

Book of Acts Series - Part 10 | One Thing Missing

by Jim Cymbala

The sermon emphasizes the importance of the Holy Spirit in our lives and the need to have faith and repentance to receive Him.

Duration: 34:50

Scripture: Matthew 6:33, Acts 2:38, Acts 8:4-5, Acts 8:9, Acts 8:12, Acts 8:26

Topics: "Book Of Acts"

Description

In this sermon, the speaker emphasizes how persecution drove the early Christians to spread the word of God. Despite facing trouble and disappointment, God used these challenges to guide them to where He wanted them to be. The story of Simon the Sorcerer is highlighted as an example of someone who initially believed in Christ and was baptized, but later succumbed to evil desires. The speaker warns against boasting and emphasizes that God wants Christ to receive all the glory. The sermon also emphasizes the power of the gospel and the importance of proclaiming Jesus as the promised Messiah.

Transcript

Let's focus on something that will really help us to be more effective. Maybe it's one of the biggest problems right now facing Christendom, I would think it is. And it comes in a much discussed part of the Book of Acts.

And since we've been reading through the Book of Acts together, we're actually gonna pick up at the very verse that just came to me where we stopped last week. And that is in chapter eight. And persecution has broken out against the church.

Stephen, the first martyr of the church, has bit the dust. And we found out that Stephen was one of the seven who was chosen to distribute the food to the widows where there was some confusion and conflict going on. So let's pick up the story.

It's a rather long reading, but follow it because it's history. It's the Book of Acts. It's, I think, easy to read, a great story.

Listen, those who had been scattered, remember that's what we read last week? Those who had been scattered, those are the Christians being persecuted, preached the word wherever they went. So we

talked last week about that Christians were vocal in the early church. They preached, that word means herald, to proclaim.

So even though they weren't ordained, they were all preachers, as it were, because they shared the good news about Jesus wherever they went. Philip, who's Philip? He's one of the other seven. There was Stephen, there was Philip, there were others.

And remember, he's not a minister, he's not an apostle. He's not a, he's what the most we would call him as a deacon, but the word deacon hasn't been used yet in the Book of Acts like this. Philip went down to a city in Samaria.

He really didn't go down, south, down, no. Jerusalem was high up as a city, elevated, and wherever you left Jerusalem, you went down to the place, even if it was north. We go down to Florida, we go up to Canada.

Well, when you left Jerusalem, you went down, no matter where you were going. He went down to a city in Samaria, which was north, and he proclaimed the Messiah there. What was his message? He said Jesus was the one that had been promised in the Old Testament, the Messiah, the Christ.

When the crowds heard Philip and saw the signs that he performed, God somehow supernaturally gifted him to do miraculous signs. The gifts of the Holy Spirit, we saw, were in operation there in a very strong, powerful way, and now Philip, unsent that we know, just scattered because he lost his job, and they're trying to kill the Christians. So as he goes, he's not only sharing, but as he talked, this is how it happens.

When you open your mouth and you talk and you try to stand for Jesus, that's when the Holy Spirit kicks in. The Holy Spirit is not promised while we're all sitting in circles and having a Bible study. God will help us there, too.

We need his help to understand the Word. But it's when you do evangelism, when you do the thing that's hard to do, then the Holy Spirit has been promised to help us, and boy, was he helping Philip. They all paid close attention in that city in Samaria to what he said.

For with shrieks and impure spirits came out of many, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. So there was great joy in that city. Why? People's lives were being affected by the power of God.

The gospel was being preached. Philip was being used by the Lord, even though he was just what we would call a layperson. For sometime a man named Simon had practiced sorcery in that city, and he amazed all the people of Samaria.

He boasted that he was someone great, and all the people, both high and low, gave him their attention and exclaimed, this man is rightly called the great power of God. Let's just stop there for a second. So here's a guy that before Philip got there, he was using magic, evil spirits controlling him, it seems, in some way, and he was considered like a magician and a powerful person who God or the gods were using.

Notice the Bible says here, and he himself boasted that he was someone great. When people are used by the enemy, they can boast that they're someone great. When God uses you, never boast that you're great.

How many say amen? Whenever you hear a preacher, an evangelist, or anybody boasting that they're someone great, trouble is on the way. Jesus is great, we are little. All in favor say aye.

And God is not gonna share his glory with some pastor or preacher's name or anything else. God wants Christ to get all the glory. So now, they followed him, Simon the sorcerer, because he had amazed them for a long time with his sorcery.

But when they believed, Philip, as he proclaimed the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus, notice his message. He was proclaiming the good news, that's the gospel of the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ. They were baptized, both men and women.

What does baptism mean? They received Christ, they believed the message, so now they were baptized as an outward sign that they had become followers of Christ. So that's what happened in Samaria. Simon himself believed, whoa, and was baptized.

The sorcerer got in the water and proclaimed Christ and confessed Christ. And he followed Philip everywhere, astonished by the great signs and miracles he saw. When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to Samaria, two of the main leading apostles.

When they arrived, they prayed for the new believers there that they might receive the Holy Spirit, because the Holy Spirit had not yet come on any of them. They had simply been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Now, let's remember, the Holy Spirit is not a gas. He's not a power, he's not the forces with you. It's not any of those things.

He's not a celestial cloud. The Holy Spirit is a person. He's God on earth.

The father sent the son, the son did his work and went back. Then the son sent the Holy Spirit. So the only agency of God, the only agent of God on earth right now is the Holy Spirit.

If anything good happens that God does, it's the Holy Spirit doing it, because Jesus is seated at the right hand of the father, interceding for us. So we live in the era of the Holy Spirit. We will only experience as much of God as we experience of the Holy Spirit.

You cannot emphasize that enough. Any church or teaching or minister who downplays the Holy Spirit is downplaying God, because that's the only one who's here is the Spirit. And Jesus said, it will be better for you that I go and he come.

That's how powerful his ministry will be, although invisible. So now, when they arrived, they prayed for the new believers that they might receive the person of the Holy Spirit, because the person of the Holy Spirit, he, God, the Spirit, had not yet come on any of them. They had simply been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received in some way the person of the Holy Spirit. Very interesting passage. When Simon saw that the Spirit was given at the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money and said, give me also this ability, so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit.

Now, let's stop and analyze what that's implying. When Simon, the new convert, it seems, saw that the Spirit, the Holy Spirit, was given at the laying on of the apostles' hands, as John and Peter laid hands on

them, he offered them money. Now, how did he know the Spirit was given? What was the sign the Spirit was given? I mean, did they just lay hands on him and say, now you got the Spirit? Or was there some manifestation? Did they speak in other languages as they did in Acts 2, the way Peter and John received the Holy Spirit? They spoke in other languages as the Spirit gave them utterance.

But it seems like Simon saw something, or else he wouldn't know that, wow, when they lay hands on the people, they receive some new dimension of the Holy Spirit in their lives. Notice, he was thinking his old ways. He's thinking money.

He said, ooh, that's a gift that I would like. How much do I have to pay to get that gift? Yo, Peter, John, I got a couple hundred on me. Can I, if I give you that money, would you give me that gift? See, he was thinking old school, his old life.

He said, give me also this ability that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit. Peter answered, may your money perish with you. How'd you like to have a pastor like that? How'd you like to have a pastor just tell you, right, like that, you know what, may your money perish with you.

You say, pastor, I thought you loved me. I thought you were a man of God. Well, Peter was, but he said this, because you thought you could buy the gift of God with money.

See, you can't buy the Holy Spirit. There's nothing, listen to me, everybody, you can't buy anything that has to do with the Holy Spirit, it's a gift. All that you can do with a gift is reach your hand out and take it.

The minute you have to reach in here and get something out, then it's no longer a gift. Now you're buying something, and God says, no one's buying anything from me. I'm giving free gifts, that way you can praise me for how much I love you and how I bless you.

Can we put our hands together and say amen? Salvation is always spoken of as a gift, and the Holy Spirit is always spoken of as a gift. And the need is faith, and what is faith? Someone has said, well said, eloquently said, faith is the hand that reaches up and takes the gift. Some people have the gift offered to them, and they just never take it.

And if you never take the gift, you can't blame God. He's offering the gift, you just don't have the faith, you and I don't have the faith to take it. Oh, I'm not good enough, see? You think you have to buy it with some good works.

I know, but I've messed up in life, see? Now you think you have to change to get it. It's received by faith, that's how we receive salvation. What if someone says, I want to be a Christian, I want God to forgive me of my sins, but I've lived a bad life? That's the whole point why he came, because we've all lived a bad life.

It's a gift, salvation is a gift. The Holy Spirit is a gift. Everything God does for us is a gift.

God's not gonna be a debtor to anyone. He's gonna get all the praise and honor and glory. No one's gonna be up in heaven saying, wow, I got a bargain, I got the Holy Spirit for 79.95 on a summer special.

No, everyone's gonna be saying, all glory to God, all glory to Jesus Christ, all glory to the one who sits on the throne. So, you have no part, you thought you could buy the gift of God with money. You have no part or share in this ministry because your heart is not right before God.

Notice the discernment of Peter. Notice the boldness of Peter. Here's a man of God telling a person, a new convert, your heart's not right with God.

We could say, well, who are you to judge? But notice here, under special conditions of the Holy Spirit using someone, they could discern and boldly proclaim, your heart's not right with God. And you know what? Simon knew he was right. Stephen didn't stop there.

Repent of this wickedness and pray to the Lord and hope that he may forgive you for having such a thought in your heart. For I see that you are full of bitterness and captive to sin. Now, what's interesting is that bitterness, his bitterness might have come out of jealousy because he used to be the big guy in town.

And now he was just a new believer and he saw that everyone was looking at Peter and John and seeing how God used them and Philip before that and there might have come some bitterness. Isn't that a terrible thing? The blessings of God can cause jealousy. The blessing of God can cause jealousy.

I once spoke at a conference a long time ago. It doesn't matter where and how and all that, although it was in the state of Texas, I remember, and a minister came to me at the end. I know we have some folks here from Texas.

I'm happy they're here. But, and after I got through speaking and the Lord used me in a simple message, the Lord blessed it, this minister who was struggling in his own ministry and did not have a right spirit, jumped next to me on the floor as I was kneeling and we were all praying and said, you have to ask God to forgive me because while you were speaking, I wanted to hurt you. That's the truth before God.

I wanted to hurt you. See, jealousy can get in any of us and it can come with the blessing of God. It can come with the gifts of the Spirit.

It can come with being used by God by singing a song and then another person who loves to sing sees the other one outsing them or be used by God and they're jealous. Oh, jealousy is a horrible thing, right? So, it makes us bitter. You're full of bitterness and captive to sin.

And then finally, Simon answered, pray to the Lord for me. Pray to the Lord for me so that nothing you have said may happen to me. Seemed like he repented, he acknowledged it.

After they had further proclaimed the word of the Lord and testified about Jesus. After they had further proclaimed the word of the Lord and testified about Jesus. Peter and John returned to Jerusalem, preaching the gospel.

What's the gospel mean? Good news. About who? Jesus. In many Samaritan villages.

By the way, as I just bring this to a close, this is now the fulfillment of what Jesus told the disciples to do. But he had to use extreme circumstances to get him to do it. He said this, wait in Jerusalem, Acts 1. Wait in Jerusalem, you'll be filled with power.

And then you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. And they never went to Samaria. They all stayed where they were.

Persecution drove them to get where God wanted them. Sometimes God uses trouble to get us where he wants us to be. God will use trouble and disappointment and our own failures to get us where, oh, is God amazing, isn't he? Awesome and gracious and full of mercy.

They're now preaching. Why are they making this missionary trip? It's not a missionary trip. They're running for their lives.

And every place they went, they preached the word. Simon the sorcerer is an interesting story, isn't he? Was going through his mind. They baptized him, so they must have been convinced that he had given a testimony of believing in Christ.

I've repented of my past life, and I put my faith in Jesus. That qualifies you to be baptized. Simon got baptized.

And yet, in a little while, as he watched, something started working in his heart that was evil. And he had to be rebuked, and he thought he could buy something that God only gives as a gracious gift. The most awesome part of that whole passage, that's an interesting story, isn't it? How the gospel spread through Samaria.

Samaritans had a half-baked religion, half-Judaism, half-pagan influences. It was a hybrid religion. They believed in the law of Moses, but not the prophets.

They didn't believe in the Psalms. They hated the Jews who lived in Judea and Galilee. The Jews hated them.

That's when Jesus stopped and talked to the women at a Samaritan well. She said, what are you talking to me for? Because they were taught by the rabbis, you don't even mingle with these low-life Samaritans. But now the gospel has gone there.

God uses Philip, and there's joy in the city, and people are being converted. How do we know that? They're being converted. And the Lord has anointed Philip, and he's doing extraordinary things, and he's just a deacon in the church, if that.

And the Bible says that, which goes to show that you can't put God in a box. The whole thing, the point on Sunday was, the moment you limit God to the platform and to the clergymen, you are now missing the New Testament Christianity. New Testament Christianity was God moves where he wants to move.

The Spirit is moving like God is moving by His Spirit, moving in all the earth. Signs and wonders, when God moves, move, O Lord, in me. Anybody can do anything if God gets ahold of them.

You can't do it by labels. The greatest evangelist of the 19th century who won more people to the Lord than anybody in that whole century was a squat, short guy named D.L. Moody, who had a third-grade education, had a speech impediment, couldn't even say the name Nebuchadnezzar. People would laugh when he did it and never got ordained.

All he ever was called was Mr. Moody. He was the most famous name in Christianity throughout the world. And all they ever called him was Mr. Moody, never pastor, never reverend, because he never got ordained.

He didn't need to get ordained, God was with him. So now here's the question. Philip baptizes the people, he knew to do that.

But the Bible says, repent and be baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ for the remission of your sins. So baptism was this outward act that you've put your faith in the Lord, you've turned from your old

life. But something didn't connect.

When you baptize someone, they're already a Christian. The water doesn't make them a Christian. They're already a Christian.

That would be baptismal regeneration, which is not taught in the Bible. Baptizing doesn't make someone a Christian by baptizing them or christening them or first communion or anything. You have to have a heart connection to God.

You need a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. So when you baptize someone, they're already Christian, now you take them out, they're Christian. But a Christian, the Bible says, has the Holy Spirit living inside of them, for the Bible clearly says in Romans 8, if anyone does not have the spirit of Christ, he doesn't belong to him.

Now that's clear. The Bible says to all Christians, the weakest of us, know you not that you're the temple of the Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit lives inside of you.

So then how do we explain this? Peter and John were sent from Jerusalem because they had heard, wow, the Samaritans have received the gospel. Philip is being used by the Lord. There's great joy in the city.

So there they go and they come to the people and they say, oh wow, we gotta pray for these people. Why? For as yet, they had not received the Holy Spirit. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

It's a hard one. So then they prayed for them that they might receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. So this seems to indicate, as does a passage in Acts 19, where Paul meets certain believers in Ephesus and he says to them, have you received the Holy Spirit since you believed? I know you believe, I know you're Christians, but have you received the Holy Spirit? It very well could be, brothers and sisters, that the New Testament concept of Christianity is something much fuller than we're used to, where people not only got saved, forgiven, the Spirit came in them, but they were filled with the Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit began to control them so that they did wonderful things in the name of the Lord. Because it seems like Peter and John saw something that made them go, wow, I know you believe in Jesus, but we better pray because there's something missing in your life from the Holy Spirit. It's the only way you can read that.

There's no other way to read that. To say they weren't Christians, it says Philip was baptizing people who were pagans and not born again. To be a Christian is to be born again, to be born again by the Spirit.

So the Spirit's living inside of you, but remember, this is a person, and he doesn't wanna just live there. He wants to control us. He wants to exhibit his power through us so that the name of Jesus will be glorified.

So they prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Spirit. Without the Holy Spirit working powerfully in your life, it's hard to live a holy life because the only one who's holy is the Holy Spirit. Many Christians are being challenged to live a holy life, and the minister's forgetting to tell them that the only source of holy living is the Holy Spirit.

My name is Jim. His name is the Holy Spirit. Jim is sinful.

Jim is selfish. The Holy Spirit is the Holy Spirit. If you're trying to overcome some besetting sin, the only answer is the ministry of the Holy.

No wonder he's called the Holy Spirit. He makes us holy. He sanctifies us.

Power to witness for Christ. Let's take the word, the thought of boldness. Maybe they were shy Christians.

Maybe they were lacking joy. Who gives joy in your life? The Holy Spirit. You can't work people up.

I went to churches, around churches when I was little where they would get a guy in the organ and the people would be worked up into a frenzy because with the organ pumping and the guy yelling in the microphone, everybody would get worked up. When the meeting ends, if you have no joy, you're depressed again. Am I right or wrong? Only the Holy Spirit gives lasting joy.

Only the Holy Spirit gives peace. If you're agitated, you can't talk yourself into peace. The Holy Spirit gives peace.

It's one of the fruit of the Spirit. Peace, joy, boldness. You get courage.

You get love. A lot of years ago, as a 14-year-old, I prayed at an altar. I hadn't been paying attention and it was good for me to do that because I had gotten legalistic ideas in my mind about the Holy Spirit.

I never had said that publicly, but it just dawns on me now. I'm glad it worked out that way because during the service, I wasn't paying attention to the preacher. In fact, I was talking with my friend and the preacher got so upset because the building didn't have that many people in it that he actually called out his son and said, could my son please stop talking to his friend while I'm preaching? And my mom and dad were sitting behind me and I could feel their look of the red thing that goes through your neck.

And I thought, wow, I'm gonna get a beating when I get home tonight. So I wasn't even paying attention. And then they made an invitation and I came forward to pray like you are gonna.

So I wasn't feeling so good about myself because I just realized I didn't even pay attention in the service, but that was good for me because I had been seeking by trying to live a good enough life so God would say, you're gonna be that good, then I'm gonna give you something. Like it was a transaction that I earned it. So I came very weak.

I came very down. I came needy. I came poor in spirit.

I came crying, God have mercy on me. And a young woman, about 10 years older than me, she just started praying with me. She had a white shawl wear over her dress, like a white sweater that had holes in it like a shawl.

And she started praying. She never lifted her voice, never once lifted her voice. And she just started praying and she called me by name and she said, God, help Jim, help Jim.

And I was just like, boy, if you don't help me, I have no one to help me because I know better than to be talking in a service. Oh God. I felt so, you ever just feel useless? Hello, does anyone ever here feel useless, undone, disqualified? That's how I felt.

And oh my, my, my, my, my, my, my. Like a mighty rushing fire, not wind. Something started burning inside of me that almost frightened me.

No one was working it up and you couldn't work it up with me because I wasn't gonna play anybody con artist game. No preacher could maneuver me, push me over or do anything. They tried to do that, they couldn't do that to me.

It was God, the Holy Spirit. And for maybe half hour, 20 minutes to a half hour, the Holy Spirit just came like lava, just running through me. And I cried and I wept because it was like, God, I don't believe this.

You wanna bless me? Me, I'm a joke. Do you bless jokes like me? And yes, God does bless jokes. It's I had this other concept, get good enough to get it.

But brothers and sisters, look at me. If you gotta get good enough, who's gonna help you to be good enough? Who's gonna help you to be good enough so that God can then help you? No, you need God from the very beginning. If you're struggling today, that's the best prayer you can pray.

God, I need the Holy Spirit more than anybody in the building because you know what I'm going through. And you know how weak I am. See, you can use what the devil tries to use for evil.

You can work it for good and go right back to God and say, God, I am nothing. Read the Psalms, look how David prayed. God, I'm like a feather being blown in the wind or a leaf.

I'm like a fence half knocked down already because God is drawn to vulnerability. God is drawn to weakness. He makes the weak strong.

He never makes the strong strong. He makes the weak strong. And oh my, I had that experience exactly like in the book of Acts where I spoke.

No one could get me to speak anything. Oh my goodness. It didn't happen even 20 blocks from this building.

And I was speaking in languages I didn't know. No one was working it up. It certainly wasn't of the devil because I was glorifying Jesus.

The devil would never make you glorify Jesus. And you know when it got all done, I don't know how long that went on. I had to be there for an hour, 45 minutes or whatever.

I got up and there was a bully in the church. A guy who used to, he was, oh, he weighed 50, 60 pounds more than me. He was five, six years older than me.

And just for fun, he was one of the associate pastor's sons. No one messed with him. It was not right in his mind, I really think.

But I would just walk by and he would punch me as hard as he could in my arm. And I tried to laugh it off like, but it hurt. And everyone was afraid of him.

And somehow God organized it. He was standing on the side watching everything. He always did that.

He never prayed, he just watched. And I got up and I got up and he was there and I walked right over to him with no fear, with no bitterness in me. And I said to him, which totally unnerved him, I said, Larry, I

love you.

And he was like, yo, this is heavy right now what's going on in this church. Because when the Holy Spirit controls you, you love everybody. You're not afraid of anybody.

Am I right or wrong? Come on, can we say amen to that? Close your eyes with me. Isn't that the great lack in some of our lives here? We love Jesus, we know he lives inside of us. We've been baptized.

But there is another work of the Holy Spirit that's needed in our life, big time. Now if you don't believe that, if you've been taught differently, I still read the Bible to you. You saw the verse there, you saw the passage.

People did pray for folks to receive the Holy Spirit. And they prayed for Christians to do it. These folks were baptized.

So I haven't said anything unbiblical. But if you've been taught and instructed otherwise, I have no argument with you at all. All I know is my own soul's need of the Holy Spirit.

Because without the Holy Spirit controlling me, you're looking at a train wreck. And you're looking at inefficiency and no love, selfishness, you're looking at no boldness. I know who I am.

The only hope I have is God, the Holy Spirit. I am a Christian, but the only hope I have is this statement, all merit, all acceptance with God is in the Son, Jesus, and all power is in the Spirit. All power.

The one distributing power and change on earth right now is the Holy Spirit. If you're here tonight and say, Pastor, I wanna spend a little time, I want the deacons and the leaders who are coming that are gonna stand on the first step. They're not gonna pray with you long and make long prayers over you.

They're just gonna touch your shoulder, your head, and just put their hands on you. Pastors, deacons, deaconesses, just stand on the first step here facing the congregation. We're gonna lay hands on you just like Peter and John laid hands on the people there.

Why can't we imitate what they did in the Bible? And if God can use Philip in powerful ways, why can't he use you and me? All God is looking for is someone who says, I'm weak and I need you, God. That's all. And you have faith that he wants to do this.

When you come forward, we're gonna just pray gently for you and then move among the people and walk. We're not gonna sing long prayers because what's the long prayer to say? It's come Holy Spirit. It's come Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit, I'm asking you now. I'm asking you now. The Son, Jesus, sent you.

You're here in this room. You're the Spirit of Christ. You're the Spirit of wisdom.

You're the Spirit of power. And Holy Spirit, do we not need you? Do I not need you? And we know that you're working already in us. We're believers, but do we not need something more of your work in our lives? Do we not need you in a new way? The word says that we read tonight, for the Spirit had not come upon any of them.

We want you to come upon us tonight. We want you to come upon us because we trust you. You had never heard us.

You only wanna bless us and cleanse us and change us and purify us and sanctify us and make us the people you want us to be. You wanna just fix our minds so we think spiritually instead of humanly. So Holy Spirit, we invite you.

I invite you publicly now into this church. This church is the church of Jesus Christ. And he sent you and he said that he was with the disciples, but now you would be in us, working in us.

And the book of Acts tells us how you took ordinary people, even weak people, even failures, and you made them great through your working in them, through them. So Holy Spirit, we invite you to come. If you're here and you would like us to pray for you or just linger here in the front, you come right now.

We're not rushing anyone. But you say, Pastor, that was from me, what you shared. I'm glad you read from Acts 8. You come on, right up.

Just come in. Now Holy Spirit, we ask you to help us to obey, starting this moment, all your leadings. When you call us to pray, when you call us to open the Bible, help us to obey instantly.

When you tell us to speak to someone, help us to obey instantly. Instant obedience to your promptings, your voice, your leading. Open the Bible so that we'll understand it better.

We don't wanna go into emotionalism, fanaticism, but we don't want dead Christianity either, Lord. You know what we're after, what we read in your word, so that there'll be great joy in the city and the gospel will run and be powerful in people's lives and the church will be built up and people will be singing the praises of Jesus. So Holy Spirit, come while we sleep.

Come while we're eating. We don't limit you to this building. We don't limit you to anything.

You are God. You will do whatever you wanna do. We don't tell you how to come and manifest yourself we just ask you come, come, come Holy Spirit.

Teach us how to walk humbly and carefully before you. Help us not to grieve you or to quench your fire in us. And we're so happy, Holy Spirit, that we have you to strengthen us.

And now may the love of God, the grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, may the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us. Get us all home safely, through the heat, on the subways, the buses, walking, cars, no accidents, nothing Lord, just protect us. Remember the prayers we prayed.

We are expecting great things to be done in answer to our prayers, Lord. And likewise, our hands have reached out tonight to receive all that you have for us through the Holy Spirit. We're expecting you to do great.

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