

CORNERSTONE

# DISCIPLESHIP

GROUPS

THE ESSENTIAL SPIRIT, session 1  
Pastor Andrew Burns  
Message from Sunday, May 24, 2026

## Welcome

**Prayer Focus:** Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion and open hearts to His work.

## Key Takeaways

- **The Holy Spirit is Essential** - The church did not exist intentionally until the Holy Spirit was poured out at Pentecost.
- **Redemption of Babel** - Pentecost reversed what happened at the Tower of Babel, bringing scattered nations together through the Holy Spirit.
- **Enablement and Empowerment** - The Holy Spirit provides divine enablement and dunamis power for ministry and daily life.
- **Unity Through the Spirit** - The Holy Spirit is what makes believers one, just as Jesus and the Father are one.
- **The Most Neglected Person of the Godhead** - Despite His essential role, the Holy Spirit is the most misunderstood and relegated member of the Trinity.

## Discussion Questions

### Understanding Pentecost

1. Why do you think God chose a major pilgrimage festival (when Jews from every nation were gathered) to pour out the Holy Spirit?
2. How does connecting the Tower of Babel (Genesis 11) with Pentecost (Acts 2) help you understand God's redemptive plan?

### The Role of the Holy Spirit

1. Read Acts 1:8. Jesus' last words on earth were about the Holy Spirit. What does this tell us about the Spirit's importance?
2. In what areas of your life have you been trying to operate in your own strength rather than relying on the Holy Spirit's power?

### Personal Reflection

1. Have you been taught anything negative or limiting about the Holy Spirit? How has that affected your relationship with Him?
2. Read Romans 8:16. What does it mean that "the Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God"?

### Church Culture & Misconceptions

1. Why do you think the Holy Spirit is the most neglected person of the Godhead in many churches?
2. Pastor Andrew mentioned that some people were taught the Holy Spirit's work was "of the devil" or that He left after the early church. What damage does this kind of teaching cause?
3. How can we create a culture in our church and small group that welcomes and honors the Holy Spirit?

## Practical Application

### This Week's Challenge

Choose at least one of the following to practice this week:

#### Daily Awareness

- Each morning, consciously invite the Holy Spirit to fill you and guide your day
- Before making decisions (big or small), pause and ask for the Holy Spirit's wisdom
- Keep a journal of moments when you sense the Holy Spirit's presence, prompting and guidance

#### Scripture Study

- Read Acts 2 in its entirety
- Study one of these passages daily: John 14:15-17, John 16:7-15, Romans 8:26-27, 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, Galatians 5:22-25
- Write down what you learn about the Holy Spirit's role in your life

#### Prayer Practice

- Spend 10 minutes each day in prayer, specifically thanking the Holy Spirit for His work in your life
- Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal areas where you've been operating in your own strength
- Pray for a fresh filling of the Holy Spirit

#### Witness Empowerment

- Ask the Holy Spirit to give you opportunities to share your testimony this week
- Before conversations, pray for the Holy Spirit to give you the right words
- Trust the Holy Spirit to convict hearts rather than relying on your eloquence

## Going Deeper

### For Further Study

- Read the book of Acts, noting every mention of the Holy Spirit
- Study the Old Testament references to the Holy Spirit (Spirit of God, Spirit of the Lord)
- Research the difference between being filled with the Spirit and being baptized in the Spirit
- Look up all references to "tongues" in the New Testament

### Recommended Resources

- Book of Acts (focus on chapters 1-2, 8, 10, 19)
- Leviticus 23 (Jewish festivals and their significance)
- Joel 2:28-32 (prophecy fulfilled at Pentecost)
- John 14-16 (Jesus' teaching about the Holy Spirit)

## Closing

### Prayer Points

- Thank God for the gift of the Holy Spirit
- Repent for any ways we've neglected or grieved the Holy Spirit
- Ask for a fresh filling and baptism of the Holy Spirit
- Pray for boldness to be witnesses empowered by the Spirit
- Pray for anyone in the group who needs healing from wrong teaching about the Holy Spirit

### Next Steps

- Attend water baptism service next week if you haven't been baptized
- Plan to attend part 2 of this series on June 7th
- Invite someone who needs to hear about the Holy Spirit's role in their life

### Final Thought

"Trying to do the Lord's work in your own strength is the most confusing, exhausting, and tedious of all work. But when you are filled with the Holy Spirit, then the ministry of Jesus just flows out of you." - Corrie Ten Boom

## News & Events

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### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- May 31 - Water Baptism; registration is open
- June 6 - Men's Breakfast
- Save the Date! July 19 - Summer Fun Night at Kingsport Aquatic Center

