Empowered by the Holy Spirit

Questions:

1. Read John 14:25-26. Who is the Holy Spirit? What is his role in the gospel ministry?

2. Acts 1: 1-5. How did Jesus teach his disciples through the Holy Spirit? Why would Jesus command his disciples to wait for the Holy Spirit?

3. Acts 1:6-8. Why do you want to witness Jesus when you are filled with the Holy Spirit? What were the challenges the disciples faced in witnessing to different culture? What are the challenges you have in witnessing? Pray for the Spirit to empower you.

=== sermon notes ===

(slide 1) Witnessing by the power of the Spirit

Acts 1:8 “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses

1. Who is the Holy Spirit?
2. What is the power for?
3. John 15:26 “When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me. 27 And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning.

(slide 2)

When we are filled with the Spirit, in prayer and Scripture, we will

* Want to witness
* Have the courage to witness
* Have the humility and peace to let the Spirit do his work

1. 47% active Millennial Christians say it is wrong to evangelize

(slide 3) Witnessing to all cultures

Acts 1:8b you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

1. We may imagine the objections the disciples might think of to the places of ministry Jesus described.
   1. Jerusalem was where Jesus was executed at the word of an angry mob.
   2. Judea rejected His ministry.
   3. Samaria was regarded as a wasteland of impure half-breeds.
   4. The Gentiles were different species
2. All people are brought to San Fran, San Jose, Fremont, Cupertino

(slide 4)

* Spirit compels us to love all people
* Spirit gives us courage and wisdom to invite, listen and serve

1. Demographics create differences
   1. And we are called to love despite the differences
   2. Paul was called to love (sent back for the gospel) both the Jews and Gentiles
   3. When we love People who are divided, we testify Jesus
2. What we witness is a life changed by the love of Christ
3. What we speak of is what happened in the change

(slide 5)

Isa 43:19 “See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.”

1. This also true at the same time:
   1. Ecc 1:9 there is nothing new under the sun.
   2. People want a good and fulfilled life, significance, love
   3. God always come around
2. Same truth being applied in a new way, always

(slide 6)

* Spirit compels us to put others first
* Ask their questions and speak their languages

1. How society has changed
   1. Much more respectful to individuals
   2. Make space and at the same time willing to sacrifice own space and invite others to your life
2. Anchored your Christian walk in the Spirit

1 In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach 2 until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. 3 After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. 4 On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. 5 For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” 6 Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?” 7 He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. 8 But 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.”