



CULTIVATING A  
COME HOLY SPIRIT  
COMMUNITY

#24 “Journey to THE ENDS of the Earth”

The Vineyard Church of Conroe

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Sermon Notes

*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.” Acts 1:8*

**The “Come Holy Spirit” Community WILL SPREAD TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH**

**I. Acts 12:1-10** Holy Spirit responding to Intercessory Prayer

<sup>1</sup> IT WAS ABOUT this time that King Herod arrested some who belonged to the church, intending to persecute them.<sup>2</sup> He had James, the brother of John, put to death with the sword.<sup>3</sup> When he saw that this pleased the Jews, he proceeded to seize Peter also. This happened during the Feast of Unleavened Bread. <sup>4</sup> After arresting him, he put him in prison, handing him over to be guarded by four squads of four soldiers each. Herod intended to bring him out for public trial after the Passover.

<sup>5</sup> So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him. <sup>6</sup> The night before Herod was to bring him to trial, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries stood guard at the entrance.<sup>7</sup> Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up. “Quick, get up!” he said, and the chains fell off Peter’s wrists.

<sup>8</sup> Then the angel said to him, “Put on your clothes and sandals.” And Peter did so. “Wrap your cloak around you and follow me,” the angel told him.<sup>9</sup> Peter followed him out of the prison, but he had no idea that what the angel was doing was really happening; he thought he was seeing a vision.<sup>10</sup> They passed the first and second guards and came to the iron gate leading to the city. It opened for them by itself, and they went through it. When they had walked the length of one street, suddenly the angel left him.

## **The Holy Spirit Community DOES NOT LIVE IN DESPAIR But RESPONDS TO DIFFICULTY WITH INTERCESSORY PRAYER**

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.<sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7*

### **II. Acts 12:11-17 Surprised by God's Plan and Purpose**

<sup>11</sup> Then Peter came to himself and said, "Now I know without a doubt that the Lord sent his angel and rescued me from Herod's clutches and from everything the Jewish people were anticipating."<sup>12</sup> When this had dawned on him, he went to the house of Mary the mother of John, also called Mark, where many people had gathered and were praying.<sup>13</sup> Peter knocked at the outer entrance, and a servant girl named Rhoda came to answer the door.<sup>14</sup> When she recognized Peter's voice, she was so overjoyed she ran back without opening it and exclaimed, "Peter is at the door!"

<sup>15</sup> "You're out of your mind," they told her. When she kept insisting that it was so, they said, "It must be his angel."

<sup>16</sup> But Peter kept on knocking, and when they opened the door and saw him, they were astonished.<sup>17</sup> Peter motioned with his hand for them to be quiet and described how the Lord had brought him out of prison. "Tell James and the brothers about this," he said, and then he left for another place.

## **The Holy Spirit Community LIVES IN HOPE WITH EXPECTATION**

### **But CAN STILL BE SURPRISED BY GOD'S REVELATION**

*Jesus leads us into a place of radical grace where we are able to celebrate the hope of experiencing God's glory.<sup>3</sup> And that's not all. We also celebrate in seasons of suffering because we know that when we suffer we develop endurance,<sup>4</sup> which shapes our characters. When our characters are refined, we learn what it means to hope and anticipate God's goodness.<sup>5</sup> And hope will never fail to satisfy our deepest need because the Holy Spirit that was given to us has flooded our hearts with God's love. Romans 5:2-5 VOICE*

### **III. Acts 12:18-24 God's Purpose and People prevail over Man/Satan**

<sup>18</sup> In the morning, there was no small commotion among the soldiers as to what had become of Peter.<sup>19</sup> After Herod had a thorough search

made for him and did not find him, he cross-examined the guards and ordered that they be executed.

Then Herod went from Judea to Caesarea and stayed there a while.<sup>20</sup> He had been quarreling with the people of Tyre and Sidon; they now joined together and sought an audience with him. Having secured the support of Blastus, a trusted personal servant of the king, they asked for peace, because they depended on the king's country for their food supply.

<sup>21</sup> On the appointed day Herod, wearing his royal robes, sat on his throne and delivered a public address to the people.<sup>22</sup> They shouted, "This is the voice of a god, not of a man."<sup>23</sup> Immediately, because Herod did not give praise to God, an angel of the Lord struck him down, and he was eaten by worms and died.

<sup>24</sup> But the word of God continued to increase and spread.

## **The Holy Spirit Community WILL PREVAIL BY GOD'S REIGN And HIS KINGDOM WILL HAVE THE ULTIMATE GAIN**

*"And when you pray, don't be like those people who don't know God. They continue saying things that mean nothing, thinking that God will hear them because of their many words. <sup>8</sup> Don't be like them, because your Father knows the things you need before you ask him. <sup>9</sup> So when you pray, you should pray like this:*

*'Our Father in heaven, may your name always be kept holy. <sup>10</sup> May your kingdom come and what you want be done, here on earth as it is in heaven. <sup>11</sup> Give us the food we need for each day. <sup>12</sup> Forgive us for our sins, just as we have forgiven those who sinned against us. <sup>13</sup> And do not cause us to be tempted, but save us from the Evil One.'* [The kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours forever. Amen.] Matt. 6:7-13 NCV

**Fake fill in the blank: And our lives will not end by God's worm ridden disdain**