

**Message: “Meeting the Holy Spirit Face to Face Part One”, Week One of “Meeting the Holy Spirit Face to Face”, presented by Reverend Kristen Lowe on 07-23-2017 at Crossroads United Methodist Church, Waunakee, WI.**

It's very difficult to explain the unexplainable. But, the disciples were used to that. Ever since they met Jesus face to face, everything changed. Their lives were transformed. Jesus tries to explain what it means to be born of the Spirit.

John 3:6-8

What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.

John 16:12-16

I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you. "A little while, and you will no longer see me, and again a little while, and you will see me."

May the Holy Spirit guide our hearts and minds as Pastor Kristen shares today's lesson.

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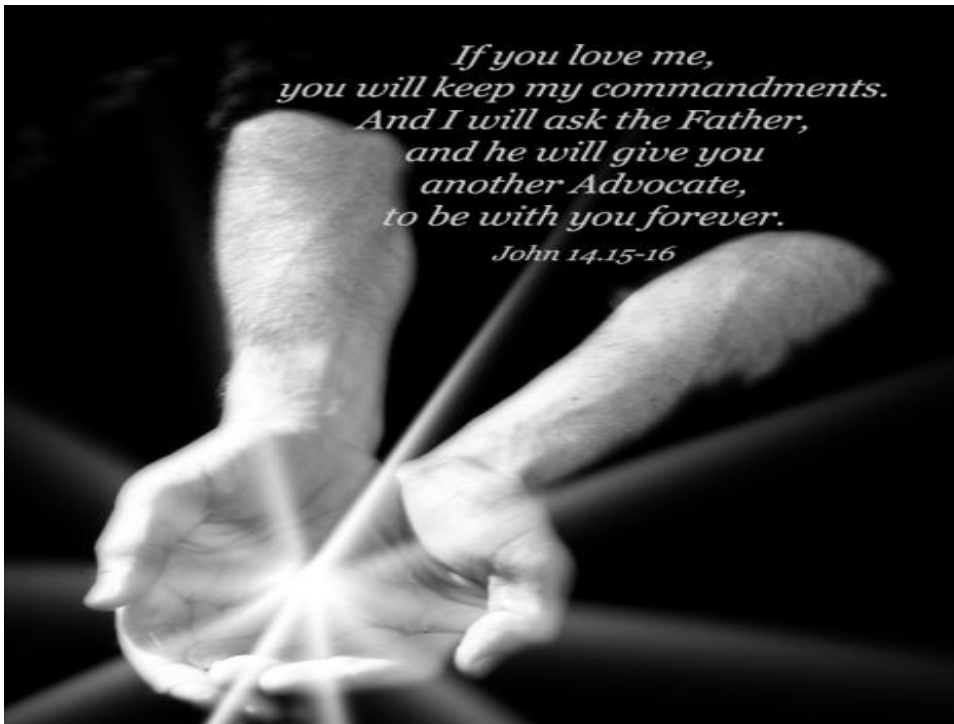
It was a relatively cool day for September. A bit windy I suppose. I ran over to the hospital again, new in my position at Crossroads, knowing that I could get to the hospital in a little under 20 minutes. When I visited with Fred earlier in the day his bible study group was just leaving.

Fred attended Crossroads on Sunday morning, but throughout the week, he found ways to fill himself with God's word. He couldn't get enough! It was a happy, talkative group of men – smiles from ear to ear, just vibrant! “Holy ground, Padre, Holy ground!”, said one as he passed me in the doorway.



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Fred smiled. “You’re back!” He had been given the news earlier in the day that the cancer had massively spread. It wasn’t pneumonia. I sat with him and just held his hand for a while before he spoke again, “Do you know the best thing? I get to tell everyone how much I love them!” I wondered if he understood how short his time was. “Don’t look so worried for me,” he said, “I’m putting on a new robe. I have walked with the Holy Spirit in this life, and He has blessed me... and now I get to see Him face to face!”



Fred knew his scriptures. He knew some important things about the Holy Spirit. He knew:

1. That Jesus promised that after he left the earth, he would send the Holy Spirit.
2. That the Holy Spirit is a person. Not an “it.”
  - A. Knowledge – the ability to know, understand & recognize.
  - B. Will – an ability to make choices & decisions.
  - C. Emotion – an ability to feel, both to have & express feelings & to be aware of them.
3. That having a very intimate relationship with the Holy Spirit means being filled with the power that only the Holy Spirit gives. This is a supernatural power. This is a power that surpasses anything that comes at us in this life.
4. He knew how to have that intimate relationship with the Holy Spirit. How to walk continually in God’s holy presence.

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Fred was not afraid. And he smiled at the peace he was feeling. When we can face the most frightening of scenarios, in Fred's case; death, with peace and joy, and without fear, I would call that superhuman capability.

I know there are some who look at Christians who are completely at peace, and think that they are brainwashed or delusional. But I know otherwise.

As Christians, we tend to be more comfortable in the very tangible image of Jesus as a human being. Or God, as depicted in art. But what about the Holy Spirit? We begin to get nervous when people pull out words like supernatural, superhuman, ghost, spirit, but this is what God is! The Holy Spirit is God. It's the part of God that dwells in every believer and causes miracles to happen.



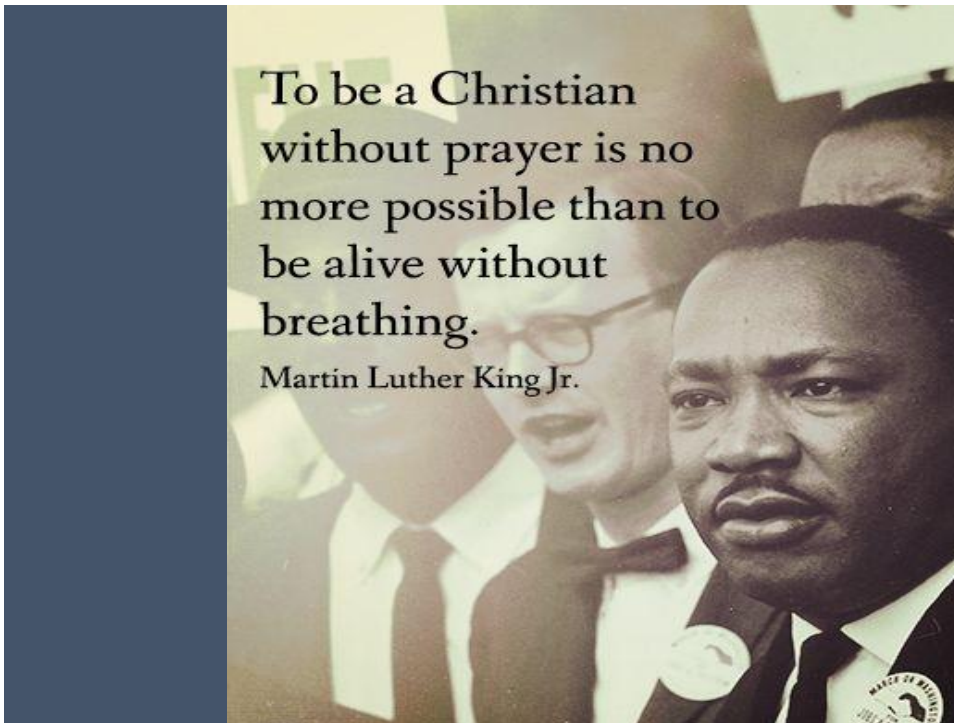
### Acts 2

<sup>2</sup>And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup>Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. <sup>4</sup>All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

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The scripture that inspired Fred and filled him with the Holy Spirit is that same scripture that for over 2,000 years filled others and propelled them beyond their human capabilities.

Some have said that the difference in their life is that before, they were walking clay. But after being filled with the Holy Spirit, they became alive. Their eyes and hearts and minds were opened.



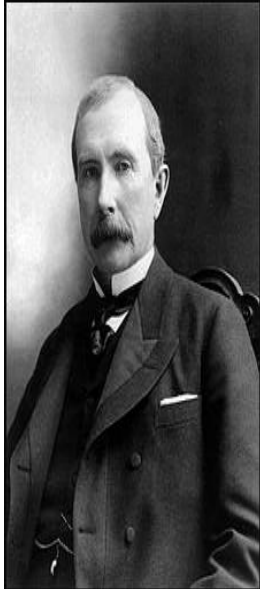
Think about some of the incredible bravery and spirit we've seen throughout history. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. What drove him? What set this man on fire and gave him the courage and peace to change the course of history? In 1968, King delivered what would later be known as his final speech, "I've been to the mountaintop" in Memphis, Tennessee. The very next day, at the age of 39, Dr. King was assassinated while on the balcony of his hotel room. His last words spoken were to his long-time friend and musician Ben Branch, "Ben, make sure you play 'take my hand, precious lord' in the meeting tonight. Play it real pretty."

When most people think of Rockefeller, they think of him as a wealthy businessman and the co-founder of Standard Oil, which dominated the oil industry during the late 1800s. What most people might not realize is that he was a faithful Baptist and generous one too.

Rockefeller was a faithful tither and went above and beyond the 10 percent threshold, giving money to churches and also gave money to help buy the freedom of slaves.



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God gave me my money. I believe the power to make money is a gift from God—to be developed and used to the best of our ability for the good of mankind. Having been endowed with the gift I possess, I believe it is my duty to make money and still more money and to use the money I make for the good of my fellow man according to the dictates of my conscience.

(John D. Rockefeller)

izquotes.com

But even before Rockefeller became one of the wealthiest men of his era, he gave what little money he had back to the church. A testimony I've heard time and time again from those who have become prosperous.

"I attribute my success to this -

*I never gave or took any excuse."*

- Florence Nightingale



Florence Nightingale was a member of the Church of England. She developed a close relationship with a pastor who helped her know Jesus Christ and allow herself to be led by the Holy Spirit.

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She prayed heavily for God to give her a life-defining task.

"She was absolutely tenacious and determined to fulfill her purpose," "She would just not rest until she would seize hold of that for what she had been called. She just would not rest until she had taken hold of that for which Christ had taken hold of her. She did finally attain that and took it to heart, and she revolutionized nursing."

Would you agree each of these heroes rose above human capability?



In the upcoming weeks we're going to explore not only who the Holy Spirit is, but why it's important to be filled with the Holy Spirit and how to be filled with the spirit.

As for Fred, well, six hours after his daily bible study friends left, I was called back to the hospital. We shared communion and had a talk about his next destination. Fred closed his eyes and smiled as his wife told me how he came to Crossroads, and with that, Fred was gone.

I could go on about the supernatural things that happened in that room. Strange things that I can only attribute to being a holy mystery. But suffice it to say that because of the presence of the Holy Spirit within him, Fred knew what was on the other side of the veil and that he would be there in time to tee off.

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