

SERMON NOTES

SUNDAY 20.07.25

PREACHER: PS JOSH PLUMB

To Be Continued...

BECOMING CHRISTLIKE

BEING [HEART], THINKING [MIND] & DOING [BODY]

[A PERSONAL REFLECTION]

Conviction of a Disciple:

We are not called to rely on our own adequacy but to be continually filled with the Spirit. This is how we develop a resilient, rooted faith—through Scripture, prayer, and the presence of God in community.

OVERVIEW

The story of the early Church reminds us that the ones God uses most powerfully are rarely the most qualified. A resilient faith is not found in competency or confidence but in continual surrender to the Spirit, grounded in Scripture and anchored in community. We are not enough in ourselves—and that's good news for the work of the Spirit in our lives.

ACTION

Step 1: When do you most feel inadequate in your faith or calling? How do you usually respond to those feelings?

Step 2: What has your relationship with the Holy Spirit looked like lately? Would you commit to asking for a fresh filling daily this week?

Step 3: Where in your life can you more actively trust in the Spirit's work this week?

THOUGHT

SCRIPTURE: Acts 3:1-12, 4:18-31

Have you ever been reading Scripture and slowly felt a sense of inadequacy rise up inside you? The faith, the miracles, the boldness, the prayer-filled unity of the early Church. Sometimes it can feel in our own lives that we're just not measuring up. But maybe that feeling of inadequacy isn't all bad...

In reality, the Scriptures are filled with inadequate people. Doubters, deceivers, dubious disciples, and lots of other "D's" I can't think of now. The good news? Jesus didn't seem bothered by this at all. It was as though he knew the journey of his disciples would include slow learners - people who were quick to fear, and regularly confused. But something in these ragamuffins was shifting. The Holy Spirit had filled them.

In Acts 3 & 4, Peter and John, walking into the temple, encounter a man whose body had been broken for a long time. The same Peter, who cowered in fear only days earlier, heals this man and then, while being interrogated by Jerusalem's hostile and powerful religious rulers, boldly proclaims hope and truth.

This is the transforming power of God's Spirit at work in plain and simple people. As we read this passage, we see a few important things: The Spirit didn't just fill them once (Acts 2) and send them on their way. That was true for these early disciples and remains true for us. **A resilient faith is a Spirit-sustained posture of daily dependence.**

A resilient faith is also not something we do alone. After Peter and John were released, they went back to their friends. They prayed together. They worshipped. They opened the Scriptures. They reminded each other of who God is and what He had done.

Interestingly (and instructively), throughout the New Testament, when the early Church faced pressure, they didn't pray that the pressure would be removed. Instead, they asked for the strength to keep going. This is what happens here in Acts 4. As they pray and worshipped together, they were once again all filled with the Spirit and spoke the word even more boldly (v.31)

This is the picture of Christian courage. It's not about brash defiance or even squeaky-clean certainty, but a diverse Spirit-filled community grounded in Scripture, returning to one another again and again, praying - not for escape - but for boldness. And God responds.

It's wild to think that Peter and John, who had walked side by side with Jesus every day for over three years, still needed the Spirit's power to face these challenges. It seems that proximity to Jesus alone was not enough—they needed His Spirit *within them*. So do we. Our old moments with God can sustain us only so far. We need more than nostalgia for our past encounters and more than simply rubbing shoulders with people of powerful faith. If we want to walk in Christ's power and boldness, then we need a fresh encounter *today*.

The reality is, at times, you might still feel inadequate, but that's actually good! It means you're in the right place to be filled. The life of faith was never about your adequacy *for God*. It was always about your availability *to God*. It was always about the gift of His Spirit. And that Gift still fills rooms, still strengthens hearts, still brings boldness to the weak. Not because we are enough, but because Christ in us is more than enough.

DISCUSSION

[A GROUP REFLECTION]

1. Why do you think God so often chooses inadequate or seemingly unqualified people to do His work? What does this reveal about His character?
2. What practices have helped you return to be freshly filled with the Spirit in your life?
3. How can our group more intentionally become a place where people experience boldness through prayer, Scripture, and a Spirit-filled community?

PRAYER

Holy Spirit,

we confess that we are not enough on our own—but we thank you that you don't need us to be. Fill us again today with boldness, joy, and strength. Let our confidence be grounded in you, and not in ourselves. Help us become a community that walks in your power together.

Amen.