

REVIVAL

When the Spirit moves FAST!

Day 1: When the Spirit moves suddenly

Read : Acts 2

There are many times that God's Spirit moves slowly and deeply, or below the surface. However, there are also times when God's Spirit moves suddenly, powerfully, unmistakably FAST and undeniably loud! We tend to think that these miraculous movements of the Spirit were only for Biblical times, and a thing that happened in the past. Nothing could be further from the truth. The SAME Spirit that powerfully and boldly moved in the Bible, is the SAME Spirit alive and active in our lives today. He has not changed, the question for ourselves is: "Are you willing to change and move as suddenly as He does at a moment's notice?"

"Suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind..."

- ACTS 2:2

These verses in Acts 2 describe a moment where the Spirit moved in a sudden, loud and extraordinary way. God's Spirit suddenly filled ordinary people with extraordinary power to accomplish God's plans in a way that they could never have done in their own strength. There will be moments in our lives that the Spirit will break through in mere seconds to accomplish what God has planned for us. Look for spaces that the Spirit might be breaking through in your life this week. Look for those "divine interruptions" in your day.

Have you seen the Spirit moving in...

- a conversation you've prayed for finally happens, and a relationship is suddenly beginning to be restored?
- an opportunity or a new door unexpectedly appears or opens?
- a Scripture suddenly comes to life and maybe even packs a life altering punch?
- a fear, stronghold, or a chain of brokenness or addiction suddenly breaks free?

Day 2: When the Spirit suddenly changes direction

Read : Acts 9:1-19

In our scripture reading today, God suddenly confronts Saul on his way to Damascus. If you ever have doubted that God's Spirit can move when you have sin or brokenness in your life, let Saul's life be a testament that He absolutely can! God didn't wait for Saul to stop murdering people to call him into ministry, He called him right in the midst of his sin and chaos. This sudden encounter with the Spirit of God immediately changed the trajectory of Saul's life. He went from despising, hating, and literally

User Guide:

How to use this study guide:

- **Pray** : Ask God to reveal Himself to you.
- **Read** : Read the daily scripture, take notes, and write down anything the Spirit reveals to you.
- **Study** : Read the daily study section and prayerfully answer the discussion questions.
- **Act** : Use the "Spirit in Action" section each week to look for ways to experience the power of the Holy Spirit in your day-to-day life.
- **Gather & Share** : Gather with your small group and discuss what the Spirit has revealed to you during this weekly study.

- **NOTE**: If you need help finding a group - Please reach out to Melonie at: meloniep@gumchurch.com

murdering Christians, to becoming one himself. It's hard to imagine a more dramatic, or faster transformational change than Saul turning into Paul.

Of course this doesn't mean that God was completely done with transforming Paul's life instantly. Paul's full transformation took a lifetime of obedience, character building, maturing, and understanding. While heart change, spiritual maturity, and sanctification can take a lifetime of obedience to God, a sudden & immediate directional change can happen in an instant. Where might God be nudging or calling you to stop, pay attention, and to completely change directions with a powerful encounter with the Holy Spirit.

- Even if you don't understand the whole journey just yet, is there an area of your life that the Spirit is asking you to completely change direction?
- Ask God for clarity, or confirmation, in that next right step of obedience that He's asking you to take in this area. Ask Him for the courage to say "YES", and begin to walk in a new direction, even if you can't see where you are going just yet.

Day 3: When the Spirit suddenly sends YOU

Read : Acts 8

In our scripture reading today, Philip was experiencing a powerful moment in ministry. He was teaching, reaching crowds of people for Jesus, healing the sick, casting out demons, and performing all manner of miraculous signs and wonders as he served the Lord. It was in this seemingly "successful ministry moment" that the Spirit of God calls him away from the crowds, away from the success he was experiencing, and calls him to walk alone down a remote road. To most of us, this would cause us to ask "why God?". Why would God want Philip to stop his ministry, and stop reaching the crowds of people with the Good News to walk down a desert road by himself? Thankfully Philip was obedient. Through this obedience, the Holy Spirit led him to a very important encounter with an Ethiopian eunuch traveling along that remote road. Philip was able to lead him to Christ and baptize him. This pivotal encounter was a key in beginning to spread the Gospel to non-Jewish communities and beyond.

Although, the Spirit of God suddenly sent Philip, we actually see evidence that God had been slowly moving in the eunuch's life beforehand. It says that he had been to Jerusalem to worship, and that he was reading the book of Isaiah trying to understand it's meaning. Sometimes there are moments in our lives that are sudden to us, when in reality, God has been working to slowly prepare the road for a long time ahead of us.

- Have you ever experienced an unexpected encounter that turned out to be much more significant than you anticipated? Did you discover that God had been working "behind the scenes" long before this moment?
- What would happen if you approached each day with a posture of anticipation for what God's Spirit might suddenly call you to do? What would you change?

Spirit in Action

Join us each week as we look for ways to practice experiencing the gifts of the Spirit in Action.

Miracles

Miracles still happen! No matter how big or small, a miracle is anytime God does something that could not be done in your own strength. Practicing seeing the miracles in your life requires faith, obedience, humility, and availability.

1. Fill the Jars

Read John 2:1-11

Are you waiting for God to do something, when He's actually already YOU what to do next? Sometimes we miss the miracle because we won't do the practical thing that God has put right in front of us.

Are you waiting on God for...

- **provision** - make a budget, apply for the job, ask for help
- **healing in a relationship** - start the conversation
- **someone's salvation** - invite them to church or to dinner, share your faith
- **God to use you** - say yes to the next opportunity He places in front of you

Day 4: When the Spirit suddenly empowers

Read : Acts 4

When the disciples were faced with danger, persecution, and suffering because of their faith, they prayed. However, instead of praying for deliverance from the suffering, they prayed for boldness. Their circumstances didn't suddenly become easier, instead they suddenly became empowered to face them. In verse 31 it says there was a sudden earthquake as the Holy Spirit filled them to speak boldly and work miraculously through them.

“enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness”

- ACTS 4:29

- Is there an area where you are waiting for God to change your circumstances, when the Spirit might want to empower you to face them instead? Ask God's Spirit to reveal that to you today. Ask Him to help you to see the areas where you are relying on your own strength versus asking for His empowerment.
- Prayerfully ask yourself: “Do you need...
 - **Courage** where you have fear?
 - **Words** where you have silence?
 - **Peace** where you have anxiety?
 - **Boldness** where you have hesitation?
 - **Strength** where you have weakness?

Day 5: When the Spirit suddenly opens

Read : Acts 10

In the scripture reading today, God's Spirit moves faster than Peter or those following him expected. Despite Peter's initial reservations, fears, and doubts about bringing the Gospel to the gentiles, the Holy Spirit worked in and through Peter's words to miraculously pour into everyone around him. In verse 45 it says “The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were **astonished** that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on Gentiles”. This word “astonished”, is the exact same greek word used in Luke 24 when the women were “amazed” at the sight of the empty tomb at Jesus' resurrection. It means to be “overcome with amazement”, or “out of one's wits with excitement”. This is exactly what happens when we have an encounter with the Holy Spirit. Peter hadn't even finished talking when the Spirit fell on everyone listening. This is a good reminder that God's timing isn't dependent on us or our plans. We can plan, prepare, teach, organize, or lead, but GOD is the one who moves! God's Spirit is the **ONLY** one with the power to open hearts and minds, to move suddenly, to empower, to send out, or to suddenly change direction. We are His instruments, made to be used for and by Him.

- Where are you trying to control the timeline, the outcome, or the pace of what God might be doing in your life? Where are you trying to manage, instead of release?
- Ask yourself if you are prepared to move at God's pace, whatever that may be. Are you ready to say “yes”, even if it means NOW? OR is there a space that you need to release control so that you can be available to receive His calling on your life?

2. Step in

Read Joshua 3:13-17

*Are you waiting for God to show you the **WHOLE** road map before you take a first step? What if you made the first move before you know the plan?*

- Instead of praying about the answer to a decision, pray for the next right step and DO IT without knowing the whole plan just yet.
- Waiting for God to bless you with community? Try walking into a small group before knowing anyone or waiting to be comfortable.
- Waiting on a difficult conversations? Go ahead and prayerfully schedule it, then trust God do the rest.

3. Step out of the boat

Read Matthew 14:28-31

What is God calling you to step out of and “come” to Him? Where do you need to choose dependence on the Spirit versus choosing control?

- Share vulnerably vs. protecting yourself
- Speak truth in love vs. staying quiet or lying to avoid conflict
- Give generously vs. holding tightly