

Sermon Notes:

Running on Empty

Acts 2
John 14 (Pentecost)
Sunday, May 23, 2010

What do we do when we feel like our lives run out of gas?

Our patience is gone, frustration level is skyrocketing, motivation is waning, decisions are poor.

I. The _____ is God's Answer

- Psalm 104: 24-34 – God has always been the Provider
- Joel 2: 28-32 – God will pour out His Spirit, power, evangelism
- John 14: 15 – Jesus promised God would send
- Acts 2: 1-12 – Spirit enabled, New Power, New Abilities, Gospel Spread
- The Means of Christian Living Today! What we know of God, by Holy Spirit

II. Good thing, We _____

- Thomas – Lost, looking for direction
- Philip – Frustrated, living in the “In-Betweens” “Show me the Father...”
- Peter – Afraid before, now boldly proclaiming
- You? What's the missing link in your Jesus' following?

III. _____ of the Spirit?

- Cleanse (fire, wind, water)
- Empower (look at the scriptural evidence)
- Teach – John 14:26 (correction)
- Remind – John 14:26 (empowered conscience is a clear conscience)

IV. How do I Get the Holy Spirit? A Matter of the _____

- Obedience – Acts 2 disciples were where Jesus told them to be
- Take Inventory – HS is the means of God for salvation, do you have salvation?
- Make Room – Clean out the trash, surrender the goods
- Ask in Prayer
- Faith and Practice / Supernatural and Discipline / Believe then Do

Small Group Discussion and Personal Bible Study Questions

Getting Started

1. Have you ever run out of gas? Tell the story. Was it funny then? Is it funny now?
2. When do you most often feel like you are “out of gas”, so to speak?
3. A very old hymn of days gone by asked the question, “Does Jesus care?” What do you think? Does Jesus care? Are you sure?

What Can We Learn from God’s Word?

1. Read Psalm 104 together. It’s kind of long, so break it up into sections so that you don’t get distracted. Ask yourselves, “What is the Psalm writer trying to express about God’s nature?”
2. Now read Joel 2: 28-32. Ask yourselves, “If God has always been the Great Provider, can I trust Him to also make the words of Joel come true?” God promises to send his Spirit to “...all people.”
3. Now to complete this thought, God’s word does come true. Read Acts 2: 1-12. This spirit outpouring is called “Pentecost”. If Joel and Acts are right, should every Christian be filled with the Holy Spirit?
4. Discuss this together: Imagine a glass vase half full of gravel. Now imagine that on top of the gravel, you poured in diamonds. (Wouldn’t that be nice?!) Can you say with honesty that the vase is “full of diamonds?” Not really, right? In order for it to be full of diamonds, what would have to happen? Now think about your spirit. Is it full of the Holy Spirit? If not, what has to happen in order for it to be? (Remember the vase)
5. Read Matthew 7: 7-11. What do you learn about the nature of God? Doesn’t it seem like He wants to give his children “good gifts”, like the Holy Spirit? Are you God’s child? (Read Romans 8: 13-17)

So, Now What?

1. Consider spending more time in prayer asking God to teach you about the Holy Spirit.
2. In your prayer time, ask the Lord to help you identify anything that might be crowding His Holy Spirit out of your life. Do you have the courage to remove it with God’s help?
3. Now, ask the Lord to fill you up with His Holy Spirit. Acts 1: 8, John 14: 26 will show you what the Spirit will do. Galatians 5: 22-23 will tell you about the fruit of the Spirit in your life.