

# REGIFTING

HOW GOD WORKS THROUGH US TODAY

Part 1: *Identifying Your Gifts*

## Part 2: *Regifting the Gospel*

Part 3: *Hearing the Voice of the Spirit*

Acts 1-2

### APPETIZER: Without the Holy Spirit

Without the Holy Spirit...  
God is distant  
Christ stays in the past  
The Gospel is a dead letter  
Salvation is wishful thinking  
The Church is simply an organization  
Authority is domination  
Mission is propaganda  
Worship is begging  
Christian action is the morality of slaves  
~ Adapted from Ignatius IV (Greek Orthodox Leader)

### DINE IN: The Gift of the Holy Spirit

Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ezekiel 36:25-27; Joel 2:28-29

The Intertestamental Period // 400 years of silence // Then one day...

The Promise Fulfilled in Jesus and in Us

- Birth... **Matthew 1:18; Luke 1:35**
- Baptism... **Luke 3:16; Matthew 3:16**
- Leading... **Luke 4:1**
- Empowering... **Luke 4:14**
- Commissioning... **Luke 4:18-21**

*HOMO-THUMADON!* (Acts 1:14)

**Ephesians 1:13-14; Hebrews 6:5**

### TAKE OUT: Ways to Regift the Gospel

This Christmas season, one thing I will do to regift Jesus and his good news is...

- Pray daily for the Holy Spirit's leading, power, and boldness.
- Post something online about my faith and/or my church.
- Direct friends and family toward specific podcasts.
- Give someone a book about Jesus.
- Promote online or personally invite people to Christmas Eve Sunday or our NYE dance.
- Host a carol sing and talk about the lyrics.
- Offer to help someone in need.
- Offer to pray for someone in need, on the spot or later in private.
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

NEXT WEEK: Regifting Part 3 – Hearing the Voice of the Spirit

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## Home Church Questions

### HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic – in one Large Group]

1. After reviewing Sunday's message, talk about what most inspired, convicted, or perplexed you.

### HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture – in Discussion Groups]

2. Read **Acts 1:1-14**.
  - a. What verse or idea stands out to you the most? Why?
  - b. Luke, the author, says that Jesus gave his teaching "through the Holy Spirit" to his apostles. What does that mean? Is Jesus an example for us to follow when we share the gospel? Or does this describe something unique to Jesus?
  - c. The primary message of Jesus is summarized as the message of "the kingdom of God". What is the kingdom of God?
  - d. Why was it so important for the apostles to stay put until they received the Holy Spirit?
  - e. Jesus wants his disciples to focus on "the kingdom of God", but they want to talk about "the kingdom of Israel". See any parallels with Christians today?
  - f. Jesus didn't leave his human body behind when he returned to the Father. He took our humanity with him into the heart of God. How is the ascension part of the gospel?
  - g. Role Play talking about the gospel with a non-Christian using three different foci as your launching pads: i) the kingdom of God, ii) the ascension, iii) the Holy Spirit.
3. BONUS: In the sermon notes we list the ways the Holy Spirit partnered with Jesus in his mission (i.e., birth, baptism, leading, empowering, commissioning). How does the Holy Spirit partner with us in *our* rebirth, baptism into the body of Christ, leading, empowering, and commissioning? Use Scripture to support your discussion.

### HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together – in Huddles]

4. What commitments did you make in the "Take Out" of the sermon notes? Have you taken your first steps? How are your plans taking shape? Is anything holding you back? Talk about it and pray for each other.
5. If you have extra time, move on to your huddle questions for discussion.

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## Quotes

Welcome to the start of our three-week series on giving away what God has given us. Today's message: *Regifting the Gospel*

Before Jesus ascended to heaven, he left his followers an important message. In Acts 1 we read...

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. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority."

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."

After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.  
~ Acts 1:4-9