Sharing Your Faith Relies on the Holy Spirit

When we think about sharing our faith and participating in evangelism, we can find courage in Jesus' promise to send his Holy Spirit to equip us. Jesus commands us to make disciples, but he does not expect us to do it on our own or by our own power. Study the biblical accounts of Pentecost, when the gift of the Holy Spirit first came upon the disciples. See how the Holy Spirit immediately motivated and empowered the disciples to testify to all they had seen and heard. Together, we'll discover what Pentecost teaches us about the power of the Holy Spirit and what this power means for us yet today.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- What is Pentecost?
- How do you explain the work the Holy Spirit does?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: Sharing Your Faith Relies on the Holy Spirit

READ Luke 24:45-49, John 15:26-27, Acts 1:4-5, Acts 2:1-41, Acts 10:44-48

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- Why is it significant that the Holy Spirit was always part of God's plan and not a plan B or a response to the disciples' failure?
- In segment 1, host Darrell Delaney identifies four ways the Holy Spirit empowers us to talk about our faith and share our witness: he gives us 1) power, 2) strength, 3) boldness and courage, and 4) fortitude and "stick-to-it-iveness." Can you identify a time when the Holy Spirit clearly empowered you in one of these ways? Which empowerment would you like the Spirit to give you more of?
- In segment 2, host Scott Hoezee and Darrell discuss the Apostle Peter. What in Peter's story—from his fearful denial of Jesus to his sermon at Pentecost—encourages you the most?
- As you listened and studied the story of Pentecost again, what is one new thing you learned, or what did you notice the Holy Spirit highlighting or emphasizing for you this time?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

1 Corinthians 12:1-31, Galatians 5:22-25, Genesis 11:1-9, Joel 2:28-32, Zechariah 4:6, 2 Corinthians 4:7-15

CONCLUSION

Are there any relationships or places in which you feel the Holy Spirit nudging you to talk about your experience with God and faith? Remember what Darrell said in segment 3, "God is into using regular, ordinary people to do extraordinary things, and we can trust that God will use his Holy Spirit, who is supernatural and extraordinary, to work through our regular words to help people."

Think about your response to the second question in the above Reflection section and pray about it. Pray about your fears, ask for what you feel you need, and ask God to make you a vessel, a conduit by which his glory may work. Close your time of reflection and prayer by reading <u>2 Corinthians 4:7-15</u>.

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