV)

⁴⁹I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

- c. It was the promise spoken of by the prophet Joel

Joel 2:28-29 (NIV)

²⁸“And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. ²⁹Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days.

- d. It’s a promise that Peter said is for all of us

Acts 2:39 (NIV)

³⁹The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

- e. A princess in Disguise

A Princess in Disguise

Sarah Culberson was born in 1976 in West Virginia. After being placed in foster care for a year, she was adopted into a loving family — the Culbersons. Both parents were teachers. She grew up active in the United Methodist Church.

Sarah had always wondered about her heritage, so after graduating from college, she hired a private investigator to find her biological parents.

Her birth mom, she discovered, had died of cancer in the early nineties.

But it was what she learned about her birth father that changed her life forever.

As it turns out, Sarah wasn't just a young woman from West Virginia. She was royalty. A princess.

Her father was now a ruling member of the Mende tribe in Sierra Leone. They began to correspond, and soon he invited her to Africa to meet her family.

When she arrived she received a royal welcome, with hundreds coming to greet her.

She kept asking herself: "What did I do to deserve this? I'm just Sarah from West Virginia."

But she's not just Sarah from West Virginia. She was born Princess Esther Elizabeth; that's who she is. She had lived her life not knowing that she was a member of a ruling class — a princess in disguise. And then she discovered her true heritage.

Today, Sarah lives an amazing life. After pursuing a career in acting, she now works in education, she's a public speaker, and she maintains close ties to both of her communities and both of her families.

I love this story because it is — amazingly — similar to our story. We, too, have a royal heritage. We're king's kids, you could say.

And yet some believers remain unaware of who they really are.

The Apostle Peter said...

You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. (1 Peter 2:9)

Today, take a moment to consider who you are in Christ, and the promises that he has made to you

3. Waiting creates DESIRE

- a. What happened when those promises were made to you? You began to think about it, plan for it, mark off the days. It awakened a desire within you for the fulfillment of the promise. Likewise, the promise of the Holy Spirit should awaken a desire within us to be filled with His presence.
- b. Remember the saying... “Absence makes the heart grow fonder”
- c. I bet you would ask about it every day...
- d. Even though it is a promise, Jesus told us to ask

Luke 11:9-13 New International Version (NIV)

⁹ “So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

¹¹ “Which of you fathers, if your son asks for ^[a] a fish, will give him a snake instead? ¹² Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? ¹³ If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

- e. How long has it been since you asked God to fill you or refill you with His Holy Spirit?

4. Waiting suggests PRIORITY

- a. When we are willing to wait for something it suggests that we have willingly prioritized that thing above other things.

Matthew 6:33 New International Version (NIV)

³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

- b. What priority have you given to the Holy Spirit’s presence and fulness in your life?
- c. Mary gave Jesus the highest priority in her life

Luke 10:41-42 (NIV)

⁴¹ “Martha, Martha,” the Lord answered, “you are worried and upset about many things, ⁴² but few things are needed—or indeed only one.^[a] Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.”

- d. We are told to love the Lord our God with ALL

5. Waiting teaches OBEDIENCE

- a. Obedience is of utmost importance in our relationship with God

1 Samuel 15:19-22 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁹ Why did you not obey the LORD?

²⁰ “But I did obey the LORD,” Saul said.

²² But Samuel replied:

“Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices
as much as in obeying the LORD?

To obey is better than sacrifice,
and to heed is better than the fat of rams.

- b. So as the disciples waited on The Holy Spirit, they learned the importance of obedience. The presence of the Holy Spirit empowered them to continue to walk in obedience to the commands of the Savior

Deuteronomy 11:13-15 (NIV)

¹³ So if you faithfully obey the commands I am giving you today—to love the LORD your God and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul— ¹⁴ then I will send rain on your land in its season, both autumn and spring rains, so that you may gather in your grain, new wine and olive oil. ¹⁵ I will provide grass in the fields for your cattle, and you will eat and be satisfied.

Galatians 5:25 New International Version (NIV)

²⁵ Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

- c. As we seek to live a life full of the Holy Spirit our continued obedience ensures that we do not quench the Holy Spirit’s Fire

1 Thessalonians 5:19 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit.