

# Diving Deeper into Discipleship for May 1, 2022

Pastor Pete Fowler

*The Gift and the Giver: The Spirit Dwells and Fills*

## Sermon Reflection Questions:

- How seriously do you take the Biblical claim that we—the people of God's Church—are the temple where the Holy Spirit dwells? How does that affect your attitude toward the unity and holiness of the Body of Christ?
- Invite God to empower you for a Spirit-filled life that invites curiosity from others and opportunities to talk about the great things He has done in ways our neighbors can easily understand.
- Do you consider yourself "bold" in regards to sharing the Word of God? Ask the Holy Spirit to grow within you a joyous confidence to speak freely about how Jesus is still doing wonderful things in our world.

## Devotional Reading and Reflection

- **2 Chronicles 7:1-3** | What similarities do you see here with the story of Pentecost in Acts 2? How are they different?
- **1 Peter 3:13-15** | According to this passage, what reasons might someone have to become curious about when observing a Spirit-filled life?
- **2 Corinthians 3:4-12** | What reasons are given here for us to have a sense of confidence and boldness in our walk with Jesus?

## Weekly Spiritual Practice

**May Practice: Essentials for Confession** | Definite Sins (from *Celebration of Discipline* by Richard Foster, pg. 145, 151-152)

- Confession is a difficult discipline for us because we all too often view the believing community as a fellowship of saints before we see it as a fellowship of sinners. We feel that everyone else has advanced so far into holiness that we are isolated and alone in our sin. We cannot bear to reveal our failures to others. We imagine that we are the only ones who have not stepped onto the high road to heaven. Therefore, we hide ourselves.
- The first essential is opening ourselves up to the "gaze of God." In doing so, we must be prepared to deal with definite sins. A generalized confession may save us from humiliation and shame, but it will not ignite inner healing. The people who came to Jesus came with obvious, specific sins, and they were forgiven for each one. It is far too easy to avoid our real guilt in a general confession. In our confession we bring concrete sins, and that not only means outward sins. It means definite sins, including the sins of the heart. As we come to God with these sins, we know that God is ready, already knowing our sins, and waiting for us to confess and move towards a path of healing.