



Baptism of the Holy Spirit

Discussion Guide

Many Christians begin their faith journey with enthusiasm and a desire to follow Jesus, but over time it can be easy to settle into routine. We attend church, participate in activities, and try to do the right things, yet still feel spiritually stuck. This week's message reminds us that the Christian life was never meant to be lived in our own strength. Through the Holy Spirit, God empowers us for transformation, growth, and witness.

1. Remember Your Baptism

The sermon challenged us to remember our baptism and the covenant relationship God initiated with us.

Questions:

1. What do you remember about the season of life when you were baptized?
2. How was God working in your life at that time?
3. In what ways has your faith grown—or drifted—since then?

2. From Faith Activities to Spirit Dependence

Barna's spiritual journey framework suggests that many believers stall at "Commitment to Faith Activities" because it is possible to do many religious things without fully depending on the Holy Spirit.

Questions:

1. Why do you think Christians sometimes feel spiritually stuck?
2. What is the difference between doing Christian activities and living in dependence on the Holy Spirit?
3. Which of Barna's "stops" best describes where you are currently in your spiritual journey?

3. Taking the Governor Off

The sermon used the illustration of a golf cart governor to describe how the Holy Spirit's power is not limited, but our surrender often is.

Questions:

1. What areas of your life are hardest for you to fully surrender to God?
2. Are there places where fear, comfort, control, or habit may be limiting the Spirit's work in your life?
3. What would it look like for you to be more fully immersed in and led by the Holy Spirit this week?

Takeaway

Every believer receives the Holy Spirit through faith in Christ, but growth happens as we continually surrender ourselves to His leading. Rather than settling for a faith built only on activities and routines, God invites us into a deeper relationship marked by dependence, transformation, and the power of the Holy Spirit. This week, ask God to reveal one area where you need to move from self-reliance to Spirit-dependence.