

Week 1

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GHOSTED

Jesus Left. The Holy Spirit Came. Everything Changed.



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Big Idea: The Holy Spirit has always been part of God's plan to dwell with His people, and through Jesus, His presence is available to everyone who believes.

Main Scriptures:

- Genesis 1:1–2
- Exodus 31:1–5
- Numbers 11:24–29
- Ezekiel 36:26–27
- Joel 2:28–29
- John 16:7
- Acts 2:1–21

Main Point: Jesus didn't leave us alone; He sent the Holy Spirit to live within us, transform our hearts, and empower us to live out God's purpose.

Context:

The Holy Spirit is not a **newcomer** to God's story

He has been **present** and **active** from the very first verse of Scripture, and understanding that changes everything about how we relate to Him today.

Many people feel as though God has gone **silent** — prayers seem unanswered, circumstances feel out of control, and the question underneath it all is whether God is actually present.

Even among longtime churchgoers, the Holy Spirit often remains the least understood member of the **Trinity**.

This series exists to correct that, starting with the conviction that most Christians have started the Spirit's story far too late in the Bible.

Today's Focus

1. The Spirit Was **Present** Before Creation Was Finished

Genesis 1:1-2 1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.

God's presence does not wait for order to be restored before showing up.

A GREAT reminder that a **chaotic** season of life does not mean God has abandoned the situation.

2. The Spirit **Empowers** Ordinary People for Ordinary Work

Exodus 31:1-5 1 Then the Lord said to Moses, 2“Look, I have specifically chosen Bezalel son of Uri, grandson of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. 3I have filled him with the Spirit of God, giving him great wisdom, ability, and expertise in all kinds of crafts. 4He is a master craftsman, expert in working with gold, silver, and bronze. 5He is skilled in engraving and mounting gemstones and in carving wood. He is a master at every craft!

God explicitly fills a craftsman named Bezalel with His Spirit to build the tabernacle — not to preach, but to work with his hands.

The Spirit has never been interested only in platform ministry; He empowers people with a **purpose**, wherever that purpose is expressed.

3. The Spirit's Reach Has Never Been **Limited** to a Few Leaders

Numbers 11:24-29 24 So Moses went out and reported the Lord's words to the people. He gathered the seventy elders and stationed them around the Tabernacle. 25And the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke to Moses. Then he gave the seventy elders the same Spirit that was upon Moses. And when the Spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But this never happened again. 26Two men, Eldad and Medad, had stayed behind in the camp. They were listed among the elders, but they had not gone out to the Tabernacle. Yet the Spirit rested upon them as well, so they prophesied there in the camp. 27A young man ran and reported to Moses, “Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp!” 28Joshua son of Nun, who had been Moses' assistant since his youth, protested, “Moses, my master, make them stop!” 29But Moses replied, “Are you jealous for my sake? I wish that all the Lord's people were prophets and that the Lord would put his Spirit upon them all!” 30Then Moses returned to the camp with the elders of Israel.

That shows the Spirit moving beyond the expected group when Eldad and Medad prophesy in the camp. Rather than shutting it down, Moses expresses a longing that all of God's people might receive the Spirit — a desire that points forward to what God was already planning.

4. God Promised an Inward **Transformation**, Not Just Better Rules

Ezekiel 36:26-27 26 And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart.

That verse records God promising His people a new heart and His Spirit within them so they would follow **His** ways.

This is not behavior modification from the outside in — it is the promise of transformation from the **inside** out.

5. God Promised the Spirit Would Cross Every **Human** Boundary

Joel 2:28-29 “Then, after doing all those things, I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your old men will dream dreams, and your young men will see visions. 29In those days I will pour out my Spirit even on servants—men and women alike.

God WILL pour out His Spirit on sons and daughters, young and old, male and female servants alike. No age, background, status, or history disqualifies a person from what God was preparing to do.

6. Pentecost Was **Fulfillment**, Not an **Introduction**

When the Spirit fell in Acts 2:1-21, Peter immediately quoted Joel 2 to explain it.

Pentecost was not God improvising — it was God keeping the promise He had been making since long before the disciples were born, now made possible through the risen and exalted Jesus.

Conclusion

Jesus did not ghost His followers.

In John 16:7 He told His disciples that His departure was actually to their **advantage**, because it meant the promised Spirit was coming.

Pentecost was the fulfillment of that promise, and the same Spirit who hovered over creation, empowered a craftsman, and fell on the disciples is the Spirit God gives to everyone who belongs to Jesus through faith.

The cross and resurrection are the clearest evidence that God has not forgotten humanity, and the gospel invites anyone who will turn to Jesus to receive forgiveness, new life, and the indwelling presence of God's own Spirit.

Next Steps

Apply the message: For the next seven days, take two minutes daily and practice three movements the sermon outlined:

Stop — set aside noise and distraction long enough to be still

Recognize — recall that the Holy Spirit is the eternal Spirit of God, present since Genesis, given to those who follow Jesus

Respond — pray honestly, whatever that prayer actually needs to be, and take one concrete step of obedience in whatever area God is already prompting

Fill out a connect card and give it to one of the prayer partners at the end of the service, or drop it off in the offering box in the back, if you would like the prayer team and staff to pray for you throughout the week, and watch for an opportunity at the end of this series to receive prayer for a fresh filling of the Holy Spirit.
