

# Faith Walk! - Sermon Discussion

**Date** : 23 June 2024

**Sermon Title** : Is That From You God?

**Speaker** : Rev John Foo

**Text** : Acts 2:1-13

---

## INTRODUCTION

Whenever something happens to us or around us, we often ask, “God, is that from You?” It would be nice if God answers us every time we ask Him this question. That will certainly make our lives and faith easier. The sad reality is, most of the time we do not hear much from God. Whenever we ask, we do not get a direct answer from Him. If God wants us to put our faith in Him, how are we going to relate to Him when He does not answer us when we ask Him? How do we know if something is from Him? In this sermon, we will be looking at a familiar incident in the Bible, in Acts 2:1-13. It is the story of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the early believers at that time. It happened on the day of Pentecost and that is the day that most people consider to be the birth of the early church (some call it the Acts 2 church).

## How can we be like the Acts 2 Church?

Something great happened on the day of Pentecost. We see the Holy Spirit actually falling down upon the believers. They were filled with the presence and the power of the Holy Spirit. That might prompt us to ask, “Can our present-day church ever experience something like the church in Acts 2?” Perhaps the response to that should be, what exactly are we hoping for when we wish for our church now to be like the Acts 2 church? Are we hoping for the same kind of Holy Spirit’s power that fell upon the believers then? Are we waiting for some kind of ecstatic spiritual experience from God to tell us that He is real, and He is here in our midst? Or are we looking for something like this to happen in our church so that we can be sure that this is the right church to go to, that this is a spiritually happening church?

If our question is, “Will the Holy Spirit come upon us mightily and explode into the lives of each of us here?”, the answer is:

### **1. The Holy Spirit is already here with us and in us.**

If this is so, why is there no sight nor sound from Him? Why is it our lives are still the same? If He is already here, then where in the world is He hiding? Why no tongues of fire, no sound of mighty rush of wind? Perhaps most of us are actually not aware of His presence here with us and in us. Even if we do, we do not really know what to do with Him. Most of the time we talk to God our Heavenly Father, we talk to our Lord

---

*For we walk by faith, not by sight. 2 Corinthians 5:7*

# **Faith Walk! - Sermon Discussion**

Jesus Christ, but we tend to forget about the Holy Spirit. We never really connect with the Holy Spirit.

- The Acts 2 experience that happened to the early believers happened because the early believers were waiting in anticipation for the Holy Spirit to come (unlike us who already have the Holy Spirit with and in us). They knew the Holy Spirit came from God because before Jesus ascended to Heaven, He actually told the disciples to wait in Jerusalem in order to receive the Holy Spirit, that they would receive power when the Holy Spirit had come upon them. (Acts 1:8)
- In John 14:15-18 when Jesus was still with them, Jesus told them about the Holy Spirit's coming.
- In John 16:7, Jesus actually said again to His disciples that He would send the Holy Spirit when He went away. Now, Jesus has gone away and therefore the Holy Spirit has come. He is here with us now in our midst.

*"We do not need to wait for the Holy Spirit to come; He came on the day of Pentecost. He has never left the church."* – John Stott

## **Where is the Holy Spirit in our church?**

He is already here with us and in us but the sad thing is we are doing nothing about it. We push Him to one side and continue living our lives like everyone else. We live with no power, no difference and no impact. No wonder non-Christians around us cannot really tell if we are Christians or not. There is nothing really in our lives that sets us apart from others. We may be living our lives this way because we have not really seen the work of the Holy Spirit in us. Maybe we have never encountered the kind of sight and sound that happened to the believers in Acts 2. Maybe it is just that for all of us everything around us and in our lives seems so normal and ordinary, day in day out with nothing supernaturally exciting. We wonder if God is still working the way He worked in the early church because we do not see the Holy Spirit performing the same acts of miracles in our present day and age.

## **2. God often does His Supernatural in the natural**

Our lives are so swarmed with all the ordinary things of life that it is difficult for us to be able to see a trace of the supernatural from God. We are looking with physical eyes, but we have stopped looking with spiritual eyes. We have stopped looking at things that God is doing. Instead, we attribute everything to normal natural occurrences.

- It would seem natural that one could learn and speak in foreign tongues. That is in the natural realm. However, in Acts 2, when we consider the Holy Spirit being involved in giving the believers the ability to speak in the various tongues, we begin to see the supernatural in the natural. God used a natural thing like speaking in languages to show His supernatural. God is capable of doing and is still doing that in our lives and in the lives of others today.

---

*For we walk by faith, not by sight. 2 Corinthians 5:7*

# Faith Walk! - Sermon Discussion

## Why are we living our lives in such a dreary way?

God sent His Holy Spirit to be with us and in us to show the world, through us, the power and the presence of the Divine. Why then are we living our lives in such a dreary way when God has given us the great gift of His Holy Spirit for powerful, victorious living?

### **3. We need to get to the 'Pentecost' in our lives**

*"Bethlehem was God with us, Calvary was God for us and Pentecost is God in us."*  
- Robert Baer (American author)

Every time over Christmas when we celebrate the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, we declare Emmanuel, God with us. During Easter, we vividly remember what happened on the cross, how Jesus was crucified and how He died. We thank Him for His selfless sacrifice for us and we praise Him for His glorious resurrection. Pentecost is when the Holy Spirit came as promised. He is enough to help us to live as God's redeemed people in the world, to be the light of the world. Yet, most do not seem to get past Calvary to that Pentecost moment in our lives. We need to know that the Holy Spirit already indwells every one of us, His believers.

## Be filled with the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit may be dwelling in us but is the Holy Spirit filling us, is the Holy Spirit controlling, empowering us and influencing us or are we just having Him by one side?

- We can only come under the power and influence of the Holy Spirit when we are totally surrendered to Him in our lives. Most of us know and keep talking about our salvation, that Jesus Christ is our Saviour, which is wonderful, but we must also remember that He is our Master that we must listen to and obey; He is our Lord that we are submitting ourselves to. We should be subjecting ourselves to Him and saying, "Lord, whatever You say I will do, wherever You call I will go."
- We can only appropriate the power under the influence of the Spirit when we surrender ourselves, when we submit ourselves to His Lordship.

Consider how we have changed, since becoming Christians. How have we changed inside, character-wise, in the way we relate, in the way we think? If we have not changed it simply means that the Holy Spirit has not done His work of changing us.

- Being a good Christian does not mean that we try to become one by ourselves. God did not plan for the change to happen by our own effort. God has given us His Holy Spirit so that the Holy Spirit will transform us and change us with His power when we are under His influence. What does He do? We receive that power to love when it is so difficult to love. We receive the power to forgive when we know that somebody has hurt us, and it is so difficult to forgive. We have the power to give even though we have nothing with us or on us. We have the power to be at peace even though there is turmoil around us.

---

*For we walk by faith, not by sight. 2 Corinthians 5:7*

# **Faith Walk! - Sermon Discussion**

Sometimes we struggle on our own. We get so frustrated and perplexed because we are struggling through the Christian life by ourselves, but God has promised us the Holy Spirit and when the Holy Spirit is with us and in us, He will give us the power to overcome. He will give us that power to live and that is when our lives will start changing; when the church will start becoming alive, not because of us but because of the Holy Spirit.

## **CONCLUSION**

Let us surrender and submit ourselves to the Lordship of the Holy Spirit so we may be continually filled with the Holy Spirit who will anoint us with the unction and power to do all things to glorify Him. May we follow, listen to and obey Him every day of our lives so we may be transformed to bear the Fruit of the Spirit and also see with spiritual eyes His power at work of the supernatural in the natural and give glory to Him.

### **A. Review Sermon Application**

***Purpose: Reflect on how you have been embodying God's truth.***

- 1a. How successful have you been in fulfilling what you/your group had committed to do for the last FaithWalk!?
- 1b. What were some challenges you faced and what would you like to celebrate?
  
2. Appoint someone to read Acts 2:1-13 slowly.  
Reflect on your life as a member of the Christian community. Have you seen the Holy Spirit working in your life influencing your character, relationships, actions and decisions?

---

*For we walk by faith, not by sight. 2 Corinthians 5:7*

# **Faith Walk! - Sermon Discussion**

## **B. Relate Sermon Content**

***Purpose: Relate with the Truth and Resolve for Transformation.***

3. Who is the Holy Spirit to you?
  - a. In which area of your life do you **not** notice the Holy Spirit's presence or working?
  - b. Do you desire for your life and our church to appropriate the power of the Holy Spirit just as the Acts 2 believers did? Why?
  
- 4a. Recall your experience of God doing something which is the supernatural in the natural
  - (i) What makes you consider it supernatural?
  - (ii) What makes you consider it natural?
  - (iii) Why do most people, including Christians, tend to dismiss the supernatural and not credit the work to the Holy Spirit?
- 4b. Have you reached the Pentecost of your life?
- 4c. What can you do to continually be filled with the Holy Spirit and how can your members encourage or support you through it?

---

*For we walk by faith, not by sight. 2 Corinthians 5:7*

# **Faith Walk! - Sermon Discussion**

## **C. Testimonies, Prayers and Action**

***Purpose: Give glory to God, seek Him and embody His Word.***

5. Share how your life has changed since becoming a Christian. Include the challenges you faced when you tried to change by your own effort and how it is the Holy Spirit who brought about this transformation.

OR

Give thanks to the Holy Spirit for still performing the same acts of miracles as recorded in the Bible, in our present day and age.

6. As a group, seek the Holy Spirit in the leading of your daily life as you strive to be like the Acts 2 church, surrendering and submitting to His Lordship, so your lives will start changing. Pray too that our church will be alive, showing to the world His divine presence and power when we are able to love when it is difficult to love, forgive when it is hard to forgive, give though we have nothing with or on us and be at peace even though there is turmoil around us.

Optional items:

Suggested worship songs:

1. Open Up the Heavens – Meredith Andrews  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HqCo\\_dvDEdo&ab\\_channel=LetItOverflow](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HqCo_dvDEdo&ab_channel=LetItOverflow)
2. Hymn of Heaven – Phil Wickham [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bqxtFUwM3-o&ab\\_channel=PhilWickham](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bqxtFUwM3-o&ab_channel=PhilWickham)
3. Consuming Fire – Hillsong  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8iT0lvcEHjM&ab\\_channel=WorshipVideos](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8iT0lvcEHjM&ab_channel=WorshipVideos)

---

*For we walk by faith, not by sight. 2 Corinthians 5:7*