

## FIRST LOVE PART 3: THE HOLY SPIRIT & FIRE

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Hi to those online! And to those who are meeting together with another family or friend

### Announcements or celebrations

- **Camp Volunteers** – looking for an OPPORTUNITY to serve God and make a lasting IMPACT into the next GENERATION???
- **Sign up for CAMP** – thank you!
  - <https://mysouthland.com/camps>

### Church-wide Requests: PRAY TOGETHER.

**CAMP** (Mt 22:37-40): Love God – Love people: hospitality, generosity, serving & empathy

- Praise God for answering our prayers last year!
- Pray for God to raise up enough volunteers to lead the kids
- Pray for a couple more medics
- Pray that our church would have BURNING HEARTS for Jesus that would far exceed our love of self and this world!

### Church Membership: Importance of Membership:

1. It is a commitment:
2. It is a protection:
  - a. **Membership requirements is another:** Set Free! Hearing God, 1 year attendance, Southland 101, baptism, interview – why?!
    - **First:** Ministers are Members – same beliefs
    - **Second:** Members help guard our constitution & board elder selection
      - E.g. you wouldn't want an unbeliever, or someone who despises the church to be able to attend and immediately be allowed to serve others, disciple them and be able to have a voice in decisions that effect the constitution or who is sitting on the elder board.

### And so today, together with Jesus, we declare two things:

- a. That we love the Church – His Body
- b. That we will commit to the Church – His Body

### Membership Covenant:

I feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the Southland Church family. In doing so I commit myself to God and to the other members to do the following:

1. I will protect the unity of this church:
  - by respecting & honoring the other members
  - by refusing to gossip
  - by following the leaders
2. I will share in the responsibility of this church:
  - by serving & volunteering with my time, energy, skills & abilities
  - by giving financially

- by praying for it
3. I will build committed relationships within this church:
    - by attending church regularly
    - by participating in a cell group for fellowship and growth
    - by praying with others and being accountable
  4. I will uphold the testimony & reputation of this church:
    - by living a godly life of integrity
    - by honoring all government authorities & the law
    - by controlling my tongue and passions

**Pentecost weekend!** Roughly 2000 years ago, the New Covenant was inaugurated by the death and resurrection of the Christ – who PAID the price for our SIN and made a way for us to be made RIGHT WITH GOD and then sent His Holy Spirit to REVEAL CHRIST to us and EMPOWER us to LOVE Him with our whole lives and be able to OBEY His Commands! WOW!

**Remember:** we cannot LOVE God without FIRST being LOVED. The anchor of this LOVE is found in JESUS and the CROSS – but we cannot have a full revelation of this apart of the Holy Spirit!

**John 16:7-11** Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment:

#### **A. The Holy Spirit & FIRE**

**Matthew 3:11-12** “I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. **He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.**

**Matthew 3:13-17** John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

**THEN Jesus begins his public ministry... IMPORTANT:** Jesus modeled the Spirit-filled life of those who would follow after him in EVERY respect. He started His ministry AFTER being baptized in water & the Spirit!

**FAST TRACK:** Jesus fulfills his public ministry and raises his disciples and performs many signs and wonders by the POWER of the HOLY SPIRIT... leading to the culmination of his time on earth... the FINAL PASSOVER where Jesus would be THE SPOTLESS LAMB who would take away the SINS of the world! He dies! He rises from the DEAD! He appears to MANY! Sparks the CHURCH and the ASCENDS into HEAVEN....

**Acts 1:1-5** (most likely Luke writing this) I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom

he had chosen. He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

**Acts 2:1-21** When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

### **B. the Holy Spirit empowers us to KNOW & LIVE for God**

**Ezekiel 36:25-28** I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. You shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

### **Peter gets up and delivers and POWERFUL Sermon!**

**REMEMBER:** this is the SAME Peter who had denied Jesus!

- **REFLECTION:** Have you ever COMMITTED yourself to someone or something only to FAIL miserably? Exercise, bad habits, you were never going to DO that sin again... blow up again...
- How many times have we committed ourselves to God? Best intentions! We are going to PRAY more, READ THE WORD more, SERVE more... we won't give into TEMPTATION again!
- PETER – said he would DIE for Jesus! And when it came down to it? He wouldn't even be ASSOCIATED with Jesus!
- The same Jesus who continued loving Peter & gave Him His Spirit is the SAME JESUS who stands at the door of your heart. 😊

### **Peter's Sermon at Pentecost**

But this is what was uttered through the prophet **Joel: (Joel 2:28-32)**

“And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke; the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day. And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.’

**Church this is YOUR PROMISED inheritance!** God's GIFT to YOU when you called up HIS Name – **Forgiveness of SINS & The Promised GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT! He gave us what we need to KNOW HIM**

**REFLECTION: how many of us are living by the Power of the Holy Spirit? How many of us today: (and for any unbelievers...)**

**You may have started off strong... passionate for Jesus... willing to follow Him anywhere... hungry for the Word, worship & prayer! Willing to let go of things in your life – he was worth it! Ministering to others – sharing your relationship with Jesus and His love with those you met! Only to end up...**

- Feel anxious and worried
- Feel dry and empty
- Are stuck in sin, addiction, bondage
- Are broken and stuck in offense and hurts from your past
- Kids & marriage seem impossible
- School is totally overwhelming
- Work is taking everything out of you
- The last two years have left you bitter
- Disillusioned...

**I am not saying the Holy Spirit will make your life easy – NO! look at the characters in the Bible! They didn't have an EASY life – but they KNEW GOD, were CAPTIVATED by HIS LOVE and were FRUITFUL!**

### **C. The Holy Spirit is inviting YOU to open your heart to Him**

**Acts 2:38-39** And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.”

### **PRACTICAL ENGAGEMENT: Release Your Spirit**

- Spend time confessing any sin... repent... turn back toward God
- Pray – invite the Holy Spirit into your life!
- Ask – Him to change your desires and give you a BURNING HEART
- Pray & Sing to the Holy Spirit! Ask Him to release His Spirit in our church

**MARANATHA!! Come soon Lord!**

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### **SC CHURCH WIDE PRAYER REQUESTS 2022**

**Cruise Ship → → → → Battleship**

1. **Great Command** (Mt 22:37-40): Love God – Love people: hospitality, generosity, serving & empathy
2. **Great Commission** (Mt 28:18-20): Disciple family, friends, neighbors & beyond
3. **Word & Truth** (1Pet 3:15): Know the Gospel, grow in discernment, speak the truth in love
4. **Persecuted Church** (2 Cor 4:7-10): Religious freedom, freedom of speech, spiritual fortitude, wisdom
5. **Church Renewal:** Directors for India & the Chinese worldwide, make many global disciple makers (The Way)
6. **Leadership:** Wisdom and direction in the search for Lead Pastor and Executive Pastor