
**ST. TIMOTHY
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

BE BOLD IN THE SPIRIT

REV. IN KEE KIM

JUNE 5-7, 2026

MUSKOKA BIBLE CENTRE

Table of Contents

The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament.....	3
The Holy Spirit in the New Testament.....	10
The Holy Spirit in the Church and Beyond.....	19

The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament

Our life is more than physical and emotional existence, but that's the only thing that we live in. That's the only thing we think about. What we can see is physical and emotional reality. You eat, you plan your day. When good things happen, you feel good, but when bad things happen, when things do not happen as you wish and expect, you get disappointed, sometimes even angry, and that's what you experience. That is the physical and emotional reality. We experience it every day, but my friends, we know that's not everything about our existence. Our existence is not just about the physical or emotional reality that we experience. Sometimes you have hope in hopeless situations. Sometimes when your situation is not very good, deep inside you have this conviction that everything will be alright. There's no reason to have that feeling. That is spiritual reality. Who gave you that confidence? Who gave you that assurance? So we are not just living physical and emotional life. We live a spiritual life without realizing.

Wayne sent me this text message last Sunday, and this is what he said, "Just had a chance to listen to your sermon, 'Confidence and Belief'. Thank you for reminding us where our confidence comes from." That was his text. In that sermon, I said this, "Confidence comes from your belief. You don't need more degrees, more success, more affirmations, more fanfare to be confident. You can do all things through God, who strengthens you. If you have this belief, you will have confidence." This is the spiritual reality: the confidence you have does not come from your situation, but from your belief that in God, who strengthens you, you can do all things. It's not your response to your situation, but it is your response to what the spirit is doing in your life. That's why you have hope in hopeless situations. That's why you can be strong even in very, very vulnerable situations. There is the Spirit who

guides you, empowers you, awakens you, and shapes you. You are not alone. The Spirit is with you. Without faith, you cannot experience the spiritual realities. When you have faith, you see the movement of the Spirit.

This weekend I would like to reflect with you and study the Holy Spirit. Of course, we will not be able to have a comprehensive understanding of the Holy Spirit. How can we? We will see some examples of how the spirit works in people's lives. The Holy Spirit is hard to study and hard to understand. That's why some people say the Holy Spirit is the unknown person of the Trinity. If you are really unfamiliar with the Spirit, and if you don't know the Spirit well, don't feel bad, you are alone. Throughout history, people did not really understand who the Spirit was.

When we think of Jesus, we can have a concrete, clear picture of who Jesus was like, what he taught, and how he lived. Last year we studied who Jesus Christ was from three synoptic gospels, and how each gospel looked at Jesus from a different angle. It's very concrete, but when we talk about the Holy Spirit, we cannot have that kind of systematic understanding of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is abstract, mysterious, and unpredictable, and has no shape. People often use symbols and images to talk about the Holy Spirit: wind, breath, water, dove, fire, and so on. We don't see the Holy Spirit, but we can see the effects of the Holy Spirit. It's like the wind: we don't see the wind, but we see the effects of the wind. Sometimes the wind is like a gentle breeze that refreshes us on a hot summer day, but other times the wind is like a hurricane, strong and mighty. We don't see the wind, but we see the effects of the wind. We don't see the Spirit, but we see the manifestations of the Spirit: the gifts of the Spirit and fruit of the Spirit. These are manifestations of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit leaves marks and traces, so when you look back on your life, you see the traces and marks of the Holy Spirit. Peter saw that, Paul saw that, so they recorded it in the Bible. They experienced and saw the traces of the Holy Spirit.

The nature of the Holy Spirit is elusive. Jesus described the Spirit like wind: you don't know where it's coming from, and where it's going. It is elusive. It

is beyond our control. So, living in the spirit gives us a very special kind of life. It's not really a mechanical, very orderly life, but living by the spirit is beyond your control. When you leave yourself in the guidance of the Spirit, you will experience something that you never experienced in your life. The Spirit is like that. Goatley, a black theologian, said the movement of the Holy Spirit is like jazz. He said the Holy Spirit is the improvisation of God. There are melodies, harmonies, and rhythms, but there are also syncopation, improvisation, and inspiration.

I once saw a documentary on Miles Davis. He was invited by this French movie writer to play the soundtrack for this French movie. So he went to Paris, and then at this kind of theater, he was watching the movie. As the movie was playing, right there he was inspired and played the music improvisation. I don't know how he did it. He did that. I mean, he must have mastered music so well that he was able to play like that. He was inspiring.

The Holy Spirit is like playing jazz, unpredictable, creative, but beautiful. The Spirit filled life is beautiful. You're not governed by the laws, you're not governed by the customs, you're not governed by what people do, but somehow you're original. You're creative. You can do a lot of creative things in your life. That's how you live by the Spirit. There is a rule, but you are not bound by rules or boundaries. The Spirit has her own way of working, but we don't understand how the Spirit works. We only know a fraction of the whole, of what the Holy Spirit does. When you have faith, the Spirit will reveal himself or herself to us. We cannot put any image to God, but as Simon once said in a sermon, the Holy Spirit is more like a female or woman's image. Maybe you can have revelations about the Holy Spirit. Any of you can experience the Spirit, understand the Spirit, and receive that revelation. I hope that some of you receive that kind of understanding of the Holy Spirit.

We cannot understand the Spirit only with our brains. Saint Augustine said that talk about the Spirit cannot be based on pure theory but must touch an experienced reality. The Spirit is invisible, but the Spirit inspires you. You

need inspiration to live a creative life. The Spirit gives vitality to your life. You will not be burned out because the Spirit gives you that vitality, that power and force. The word "inspiration" comes from the Latin word *inspirare*. It means "to breathe into." Inspiration is the breath of creativity, the breath of vitality, the breath of life. Jesus breathed the Spirit into the disciples, and they received the Holy Spirit. As it says in John: "And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit'" (John 20:22). The situation was the same before and after they received the Holy Spirit. They were surrounded by enemies. Before, they were scared. That is why they were behind locked doors. They were trembling. They could not even go out. But when Jesus breathed the Spirit upon them, the situation did not change, but they changed. They went out and boldly proclaimed the message. Where did that boldness come from? It came from the Spirit. By breathing the Spirit upon them, Jesus gave them that boldness.

The disciples went out with this attitude: "If I perish, I perish." That is what I told Edward when he first found out about his cancer. If we perish, we perish. We move on. But if you live with that attitude, you will never perish. You will overcome all kinds of challenges. You will be bold. Saint Paul said: "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting? But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 15:55, 57). Where did he get that kind of confidence? Where did he get that kind of understanding? It was the Spirit. He experienced the Spirit and overcame the fear of death. The Spirit helps you in your weakness. The Spirit knows what you really desire. Saint Paul said: "Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words" (Romans 8:26). He understood how the Spirit works in a person's life. When you are so weak that you cannot even pray, the Spirit helps you with groanings too deep for words. That is what the Spirit does. When you are connected with the Spirit, you receive that kind of power. When you are weak, the Spirit helps you in your everyday life.

Unfortunately, some people limit the scope of the Spirit to charismatic

manifestations. You hear a lot about speaking in tongues, seeing visions, prophecies, and other charismatic manifestations. As a result, some people misunderstand the Holy Spirit. They think the Holy Spirit is only for those with deep religious conviction. No. The Holy Spirit is for everyone.

I am not saying that charismatic manifestations do not happen. More than twenty years ago, I was invited to speak at a retreat in New York. I preached on John chapters 14 to 16, often called the Holy Spirit chapters. After the message, I led a time of prayer. People started praying, and all of a sudden people started falling. It is called being "slain in the Spirit." People started speaking in tongues. I did not have any power to make that happen. I simply shared the message and led the prayer. Charismatic manifestations sometimes happen, but that is not everything. They happen occasionally, but they are not everything. One church became involved in the Airport Vineyard movement. A group from that church attended, and about half came back speaking in tongues while the other half did not. Those who did not receive the gift felt bad. They wondered, "Don't I have enough faith?" There was a lot of struggle in that church because of it. But the Holy Spirit does not work only through charismatic manifestations. The work of the Spirit is much bigger.

The Holy Spirit is not only working within you. The Holy Spirit is working in the world and in the church. The Spirit does not only give you personal help but also brings justice to the world. The Holy Spirit moves history. I believe the Holy Spirit will move our history too. You have to look at the Holy Spirit not only through personal experience. First, you have to understand the Spirit through Scripture. The Holy Spirit and Scripture are like blood and blood vessels. When blood is outside the blood vessels, it goes bad. So you have to understand the Holy Spirit within Scripture.

Many people think the Holy Spirit came only after Jesus. No. The Holy Spirit was there long before Jesus came. When you look at the First Testament, there is a lot of active work by the Holy Spirit. Their understanding of the Holy Spirit was limited. They did not see the Holy Spirit as an independent

person of the Trinity. They saw the Holy Spirit as God's Spirit. Even at creation, the Holy Spirit was there: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was without shape and empty, and darkness was over the surface of the watery deep, but the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the water" (Genesis 1:1, 2 NET). Right from the beginning, the Spirit was there. The Hebrew word for spirit is ruach. It means spirit, wind, and breath. Ancient people already understood something about the nature of the Spirit. They did not yet understand the Holy Spirit as an independent person, but they understood what the Spirit was like.

The predominant image of the Holy Spirit in the First Testament is power. "The Spirit of the Lord took possession of Gideon, and he sounded the trumpet" (Judges 6:34). Gideon destroyed 135,000 Midianites with only 300 people. The Spirit gave him power. The Spirit also gave power to Samson: "The Spirit of the Lord rushed on him, and he tore the lion apart barehanded" (Judges 14:6). Samson, Gideon, David—they all received the Spirit. Whenever there was a crisis, the Spirit came upon certain people so they could carry out what God wanted to do.

The Spirit still gives you power so that you can live your life with passion. Empowerment is very much what the Spirit does. Jesus recognized what we could do. He said: "Very truly I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father" (John 14:12). "I am going to the Father" means that Jesus would no longer be physically with them. But with the Spirit, they could do greater things than he did. And they did. Jesus did most of his ministry in Galilee, with some time in Jerusalem. But the disciples went from Jerusalem to Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. They did wonderful things.

The Spirit gives you power, and you can do amazing things. The disciples had no power of their own. They had no education, no connections with powerful people, and no position in society. Yet they did unimaginable

things. Throughout the First Testament, the Spirit was doing unimaginable things. I believe the Spirit still does unimaginable things. The Spirit empowered Moses, David, Samson, Gideon, and many others. God will choose you, work with you, and work through you to accomplish amazing things. When amazing things happen in your life, remember that it is the Spirit at work. It is not your own capability. The way your life turns out is because the Spirit guides you. Confidence, which is second only to love in importance, will be yours when you have the Spirit. When you have the Spirit, you will have confidence. I think that is what is lacking in modern life. People often live without confidence. But the Spirit gives confidence. Before Martin Luther King Jr. led his biggest march, he was alone in a kitchen. He was nervous. He could not sit still. He went into a corner and said, "I can't do it. I'm too scared." He was trembling. But then power came upon him. Confidence arose from within him, and he believed, "Yes, I can do it." The next day, he went out and led one of the biggest marches ever. Confidence is so important in your life. With the Spirit, you can have confidence. Young or old, with the Spirit, you will have that confidence.

The Holy Spirit in the New Testament

The predominant image of the Spirit in the First Testament was power. Power was the predominant image of the Spirit. There are also other images and symbols: breath, fire, streams of water, and so on. The Spirit is hard to understand, but the Spirit is working among us and in your life. We human beings are created to feel the Spirit. Sometimes collectively and sometimes individually, the Spirit manifests herself to us, and we feel it.

The predominant image was power, but there were three prophets who discovered something new about the Holy Spirit. Before them, nobody understood these aspects of the Holy Spirit. The first prophet was Isaiah. In those days, people saw the Spirit mainly as the power of God, but Isaiah connected the Spirit with the Messiah. What is the Messiah? The Messiah is the Savior the Israelites were waiting for. The second prophet was Ezekiel. Ezekiel saw the connection between the Spirit and resurrection. He had a vision of a valley full of dry bones. The Spirit moved, breath came upon them, the dry bones came together, and they became alive. Ezekiel saw the image of resurrection and how the Spirit moved among the dry bones. The third prophet was Joel. We will look at him later.

There was a big gap between the First Testament and the New Testament, about 400 years. There was no prophecy. The Spirit was not moving. Four hundred years is quite a long time. Several generations passed by, but no prophet had any prophecy. Then all of a sudden, there was a movement. There was a bubble of energy in that area, not only in the Jewish area, but in other places as well. Somehow there were bubbles of energy, and people were waiting. There was religious and spiritual activity. People were searching for a deeper meaning of life, salvation, and a new relationship

with the divine. Humanity was undergoing a broader spiritual awakening. We do not know exactly how this happened, but it happens throughout history. Take the Oxford Movement, for example. A group of students somehow became inspired, and it grew into a whole movement. It started in Oxford, but it swept across England. In Korea too, there were revival and repentance movements. They started in one church and then spread much more widely. In Germany as well, there was a movement of the Spirit, and it became one of the seeds that eventually contributed to the breaking down of the Berlin Wall.

It is a movement. The Spirit moves. Around that time, a spiritual awakening began. The movement started, and the Spirit became active again. What did the Spirit do after 400 years of silence? The Spirit gave birth to Jesus. Around Jesus' time there was even the Essene community. They moved away from the cities and lived in caves, waiting for God to act. From them came what we know as the Dead Sea Scrolls. Into that environment, the Spirit gave birth to the Messiah. The Holy Spirit had a vision for a new world and initiated a new beginning. The Spirit broke the silence and prepared the way for Jesus.

First, the Spirit worked in Elizabeth. Who was Elizabeth? She was the mother of John the Baptist. Who was John the Baptist? He was the one who prepared the way for Jesus. He was the forerunner. The Spirit first worked through Elizabeth and John the Baptist. The angel told Zechariah:

"You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." (Luke 1:14-17)

We are talking about John the Baptist's birth. He will turn many of the

people of Israel to the Lord their God. He was the first prophet after 400 years of silence. Notice what it says: "Even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit." What do you see here? Even before John the Baptist had consciousness, faith, or belief, he received the Holy Spirit. Belief is not necessarily prerequisite for receiving the Holy Spirit. We often think that you receive the Spirit after you confess Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. But here the Spirit came upon John the Baptist before he even had consciousness.

The implication is important. Pray for your children. Your children may not be aware of God. They may have no spiritual awareness yet, but you need to pray for your children. Pray that the Spirit may fill them, guide them, shape them, and empower them. Pray that the Spirit may give them peace and confidence. Pray that the Spirit may give them a righteous path for them to take. You do not know what opportunities will open up for them. You do not know how their lives will turn out. But pray that their path may be paved and for the Spirit to guide them onto that path. High school students, what you are experiencing now, confusion and uncertainty, is normal. God will show you the path. Do not give up. Always be mindful of the Spirit. The Spirit will guide you.

Who sent Jesus Christ to the world? For God so loved the world that He sent His only Son, Jesus Christ. Yes, God sent Jesus Christ to the world, but it is the Holy Spirit who made that happen. It is the Holy Spirit who gave birth to Jesus: "Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore, the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God'" (Luke 1:34-35). Before Jesus came to the world, the Holy Spirit prepared and paved the road for the coming of Jesus. As soon as Mary heard this from the angel, she went to Elizabeth, her cousin. This is what it says:

"When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed

with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'" (Luke 1:41-45)

Elizabeth was filled with the Spirit when she greeted Mary. John the Baptist, in her womb, recognized the baby in Mary. All these things, these spiritual things, are happening. The Spirit was doing this. Elizabeth was not aware of it. Zechariah was not aware of it. John the Baptist was in the womb, but somehow the Spirit was working among these people. No human will, no human decision, no human plan, but the Spirit somehow worked through all these people to bring Jesus into the world. Your existence is more than physical and emotional. It is spiritual. They didn't plan this. It was the Spirit who did all this.

Life is not just about planning. A big portion of your life has nothing to do with your plans. Many times, life turns out in a very, very different way from what you planned. It is about God's grace. That's why the proverb says, "The human mind plans the way, but the Lord directs the steps" (Proverbs 16:9). That's so true. You may plan everything, but in the end the Lord's Spirit directs your steps. So it is important that you leave a big portion of your life to the Holy Spirit. Ask the Holy Spirit to direct your steps.

The Spirit also came upon Zechariah, a priest and John the Baptist's father, and he prophesied about his son, John the Baptist. This is how the Spirit works. The Spirit does not work only with you. The Spirit uses many people around you to do His work. Around the birth of Jesus, there were so many people involved, and the Spirit used them all. Even after Jesus was born, when Jesus was still a baby, God used Simeon to prophesy about Jesus. He was an old man. He was waiting for the Messiah, and this is his witness:

"Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word,
for my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel'"(Luke 2:25-32).

We are born to feel the Spirit, and Simeon felt the Spirit when he embraced the baby. He received this vision through the Spirit.

God used Zechariah, Elizabeth, John the Baptist, Mary, and Simeon. They all worked together to make this happen. You are not alone. The Spirit uses events, people, and circumstances to make things happen for you. Not just through you, but all these people work together to make things happen for you. It is purely by God's grace that the Spirit empowers you.

After preparing all these things and all these people, the Spirit finally came upon Jesus. "In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased'" (Mark 1:9-11). The Spirit came upon Jesus. This event publicly declared that Jesus was the Son of God. God opened a new beginning with Jesus. It says that the heavens were torn

apart. The words "torn apart" are the same words used when Jesus was on the cross. When Jesus was on the cross, something was torn apart. What was torn apart? The curtain was torn apart when Jesus died on the cross. What was that curtain? The curtain was in the Jewish temple. There was the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies. Only the priest could go into the Holy of Holies, and only once a year. There was a curtain that divided them, and they believed that God was present in the Holy of Holies. That curtain was torn apart. In other words, God, who was hidden behind the curtain, was now fully revealed to us. The curtain was torn apart when Jesus died, and the heavens were torn apart when Jesus was baptized. God was fully revealed through Jesus Christ.

Then the Spirit laid out the ministry of Jesus. It was not that Jesus came up with His own purpose, vision, and meaning. It was not, "I'd like to have a meaning." No, the Spirit gave that meaning to Jesus. What I'm going to read is the vision of Isaiah. As I mentioned, Isaiah saw the connection between the Spirit and the Messiah. This is a word from Isaiah, and the Spirit used that word to commission Jesus.

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to set free those who are oppressed,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." (Luke 4:18-19)

This is Isaiah's words, but it was given to Jesus. So, your life purpose, the meaning of life, is not something that you decide on your own. When you wait for the Spirit, the Spirit will fill you with what you are to do, what you are born to do, and what you should live for.

The Spirit gives you this purpose. I hope that you wait for the Spirit to give you the purpose of life. When you are waiting for the Spirit, the Spirit will inspire you. Certain events will open up your eyes, or there will be certain

things you have passion for. This is all God's purpose for you. You praise Him. It is not just by your own will, but the Spirit asks you and commissions you to do this. Work is work. You have to work to make a living. But that is not really the purpose of life. The Spirit gives you what you are born to do. That's how we should live. When you try to do everything with your own power and wisdom, you will get tired and burnt out. By yourself, you do not have the strength and wisdom to take care of everything that is happening in your life. Even when you do not know what to do, the Spirit guides you.

The gentle Spirit who came down on Jesus like a dove changed. As I said, the Spirit is like the wind. Sometimes it is a gentle breeze, but other times it is like a hurricane. This time it was like a hurricane. The Spirit drove Jesus into the wilderness with a strong, violent force. The word used for "drove" is *ekballo*. *Ekballo* is the word Jesus used when casting out demons. It is a very strong force. The Spirit drove Jesus into the wilderness. We do not choose the wilderness. Jesus did not choose the wilderness. The Spirit drove Jesus into the wilderness. The wilderness is where you feel most vulnerable, tested, and tempted. You do your best to escape, run away from, or avoid the wilderness. But, my friends, we cannot. Without the wilderness, there is no promised land. Only through the wilderness do you go to the promised land. So when you go through the wilderness, do not worry. Do not think that bad things have happened to you. Do not think that this should not have happened. When the wilderness comes to you, believe that it is a necessary step you need to take to go where you want to go and to become who you are meant to be. You will not be destroyed. You will become stronger. Your identity will be clearly affirmed.

Matthew and Luke elaborated on the temptation. There was the temptation to turn stones into bread, to throw himself from the pinnacle, and all the others. But what was the ultimate temptation? It was this: "If you are the Son of God..." At His baptism, God said, "You are the Son of God." But in the wilderness, Satan kept asking, "If you are the Son of God..." It was an identity question. Satan continuously attacked Jesus with that identity question. When you go through the wilderness, this identity question comes

up. "Why are these things happening to me? If God really loves me, if I am really a precious child of God, why are these things happening to me?" You experience that identity question in the wilderness. More than anything else, you need to overcome that temptation. The Spirit will help you, and the Spirit will tell you that you are a precious child of God. Even when you go through suffering, do not ever forget that you are a precious child of God.

When you look at the Lord's Prayer, this is how Jesus prayed: "Do not lead us into temptation." Then why did the Spirit lead Jesus into temptation? The Spirit did not lead Jesus into temptation. The Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness. Through the wilderness, Jesus overcame temptation. The Spirit did not lead Jesus to be tempted. The Spirit led Jesus to overcome temptation. In your wilderness, ask the Spirit to help you overcome temptation. Running away from the wilderness will not help you. If you are constantly running away from the wilderness, you will become powerless and useless. Your life will be meaningless. You will become filled with fear. "What if this suffering comes? What if this hardship comes?" You will always be afraid of facing temptation. But the Spirit helps you confront and face your temptation, your wilderness. There you will overcome your temptation.

This was what St. Paul taught about temptation: "No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it" (1 Corinthians 10:13). There will be no temptation that will destroy you. God will provide a way out.

Jesus experienced both the highs and lows of life. There was a time when Jesus was really popular. People wanted to make Him king: "When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself" (John 6:15). They tried to make Jesus king, but Jesus did not come into the world to be the kind of king the people wanted. That was a temptation. Jesus also experienced the lows of life. He experienced a low point in Gethsemane:

"He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. When he reached the place, he said to them, 'Pray that you may not come into the time of trial.' Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed, 'Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me, yet not my will but yours be done.' Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground." (Luke 22:39-44)

That was a temptation too. Jesus did not run away from temptation. He confronted His own death and embraced it. You will have highs and lows in your life. Both can be times of temptation for you. Ask the Spirit to give you strength to overcome your temptations. Temptation is not about your mistakes. Temptation is about who you are.

The same Spirit who strengthened Jesus in the wilderness is with you today. When you look at the whole of Jesus' life, it was all about the Spirit. His birth was about the Spirit. His commissioning was about the Spirit. His temptation was about the Spirit. Behind Jesus' life was the Spirit. Everything was about the Spirit. Jesus did all His miracles through the Spirit. Jesus lived His whole life with the Spirit continuously. That is how our life should be: always with the Spirit. Rather than living by your own strength, ask the Spirit to guide you. In every little thing, even the smallest thing, ask the Spirit to guide you and lead you. Then you will see amazing results when you start doing that. Jesus showed us the example of how we should live. Jesus depended on the Spirit, and I hope that you also depend on the Spirit in your life. Your life will change tremendously when you do that.

The Holy Spirit in the Church and Beyond

Jesus and the Spirit worked before Jesus. From the creation all throughout the Old Testament, the Spirit worked. Then we examined around Jesus' time. The Spirit worked, the Spirit anointed and baptized Jesus, and the Spirit commissioned Jesus. The Spirit drove Jesus into the wilderness. Same thing, the Spirit baptizes you, and the Spirit also sometimes drives you into the wilderness. The Spirit gives you a commission, what to do, the purpose of life. Now we are going to study what the Spirit did after Jesus. The good news is Jesus did not actually have personal power. Jesus always depended on the Holy Spirit, like all of us. Jesus also believed we can do greater works than Jesus if we depend on the Holy Spirit.

When you look at the Gospel, Jesus' story, you don't see much of the Holy Spirit. Before Jesus, the Holy Spirit was active and brought Jesus into the world, but during Jesus' time you don't see much of the Holy Spirit. Why do you think so? Have you thought about why they didn't mention the Holy Spirit much during Jesus' lifetime? Here and there there are little blurbs, but not really active. Just before Jesus was born, the Holy Spirit was very active, right? We saw the Holy Spirit doing all kinds of things through all kinds of people. But during Jesus' time, it was quiet. Why do you think so? Because Jesus and the Holy Spirit were intertwined. The Holy Spirit came into Jesus and did all the miracles and all the things. It's not that the Holy Spirit was not there. Jesus completely depended on the Holy Spirit and lived His life that way. If we can live like that, how nice it will be. If you completely depend on the Holy Spirit and let the Holy Spirit guide you, you'll live an empowered life.

During Jesus' time, you don't hear much about the Holy Spirit separately.

Jesus always lived in consciousness and awareness of the Holy Spirit. That is so important in your life, being aware, being conscious of the Holy Spirit. That is called maybe mindful living. Mindful living. Always be mindful of the Spirit. It's not something you have to do. Live your life just being aware of the Holy Spirit. During praise time we are aware of the Holy Spirit. That brought tears to Simon because you're aware of the Spirit. When you're aware of the Spirit, it moves us and inspires us.

After Jesus was gone, Jesus imparted the Spirit. On the cross, Jesus said He gave up His spirit. Jesus gave up His spirit, and the Spirit now was not in Jesus but came out and started working. There are so many references to the Holy Spirit after Jesus. Luke wrote two books. One was the Gospel of Luke, and the other one was Acts of the Apostles. When you read Acts of the Apostles, you see so many references to the Holy Spirit, probably the greatest number of references to the Holy Spirit. Luke was the only one who described that. Luke records that the Holy Spirit gave birth to the church. We believe that Jesus Christ is the head of the church, and the Holy Spirit is the soul of the church. If there's no soul in the church, the church is not a church anymore. The Spirit makes the church alive. Worship becomes alive. Bible studies become alive. All the church activities and religious activities become alive. People become actively engaged. People become generous.

We talked about the gifts of the Spirit. Some of you are very generous and prayerful. You have gifts of faith and are a happy and good group of people. Church is not just an institution. Church is where the Spirit works and moves. The Spirit inspires each and every one of you to make the church alive. The Holy Spirit makes the church church. We do many activities, weekly worship, Bible studies, but if you are doing all these things mindlessly, then those are meaningless activities. But when you are filled with the Spirit, everything comes alive, and it becomes a spiritual community.

When I first came to this church in 1992, there was a small number of people, altogether about 60 people, first generation, second generation,

and including children. A very small number. But they were filled with the Spirit. They were fervent. They worked so hard. They attended worship with a really prayerful attitude. They were so inspired by the Spirit. This year is the 30th anniversary. I've been here 34 years. The anniversary is after amalgamation, so it is the 30th anniversary. We have done so many things. Mission in South Africa, Madagascar, Malawi, Kazakhstan, Guatemala, Indigenous ministries such as Rocky Bay and Sioux Valley, China and the Philippines, and now Cuba. Evangel Hall, Teesdale, also work in Etobicoke. Now we have become a representative church in our denomination. They see us as a representative, good model church, so they invited our praise team, a good praise team, an excellent praise team, to the General Assembly to lead early morning prayer.

My daughter Grace came back from Boston. She went to church there, and the praise team was made up of students from Berkeley, the very famous music school. She said our praise team is as good as, or even better than, theirs. She told me that. You guys write music, good music. Don't just follow other people's music. You have the ability. Ask the Spirit to empower you. You'll be able to write music, and someday we will all sing your music. I hope that someday we all do. Some songs are so sentimental and not good. You guys will make good music. This afternoon we talked about gifts. We have a lot of miracle workers within our church, gifts of faith and all that stuff. Wonderful. Do some miracles, please. Those who have gifts of miracles, do some miracles so that miracles happen in this church.

It is wonderful that we have so many talented people in our church. I'm thankful. I spent most of my young life in this church, for this church. I was 34, and I spent all my young life for this church, only for this church. You guys take the baton and take it to the next level. You can do that. I hope that you can do that. All of you work together. We have Simon and Dave and James. We have wonderful staff and wonderful workers. They are dedicated. They are spiritual. With them we can build this church strongly together.

When the Holy Spirit came after Jesus was gone, when you look at the activity of the Holy Spirit, there's only one image that comes to me very strongly. What is that image? I want you to think about it while reading this passage: "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). When you look at this passage, what is one image that comes to you? The image that comes to me is breaking boundaries. That's what I see. Breaking boundaries. From Jerusalem to Judea, to Samaria, and to the ends of the earth is not just a geographical move. It's not just a geographical transition. You have to break boundaries to go from Jerusalem to Judea, from Judea to Samaria, and from Samaria to the ends of the earth. There are strong boundaries, and you have to break them to move from one place to another.

When I moved from Seoul to Toronto, it wasn't just a geographical move. I had to deal with so many barriers, language barriers. That was a big thing. I didn't understand a thing when I first came, and these people always talked to me on the bus. I don't know why they talked to me. And I didn't understand what they were saying. So when they were smiling, I smiled with them. When they were serious, I was serious. But I didn't understand a thing about what they were saying.

I went to Ponderosa a long time ago. There was a steak house, a very cheap steak house. You go to the counter and you order. So I ordered, "Can I have a steak, please?" Then they asked me something, probably about well-done or rare meat. So confusing. So, okay, can I just have a salad? Then they asked again, what dressing? This and that. I don't understand. Can you just give me ice cream? Luckily they didn't have other flavors, just one flavor. What if they asked me for a different flavor? That's how I survived when I went to university. I didn't understand a thing, lectures and everything. So I had to ask somebody beside me for a borrowed notebook and then study with it. When I read books, it took twice, three times longer than English speakers. It was so difficult, so hard.

For the first time in my life I felt so small. In Korea I felt small, but here I felt small. They always asked me, "Where are you from?" I said, "Korea." Then they always asked, "Where is it?" Before 1980 they didn't even know where Korea was. Now it's K-pop and K-drama. Everybody knows about Seoul and Korea.

I once went to a market, and a cashier, somebody working there, asked me, "Oh, you're the one who was looking for milk." I said, "No, I didn't ask for milk."

"Oh, you all look alike. You Chinese all look alike."

I said, "I'm not Chinese."

"Oh, it doesn't matter. You all look alike."

It doesn't matter? It mattered to me. All of a sudden my identity was gone. I was so sad. I'm Korean. I'm not Chinese. Nothing against Chinese people, but I am not Chinese.

Even after I became ordained, this happened within the Christian community. I was interviewing a candidate for ministry. These candidates were being assessed as to whether they were fit for ministry or not. I was an interviewer, so I asked questions and all that. Throughout the whole interview, he didn't look at me once. Even when I asked the question, he answered looking at the white minister who was interviewing with me. I felt so invisible. After the interview, I raised the issue with the other guy, the white minister. "Did you see? He didn't look at me once in the interview." And then what he said was, "Oh, maybe because you look young." What's that got to do with anything? So these things, these boundaries. From Seoul to Toronto, I had to overcome all those boundaries. Now, with the help of the Spirit, I preach to you in English. That itself is such an empowerment.

Moving from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth was not just a

geographical move. The Spirit needed to dismantle ideological, religious, and cultural barriers because there were all kinds of ideologies, all kinds of religious things, cults. Paul once went to Athens, and there were all kinds of gods: Poseidon, Zeus, Aphrodite, Hera. They put up all these gods and worshiped them. Then Paul discovered there was one pillar that said "unknown god." What they were doing was praying to every single god, but just in case they missed one god, they put "unknown god" so that they wouldn't miss any god. St. Paul preached in that kind of environment. But the early Christians were bold. They received the Holy Spirit and even let go of identity markers such as circumcision. That's a really powerful move. Can you do that? Circumcision was a core identity of Jews. At that time, if you're not circumcised, you're not Jewish. The early Christians were all Jews, but they let go of those identity markers to reach out to different people.

And the Holy Spirit came on the people:

"Now there were devout Jews from every people under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.' All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?' But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.'" (Acts 2:1-13)

People came from all different regions. They all spoke different languages, and when the Holy Spirit came down, they were able to communicate with each other, even though they did not know the language. What is the opposite of this in the Bible? When did it happen? Yes, the Tower of Babel. The Tower of Babel. They all spoke one language, but they were so proud

that God confused the language and dispersed them. Babel is division. Pentecost is unity. The Spirit breaks all the boundaries and barriers. At Babel, humanity was divided. At Pentecost, humanity was united. The curse turned into a blessing.

The Holy Spirit broke down all different kinds of barriers. In our congregation we have many different people, and I'm so glad that we have many different people. Not only Koreans, but people with different racial backgrounds. Dalyce and Hollis and Popo are with us. They are from Dakota Nation, and Jamaicans, Filipinos, Taiwanese, Vietnamese, Italians, Cambodians, Chinese, Americans, Nova Scotians. We have so many different people with different backgrounds, but they are all here. Isn't that a miracle? Isn't that wonderful, that we are all here together? Our church theme is a coexistence model. All different people gather together, and not only physically together, but with respect, care, and love. It doesn't matter where you came from. It doesn't matter what language you speak. We are all together. That is something that we have to show to the world, because the world is different. The powerful always control the powerless, but the church is not like that. The powerful rather serve the powerless. That's what church is. That is the vision that we have.

When the Holy Spirit came, they were all confused. "What is this? I never experienced this. I hear everything. I can understand. What is this?" Totally confused. That's when Peter came out and explained, "My brothers and sisters, what you're experiencing now is the work of the Holy Spirit." They didn't know it was the work of the Holy Spirit. He quoted the prophet Joel. At that time, people believed that the Holy Spirit came only to special people like priests, kings, and prophets. Only those people received the Holy Spirit. But somehow Joel had this vision, the Holy Spirit coming down on all people. It never happened in the Old Testament—the Holy Spirit coming down on all people, men and women, slaves and masters, young and old. They never understood the Holy Spirit in that way. Joel had that wonderful vision and dream, and that was fulfilled on the day of Pentecost. The amazing thing is Peter, right there, seeing what was happening, understood

Joel. He went back to Joel. So he started saying that Joel the prophet said all these things, and that is being fulfilled right now today. It is the Holy Spirit who gave Peter the interpretation.

You know, what happens is not as important as your understanding of what happened. Did you understand what I'm saying? Do you agree? Things happen, but if you do not have understanding, what happened does not affect you very much. Sometimes in church, somebody says something to another person and they don't take it as anything. But another person says, "That means he's insulting you." All of a sudden you interpret what happened, and you feel so bad and angry. So what happened is not as important as the interpretation or understanding of what happened in your life. Something bad happens, but if you believe that God is using this opportunity to train me, to discipline me, if you have that understanding, what happened will not destroy you. You can move on. You can overcome that. Peter gave the interpretation of what happened. That's what the Holy Spirit does in your life.

All kinds of things are happening. When you have the Holy Spirit, you learn how to connect the dots. Before, they were just dots, random events. But they are not just random events. When you put the pieces together, they fit, and they give you a shape. One of the works of the Holy Spirit is giving you that understanding of what is happening in your life so that you can understand your life better. Why do certain things happen to you? Why do you feel this way? Why did these people say this to me? They are not just random things.

Peter spoke on the Sabbath: "Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, 'Brothers, what should we do?' Peter said to them, 'Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit'" (Acts 2:37, 38). And on that day, after they heard this message, 3,000 people repented and came to the Lord. It was the Holy Spirit who did that. Three thousand people were cut to the

heart and came to the Lord. That was the work of the Holy Spirit. What started with 120 people became a global movement. What happened was not by their plan or strategy of mission. They didn't have a plan or strategy of mission. They just depended on the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit came down and empowered 120 people, and those 120 people went out and made this a global movement.

I want you to be filled with the Spirit, and you will be empowered to be God's witnesses. Living in this world is not easy, especially these days. Every day it is a crisis. The world is very unpredictable.

Dora shared with me about her anxiety. Dora is the minister who came from Cuba. She said, "I'm anxious because if the Iran war is over, Trump said the next country is Cuba." As it is, they are going through so many difficulties and there is no electricity. That means if you get sick, you just die. You cannot have any scan or chemotherapy or radiation or anything. There's no electricity. You just die. And ministers only get \$15 a month. Fifteen dollars a month. How can you survive? And they don't even get the full \$15. So we sent \$5,000 this time to make the Saint Timothy Fund. Dora and I will discuss that fund. Today on my phone there was a message that, with the money we gave to Saint Timothy, they started putting in solar panels. They have almost finished it. So you built one solar panel, and through that they will feed so many people. They need water, and they can give water to so many people. You did wonderful things. Thank you all for your generosity. How much did we raise? Thirty-five thousand dollars altogether. That money was so well used. Thirty-five thousand dollars is not a huge amount of money, but it is so well used, and they are so appreciative of what we did for them. What is more important is that we are with them. They felt that we are with them.

And we have Dalyce here today. This afternoon she shared with me about her community. There are 2,000 or 2,500 people, and in just one year, 30 people died, mostly young people. Drug addiction, alcoholism, and many suicides. They are going through very, very difficult times. They are with us

as a witness, and I'm thankful that we have Dora so that we could hear their story. And we have Dalyce. Our mission team did wonderful work with them.

We need to continuously reach out to the weak and vulnerable. That's our theme. That's our purpose. That's the purpose of living. The purpose of living is not success. The purpose of living is to live for the weak and vulnerable. That's what we are called to do. That's why God blessed you. Right in Genesis chapter 12, God said I will bless you so that you may be a blessing to others. We have been blessed so that we can be a blessing to others. That is the purpose of life. What else is the purpose? When you don't have any power to deal with your situations, my friends, don't give up. Don't give up.

The Spirit broke through all the obstacles in the early church: culture, politics, and attitudes. Let us ask the Holy Spirit to fill us with power, to give us wisdom, and to guide us. You can do all things through the Holy Spirit who strengthens you. That was what Paul believed. That was what Peter believed. That's how they lived their lives. Paul said, "We know that in everything God works for good with those who love him, who are called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28). The Spirit is your friend. The Spirit is your helper. The Spirit is your guide. Do not face life alone. Invite the Spirit to come in every day, every moment, and work through the Spirit, and you will live an amazing life. One life, but an amazing life you will live. May God bless you with the Holy Spirit.