

# Sermon Guide

## Baptism: The Baptism of Fire

This last Sunday, we wrapped up our Baptism Series with a teaching on the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

We believe that Jesus intended you to live a life completely submerged in His Holy Spirit. Throughout the New Testament we see the filling of the Holy Spirit as a repeated experience in the life of the believer.

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is a baptism of love. It's designed to purify you, to lead you, and to put God's glory on display through you. God has designed it so that for your whole life you are surrounded by and filled with the fire of His love so that you can become love.

May we continually open ourselves up to be filled again with His Spirit that we might experience all that He has for us!

## Go Deeper.

Our desire is that every person would be empowered to have a deep and intimate relationship with God. We want people to not just hear a word on a Sunday, but get activated in whatever the Holy Spirit is doing throughout the week. The guide is a tool for you to dive deeper into what God is doing in you and through you as an ambassador of the Kingdom.

You can work through these activations and questions on your own or in a group setting. If you are doing them in a group, take turns leading. After each activation, take time to pray into whatever the Holy Spirit is speaking. It is also encouraged to have a journal and Bible with you.

For each activation focus will be key. We become like what we give our attention to, and one of the best ways to worship is to focus. Often we will ask that you close your eyes, if this helps you focus, then great, if it's something else that helps you focus, then do that.

Before each activation, take a moment to be still before the Lord. These are not exercises to rush through or items on a to-do list to check off. They are invitations to commune with God and to go deeper. Turn your attention toward Him and invite Him into this time.

## Discussion

- Prior to Alex's teaching, what was your understanding of the baptism of the Holy Spirit? How has it changed?
- Have you ever had an experience like a baptism of love and fire? What was it like?
- What did God do in you during our time together on Sunday?

## Activation #1

Take some time to ask God for a fresh baptism of His Holy Spirit. God loves to pour Himself out on the hungry.

Before you pray, ask God to examine your heart for any area that you may have disqualified yourself from His love. Take note of what He brings to mind. Now, set it at the feet of Jesus and watch Him pick it up and take it away. Know in the deepest part of your heart that because of the cross, because of love, nothing can disqualify you.

Out of this place, ask God for more of His presence.

*"Holy Spirit, I want more of you. Pour yourself out in a fresh way today. I am hungry for your presence. Baptize me in your love. I want to be completely filled with your love. Would you also baptize me in your fire. I want to be purified and holy."*

Now press into the posture of waiting. Make room for Him to move in you. This may look like hearing Him speak to you in your mind and imagination. It could also look like something physical happening. You may begin to cry or laugh or even feel heat in your hands. You may feel emotions of joy and peace. Those are the fruits of the Spirit coming up in you. This experience may be totally new for you. Let yourself lean into this experience with the Holy Spirit. Stay in this posture as long as you need to.

After you spend time with Him, journal about your experience. What was that like? What did God reveal to you out of that space?

## Ways to Pray

- That we would see people in our town come to know Jesus!
- That we would be hungry for fresh outpourings of His Presence.
- That we would continue to go after connection with God through prayer.
- That our people would be hungry for the fruits of the Spirit.