



OUTSIDE IN

OUTSIDE-IN: ACTS

SCRIPTURE: Acts 1:8: **holy spirit.**

In the next four weeks, I want to invite you to walk with Luke from the perimeter, to the very heart of God.

From being an outsider to being an insider.

Let's jump in with our Core verse for this week...

Acts 1:8

⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

The word Spirit in this verse is the greek word

pneûma, pnyoo'-mah; which means... a current of air, i.e. breath (blast) or a breeze.

This idea for God's Spirit described as a breath or a breeze isn't reserved just for the book of Acts. As a matter of fact the same idea is used throughout the OT as well.

In the Hebrew it is the word **rûwach, roo'-akh; and it means... wind; by resemblance breath**

Genesis 1:2

²Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit (rûwach) of God was hovering over the waters.

The breath of God was hovering over the waters.

God spoke the world into existence and as God spoke it's like his breath went out as this force that created everything.

God's Spirit **rûwach** or **pneûma** goes out as the very breath of God.

Throughout the Gospels, Jesus talks about something better. He consistently tells his disciples that he is going to leave, but something better is coming.

Jesus, God in the flesh, says to his followers that even though he was there in the flesh something better was coming.

Years ago there was a popular song out that made it on the radio... maybe some of you remember it...

Here's the chorus... (*Joan Osborne?*)

What if God was one of us?

Just a slob like one of us

Just a stranger on the bus

Trying to make His way home

Here's why I like it... He did! **His name is Jesus.**

There is this wonderful connection that we have with God because he came near to us in the person and work of Jesus. Can you imagine being around and actually meeting Jesus.

That would be amazing.

- ▶ I'd love to hear Jesus preach... with the authority of God.
- ▶ I'd love to see him put the powers that be in their place. If he could just join the presidential debate.
- ▶ I'd love to see him heal someone I love and exert the power of God.
- ▶ I'd love to see him walk on water or turn water into wine, or feed 5000 people.
- ▶ I'd like to just have a conversation with Jesus. Dive into the mind of God.

Wouldn't it be crazy if you had that chance?

But to those who Jesus was with, who had that "What if God was One of Us" experiences, Jesus said, "there's something better."

John 20 Jesus give them a glimpse of what's to come...

John 20:21-22

²¹Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." ²²And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

That something is **pneûma** the Spirit of God which comes near. The breath of God. Intimate.

The only way we could get closer to God than in the flesh is if he were to live in us.

That's what the HS is, not just God with us, God living in us!

TRANSFORMATION: THE HOLY SPIRIT IN US

THE HOLY SPIRIT IN US CREATION

Not only is the Spirit of God involved in the creation of the world, but also in the creation of man.

Genesis 2:7

⁷ the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

In this most intimate and holy moment God bends down and breaths the breath of life into Adam and he becomes a living being.

Think about that **even the exhale of God gives life.**

Core 52

"The Spirit of God was responsible for the very breath that enlivened the human species, breathing into the nostrils of Adam."

The Psalmist says that the Spirit of God is responsible for the breath of every living creature...

Psalm 104:29-30

²⁹When you hide your face, they are terrified; when you take away their breath, they die and return to the dust.

³⁰When you send your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the ground.

So it makes sense that once Jesus removed the curse of our sin, the Spirit could renew our access to the Father.

We can now have that same intimacy that Adam had in the garden as the breath of God filled his lungs.

We are no longer just watching from the outside, we are changed by the Holy Spirit on the inside.

Think back to creation, the Bible says...

Genesis 1:2

²Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit (*rûwach*) of God was hovering over the waters.

Do you have any chaos in your life? Any emptiness or darkness? God, by His spirit can change all that.

Just as in Genesis 1:2, the Spirit still hovers over the chaos of our lives, seeking to bring about a new creation.

2 Corinthians 5:17

¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

God is able, through the power of the Holy Spirit to recreate us in Christ.

THE HOLY SPIRIT IN US CONVERSION

Acts 1:8

⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

So in Acts 2, the Bible says that the Holy Spirit arrived, and you know what it sounded like?

Acts 2:1-2

¹When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.

²Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.

The sound of a violent wind came through where the apostles were. And the people took notice. And the Bible says that even though there were people there from many different places who all spoke different languages... they all heard their own language.

Talk about arriving with power!

And once the apostles had everyone's attention, Peter stood up and preached. And you know what he talked about?

Jesus.

And at the end of the sermon he simply said,

"this Jesus, who you crucified, God has made both Lord and Christ!"

In other words, you missed it. The long awaited Messiah was here and you missed it. Not only did you miss it, but you put him to death.

And their response?

Acts 2:37-38

³⁷When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" ³⁸Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Remember Jesus' promise? "I'll go away, but something better will come."

Forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit!

The most powerful and miraculous work of the Holy Spirit that happens is the washing of rebirth and renewal that happens at conversion.

I love Titus 3:

Titus 3:3

³At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another.

Do you ever think back at who you once were? Were you ever **foolish? disobedient? deceived? enslaved** by **passions** and **pleasures**?

We shouldn't stay there, but sometimes it is good to remember where we came from. But that's not all of that passage...

Titus 3:4-7

⁴But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ

our Savior, ⁷so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

Because of God's kindness and love we have been saved. And remember, it's not because of what we have done, but because of his mercy.

HE SAVED US THROUGH THE WASHING OF REBIRTH AND RENEWAL BY THE HOLY SPIRIT!

Conversion happens by the power of the Holy Spirit coming into our lives.

That's the job of the Holy Spirit in our lives. From chaos to order in our lives. From what we once were to what God makes us into.

Cleaned. Washed. Transformed.

It might be invisible to the human eye, but the transformation is evidenced by the fruit of our lives moving forward.

What a wonderful and miraculous change. We have been converted from what we once were...

foolish. disobedient. deceived. enslaved by passions and pleasures.

Into what God intended for us. Washed. Saved. Reborn.

And then sealed by the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 1:13-14

¹³And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

The Holy Spirit in us guarantees us new life.

THE HOLY SPIRIT IN US SANCTIFICATION

Because we now belong to God, we're set apart for his pleasure and purpose. The Bible calls this process "sanctification."

2 Thessalonians 2:13-14

¹³But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters loved by the Lord, because God chose you as firstfruits to be saved through the

sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. ¹⁴He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Sanctification is a Holy Spirit process that happens throughout our christian lives.

Core 52

Sanctification is the ongoing work of God to align our actions in the future with Christ's actions in the past.

1 Thessalonians 5:23

²³May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Remember God said, "I will never leave you or forsake you."

Jesus said, "I'm going to leave, but something better is coming."

The Holy Spirit "the breath of God" is that promise. It starts at **creation** and becomes more powerful at **conversion** and then stays with us through **sanctification**.

God offers everyone the opportunity to go from the OUTSIDE to being on the INSIDE.

Follow me here... It's all because of what the HS does for us on the INSIDE.

Creation. Conversion. Sanctification.

Acts 1:8

⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

The power of God living in us. To this end, that we would be God's witnesses to the ends of the earth.

Small Group Questions:

1. What is the car you always wanted growing up?
2. Would your view of God change if you got to experience Him in the flesh? How do you think people's view and understanding of God was effected when they spent time with Jesus?
3. Pneuma- Greek for Spirit. What does it mean to you knowing that God made a way to live in you?
4. What does the Holy Spirit look like in someone's life?
5. Read Titus 1:3-7- what does this tell us about who God is and what the Holy Spirit does for us?
6. Ephesians 1:13-14 - what are some promises about the Holy Spirit this passage tells us?

