

Series on the person of the Holy Spirit -Fire with Fire
Acts 1; John 10:10; Mark 16:7; John 21:15-17

We can all see what the outflow of our life is. The question is, what is the inflow? What about our relationship with God? In order to have an outflow we need to have an inflow. What is our devotional life like? What is our worship life like? We can either focus on our problems or on the problem solver who is Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit is not an it, he is not an acquisition or an add on, He is a person. He can be offended or grieved. We are a mosaic, a mixture of different denominational backgrounds. We are here not because we are seeking the Holy Spirit but because some of us didn't like what was happening where we were. In order to accommodate new people, we changed who we are so that we don't offend. But in doing that, we are no longer who we're supposed to be. As Pentecostals; we leave room for the Holy Spirit. We need to be careful who we allow to influence us. The ministry of the Holy Spirit did not end with the last apostle! The promise is for you and your children and all whom the Lord our God will call. **Acts 2:39** The fire of hell is coming in and trying to rob us of what God has in store. We can't fight with charisma, or education or degrees. We need to fight fire with fire, the fire of God, and that is the power and the person of the Holy Spirit. We have become just another mainstream religion. There was a time when Pentecostals were considered weird and peculiar, which is what the Bible says we are to be **1 Peter 2:9**. It is time to regain our peculiarity so that others will begin to question us, to come and check us out, yet not us, but the power of God that moves in this place. That's an inflow for an outflow. Sometimes we really mess up and some of us are living under condemnation because of it. Condemnation comes from the pit of hell to beat us down and make us feel like dirt. Conviction comes from God through the person of the Holy Spirit to bring about correction, change and improvement in our lives. When God brings correction, He always provides the power. Peter talked a good talk but messed up when he denied the Lord **Mark 14:66-72**. Some of us are so bold but charisma, or talent, or our own wisdom will only take us so far. If we want to go where God wants to take us we need to go beyond that, to the place where if God doesn't show up we're done. Is that why we don't experience the healings and deliverances we need, because we don't want to step out? We want God to do for us what we need but we want it in a church service rather than a life style. We're not willing to pay the price outside the church for Him to do what we need in the church. **Mark 16:7** Jesus made a special call to Peter because He knew where Peter was spiritually and emotionally. He had turned back to everything he had once left behind. He needed to meet with Jesus again. Jesus knows exactly the condition of our hearts right now. We need to stop going through the motions, we need to meet with Jesus again and be reinstated into fellowship with Him. The devil's goal is to take us out. God's goal is to take us in.

The key is forgiveness; will we receive the forgiveness He offers? He declares us worthy not by anything we have done but by what He has done for us **Eph. 2:8-9**. Before the Holy Spirit came on the believers in Acts 2 there had to be an Acts 1. God's plan was for his church to get to Rome, for us, that's 'out there'. Right now we are no different from the rest of the world because we slam the politicians just the same as the unbeliever. There is no leader in power apart from the will of God. But it's up to the church to pray the change into being. We are to bless not curse. Before we can make a difference in 'Rome', we need the power and the unction of the Holy Spirit from Acts. We want the power, the healings, the moving of the Holy Spirit but are we willing to deal with our sin? We need to be right with our Maker, we need to be clean. We need to accept the forgiveness God offers so we can move on with all that He has planned for us.