To Whom Does God Give His Spirit?

Sermon in a Sentence: If you are ready to do God’s will, God is ready to give you His Spirit.

Sermon Purpose: That believers will commit themselves to God’s mission and be filled with His Spirit.

Texts: Acts 5:25-32 (stress v. 32)

Introduction:
1. As Pentecostals we believe that God fills and empowers believers to serve Him do His work (Ac 1:8).
2. With the Holy Spirit comes He gives to us ...
   a. ... power for mission!
   b. ... passion for the lost!
3. This power of the Spirit is promised to all...
   a. However, there are certain conditions we mus meet.
   b. An important question: “Who does God fill with the Holy Spirit?
4. Three preconditions to receiving the Spirit:

I. GOD GIVES HIS SPIRIT TO THOSE WHO ARE EARNESTLY SEEKING HIS FACE.

A. Jesus gives us three promises concerning the Spirit:
   1. Mt 5:6: “Blessed are those who hunger ...”
   2. Lk 11:9-10: “Ask ... seek ... knock ...”
4. Note how, each time, He promises the Spirit to those who are hungry for God and seeking His face.

B. Let’s look at three examples in the book of Acts:
   1. Before Pentecost:
      a. Lk 24:53: The disciples “were continually ...”
      b. Ac 1:14: “They all continued ...”
      c. Then ... (Ac 2:1-4)
   2. Before the outpouring at Cornelius’ household:
      a. Cornelius was “A devout man ... who prayed to God continually” (Ac 10:2).
      b. Peter was also seeking God’s face (Ac 10:9ff)
      a. Then ... “While Peter yet ... (Ac 10:44-46)
   3. Before Saul (Paul) was filled with the Spirit:
      a. Ananias was seeking God’s face (Ac 9:10)
      a. Paul was in prayer (Ac 9:11)
c. Then ... (Acts 9:17-18)
4. Note how in each case those who were filled were earnestly seeking God’s face.

C. How do these things apply to us today?
1. We too must hunger and thirst for God.
2. We must earnestly seek His face.
3. If we will do these things He will give us His Spirit.
   (Read Luke 11:9 emphasizing the word will.)

II. GOD GIVES HIS SPIRIT TO THOSE WHO ASK AND ACT IN BOLD FAITH.
A. When offering His Spirit, God looks for faith:
   1. Jesus’ promised the Spirit to those who believe (Jn 7:37)
   2. Paul taught that the Spirit is received by faith (Ga 3:2, 5, 14).
B. Before Pentecost the disciples exercised faith:
   1. Their faith caused them to wait patiently for seven days.
   2. They knew Jesus would keep His word!
C. Paul equated walking in the Spirit with walking in faith.
   1. We receive the Spirit “…through the Spirit, by faith” (Ga 5:5).
D. Will you believe the promise of Jesus?
   1. “Ask and it will be given you...” (Lk 11:9; ref. v. 13)
   2. “… believe that you have received ...” (Mk 11:24)

III. GOD GIVES HIS SPIRIT TO THOSE WHO ARE PREPARED TO OBEY HIM AND DO HIS WILL.
A. In our text Peter said that God gives the Holy Spirit to those who obey God (Ac 5:32)
B. Before Pentecost the disciples were obeying Christ:
   1. They were obeying His command to “wait” (Lk 24:49; Ac 1:4-5).
   2. They were ready to obey His command to “go” (Mt. 28:18; Mk 16:16; Ac 1:8).
C. After Pentecost the disciples obeyed Christ’s command to proclaim the gospel:
   1. They connected the command to “wait” with the command to “go.”
2. Jesus made the connection in Acts 1:4-8 (see also, Lk 24:46-49)

D. Now, let’s look again at Acts 5:32.
1. The context of Peter’s pronouncement was fulfilling the mission of Christ. (Tell the story...)
   a. After the miracle at the Beautiful Gate ... captured ... imprisoned ... threatened.
   b. The angel commanded them to “go, speak, stand” (v. 20)
   c. Next morning they obeyed ... they preached ... they were challenged ...
2. Their answer: “We must obey God rather than men.” (v. 29)
3. Then ... “God gives His Spirit “to those who obey Him” (v. 32).

E. Conclusion: God will give the Spirit to everyone who is ready to obey Christ’s command to take the gospel to the lost (Ac 1:8).
   1. Commit yourself to telling others about Christ.
   2. If you will, God has committed Himself to empower you by His Holy Spirit.

Conclusion:
1. Come now, commit yourself to God will and be filled with His Spirit.
2. How?
   a. Ask in faith (Lk 9:10)
   b. Receive by faith (Lk 9:11; Mk 11:24)
   c. Speak in faith (Ac 2:4)

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