

Sermon Questions: More than Just a Force

Acts 2:1-13

1. Did you see the original Star Wars Movie? If so, what did you think of it when you first saw it?
2. Did you ever notice how some of the themes in Star Wars seem to fit our Christian understanding of the world? For example, there is an ongoing struggle between good and evil. People make choices and it impacts their destiny. Sometimes people experience a calling to do important work. What do you think about the concept of “The Force?” How might The Force be similar to the Holy Spirit, in what ways is it different?
3. Pastor Mark argues that the Biblical description of the Holy Spirit is not as some impersonal energy force, but an invisible presence of the living God who has a will, a character and desire to be in relationship with people. How is this different from the idea of “spirit” found in Eastern religions such as Buddhism and Taoism?
4. Read Acts 2:1-13. What was the Old Testament understanding of Pentecost? What is the New Testament understanding of Pentecost?
5. Why do you think the disciples spoke in other languages when the Holy Spirit fell upon them?
6. Why do you think Pentecost is called “The birthday of the Church?”
7. Read Luke 11:9-13. Why is it essential to ask God to give you the Holy Spirit?
8. Pastor Mark argues that one of the signs that we have the Holy Spirit dwelling within us, is that we will have a desire to be part of a Christian Community, where we worship, grow and serve together. Why do you think the Holy Spirit wants us to be part of an intentional community?
9. Pastor Mark suggests that a second evidence that the Holy Spirit is dwelling within us will be that sometimes we will sense the Spirit leading us in a certain direction. Have you ever had a sense that the Holy Spirit was calling you or leading you to do something? What was that like?
10. Pastor Mark tells the story about Collin Dozier, a young man in our area who sensed the Holy Spirit leading him to a man who was about to attempt suicide by jumping from a bridge. Not only did Collin save the man’s life, but he befriended the man and invited him to church. The man has now committed his life to Jesus Christ. What makes this story so inspiring?

11. In what ways might the Holy Spirit be leading or directing you to get outside of your comfort zone and make a positive impact on others for the sake of Jesus? What are you doing to be obedient to that leading?