Holy Spirit Summit

Session #1:
Love is the Foundation

Session #2:
God's Design

Session #3:
Dipping Our Toes

Session #4:
All In

Sunday Morning:
"Ministry From Above"

Slide #1

Session #1: Love Is The Foundation (9:15-10:30. 75 min)
Hello everyone it's such an honor to be here with you today.
When Kirk first asked me to participate in this Holy Spirit Summit I was kind of shocked to be honest with you! I think there are so many others who are more qualified and experienced than I in this area of ministry, with Kirk being one of them.

I've been so grateful for Kirk's influence and leadership in our Alliance District over the years, particularly in helping to increase awareness of the importance of the Holy Spirit and what it means for followers of Jesus to understand and grow in ministry empowered by the Holy Spirit. As a church you have been provided a pastor who is trustworthy and who desires to help you genuinely grow as a follower of Jesus.

A little bit about me:
I have a lovely wife of 38 years...Val. . .
We have three married children and three grand kids who are all such blessings to us.

I grew up in the Lutheran church; spent 20 years in the Apostolic Church of Pentecost, and now have been a part of the Alliance for 11 years.
I spent 9 years as an electrician; 12 years in Christian Education; 14 years in pastoral ministry and the last five leading a renewal ministry called Deeper Life, that the Lord gave me the responsibility of founding.

Every major shift in life has come about through the leading of the Holy Spirit.

I can give you one clear example:

In late 1996 the Lord began to impress on Val and I that change was coming. We couldn't put our finger on it, or define it clearly, we just sensed that something was shifting and we both could sense it. We began to pray about this and ask the Lord to help us to navigate this time according to His will.

In January 97, I was at a volleyball tournament in right here in this city, and as the tournament went on I began to feel sick, like I was catching the flu. On the drive home to Moose Jaw it got much worse and so went to the hospital. Over the next few days the tests they had done revealed that I had flesh eating disease, and it was spreading fast throughout my right arm.

They transferred me to Regina and there began surgeries on my arm to stop the spread. People in my church, around the province and even in other countries prayed for me and my family. Then one day the disease just took off! It spread across my upper arm and all the way down my right side. They scheduled an emergency surgery and the doctor said that it didn't look good at all. We were in miracle territory.

When they opened me up what they found was astonishing. . .the flesh inside should have looked infected, but it was perfectly healthy! There was no explanation for this except that God had healed me and started me on a new journey.

The Lord had prepared us by letting us know that change was coming, but we had no idea this was how it was going to happen.

Over the next year I was on medical leave from my electrician job and so I started taking classes down the road at Briercrest Bible College. One thing led to another and I took a position teaching at Eston College in the town of Eston.

I share this because there was no way Val and I could have come up with this plan for our lives. . .we were led by the Spirit of God. . .through prompting, through prayers, through healing, through encouragement and through very tangible guidance and affirmations along the way.

I feel like standing before you today, after walking very different paths, I have such a confidence knowing that God, the Holy Spirit, is exactly what the Scriptures say He is: He is the One sent to us be the Presence of God living within us to watch over us and empower us for this journey. Our life circumstances change all the time, but what is consistent is the Presence of God in real and tangible ways.

Jesus said that He would never leave nor forsake His followers. The way in which He fulfills this is through the Holy Spirit who ministers to us continuously. Jesus and the Holy Spirit are in perfect unity in their common purpose. . .

Acts 16:7. Calls the Holy Spirit 'the Spirit of Jesus'

Philippians 1:19 refers to the 'Spirit of Jesus Christ'
Romans 8:9 refers to the Spirit of God living in us and then uses the phrase "the Spirit of Christ" to describe the Holy Spirit.
Galatians 4:6 calls the Spirit the "Spirit of his Son"
1 Peter 1:11 speaks of the "Spirit of Christ"

Why do I mention these references? Because we know that Jesus is the One who was sent to represent who God the Father is to the world and to bring salvation. We are familiar with Jesus. We trust Him. But the Holy Spirit is sometimes held at a distance. Like Francis Chan titled one of his books, the Holy Spirit is sometimes "The Forgotten God".

But Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to be His presence within us, never leaving us, never forsaking us. The love that Jesus poured out over people is still being poured out by the Holy Spirit of Jesus at work in us and through us.

It is by God's design. It is God's plan. And He is inviting us to trust what He wants to do in us and through us.

That's why I'm so honored to be with you this weekend because I want to be obedient to God's plans and desires for you!

Pray. . .

Where Do We Begin Our Journey?
This is a Holy Spirit Summit. Obviously the Holy Spirit is central to why we are gathered here. We all have ideas and questions about who He is and what our engagement with Him is to look like.
So where do we begin?

Slide #2 We begin with God's central motivation: Love.

John 15:9-12
"I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love. When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father's commandments and remain in his love. I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow! This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you."

Jesus is highlighting a few important things here:

Slide #3
1. Love is about relationship
   -Father loves the Son. Son loves the Father. Son loves you and I.

Slide #4
2. Love is about obedience
   -Jesus obeyed his Father. We are to obey Jesus.
   -Obedience is an expression of love

Slide #5

3. Love produces fruit of the Spirit
   -Love, by its nature, invites action. This action is a response to love, and when this happens in God's economy, it produces things like joy. One leads to another.

Slide #6

4. Jesus modeled Love so that we could follow His example
   -Jesus says it very clearly: love each other the same way I loved you.

As we learn to live more intentionally being led by the Holy Spirit, we grow in our understanding that the foundational motivation is *love*. Not signs, wonders or flashy shows of power. Those are byproducts of the central core that motivates God and motivates his followers: love.

If I am in a prayer and worship meeting, I want to be paying attention to anything the Holy Spirit wants to say to me. I listen with my ears and my eyes open because I want to see the people gathered there. Often times, the Holy Spirit will cause me to see someone that makes me pause. So I look at them (from a distance of course) and ask if there is something the Holy Spirit wants to say to them. I'll often get a strong sense that I should go and talk to them, but rarely do I get a specific message at that time.
When I go up to them, I ask them if it's ok for me to pray for them because I think God wants to say something to them, if they say yes, then I tell ask them if it's ok to pause in prayer and ask for the Lord to reveal what He wants to say. . .and then I listen for a bit.
Once I start to pray, He then starts to reveal what needs to be shared.

Slide #7
Slide #8
Slide #9

There are a few things to note in this:

1. I am going to them because I want them to experience the love of the Father.
2. Because I love Him I want to obey Him. Obedience to Him is an act of love. If he just says 'go' and not tell me what yet, I go and trust.
3. Everything is done out of a place of humility. I am the secondary player here, just a conduit. It's not about me, it's about the love of God being expressed to a person who He wants to experience his love.

Slide #10

The Temptation of the 'How'
Talking about ministering under the guidance of the Holy Spirit sometimes raises a temptation to jump to the 'how'.
"How do you do it?" "How am I supposed to do it?"

And it's a fair question but because this is a strong default response in us pragmatic, Protestant work ethic motivated people, it can cause us to treat our relationship with the Holy Spirit in a utilitarian way, and we jump right over the primary reason for us serving at all. . .and that starts with love.

Slide #11

We could reframe this desire to know 'how' and ask this instead? **"How can I show the love of the Father to these people?"**

That's why I wanted to start our day off really focusing on love. We have to allow the nature of it to really impact and draw us in. It changes us and makes us see the 'how' in entirely different ways!

Question: When it comes to showing the love of the Father. . .what comes to your mind? Can you think of ways to show His love?

So let's remember 3 primary things:

Slide #12

1. Jesus' love is unmatched
   -He loved us *before* we loved him, and He still chose to express it in powerful ways.

Slide #13

2. Jesus' love for us is sustained through the ministry of the Holy Spirit
   John 14: Jesus is leaving but sending the Holy Spirit to. . .
   -Be God present in us
   -Help us
   -Guide us
   -Teach us all things
   -Remind us of everything Jesus had said and done

Slide #14

3. Jesus' love leads to friendship
   Listen to this:
   -John 15:18 "I will not abandon you as orphans—I will come to you." (Holy Spirit of Christ)
   -15:19 "Soon the world will no longer see me, but you will see me." (Spirit of Jesus ministering through powerful presence).

   -15:15 "I no longer call you slaves, because a master doesn't confide in his slaves. Now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me."

Slide #15

So What About Us?

If Jesus extended love to us then we should be extending love to others.
-John 15:12 "Love each other in the same way I have loved you."
And then we bridge into this:
-Luke 4:14 "Then Jesus returned to Galilee, filled with the Holy Spirit's power."

Ministering the same way as Jesus is to minister in love through the power of the Holy Spirit!

If Jesus' love for us is sustained through the ministry of the Holy Spirit then we should be seeking after the Holy Spirit in order to sustain our love for others.

If Jesus' love for us led his disciples to be his friends, then our goal should be to extend and sustain love toward others in the hope that true friendships would emerge.

Take Away Points:

Slide #16
Slide #17
Slide #18

1. Love is the foundation of ministering to others
2. Jesus is our example of how to minister in love
3. The Holy Spirit helps us to experience love and empowers us to share it

Q/A Time
Pray

Next session we are going to explore how God designed us and how we can experience more of the Holy Spirit in our lives and ministry.

Slide #19

God's Design. (11-Noon. 60min)
Identity
Soul/Spirit
Know Yourself and Live Free

Welcome back!
In our last session we discovered that pursuing a Holy Spirit empowered life as followers of Jesus is built on the foundation of love. Love is the motivation for how to live in the Spirit. It informs us about our ongoing relationship with God; it permeates our thoughts and actions toward others; and it is the primary influencer in helping the Bride of Christ know how to live and grow.

But as we begin our second session I want us to focus on what it means to 'live by the Spirit'. And this will arise out of an understanding about God's design for us; how He created and formed us, and how that plays out in our everyday lives.

Slide #20

We've probably all heard this phrase <u>"Living by the Spirit".</u>
For a lot of people this is a bit of a mystery; we know it sounds like a good thing but we aren't quite sure what it really means.

Slide #21

The Apostle Paul uses this same phrase in <u>Galatians 5:25 "Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives."</u>

We need to break this down a bit so we can get a better understanding of what's going on and ultimately this will help us know how to live as followers of Jesus by following the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Paul says that we are "living by the Spirit". This is where we begin. . .

There are two aspects to this we need to be aware of:

1. There is what has been done (past tense)
2. There is what is being done. (present and future tense)

Slide #22

<u>What Has Been Done?</u>
<u>2 Corinthians 5:17. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: the old has gone, the new is here."</u>

When we said yes to Jesus for the forgiveness of our sins, it was *His* sacrifice and life that made us new. We have been given a brand new identity.

God's Design:
When God designed humans, He made them with 3 parts: spirit, soul and body.
In Gensis 2:7 it says: "Then the Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground. He breathed the breath of life into the man's nostrils, and the man became a living person."
"Breath of life" here is the Hebrew word *neshamah* which translates as 'spirit' or 'breath of the spirit'.
This caused the man to become a 'living soul' (*nephesh*).

Sometimes the distinction between spirit and soul in the O.T. is vague, but it becomes clearer in the N.T. in Hebrews 4:12 it says "For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit. . ."

So what we see in the creation of Adam is a man that has *neshamah* (spirit), *nephesh* (soul) and a physical body.

This is God's original design for human beings.

Slide #23

<u>How Each Part Functions</u>
<u>Spirit</u>: God is spirit and is the One who is over all, including people. Spirit is in charge.
-When God creates Adam, he gives him a spirit that, in his sinless state, is designed to be the place of leadership and communion. Adam's spirit is in perfect union with God's Spirit, interacting and receiving directly from God.

Slide #24

<u>Soul</u>: The soul is the place where mind, emotion and will reside. The purpose of the soul is to receive from the Spirit all things needed for life. Teaching, guidance, wisdom, etc.
-The soul is designed to be a *processor*, kind of like the hardware of a computer. It receives the information. The soul is not designed to operate independently from an outside source.
-The soul is like the bridge between spirit and the natural world. It is meant to be a processor of God's instruction and then communicate that to the body for expression in the world.
-Adam's soul is perfect in its capacity to operate in submission and obedience to his spirit, where the Spirit of God provides the source of all of life.
-The soul is not inherently divine, and is limited in its capacity.

-It is the place where spirit-things are reproduced in a way that we can understand, feel and choose.
-All of our aware, lived experience takes place in our soul. All. Of. It.

Body: The physical body is designed to be the receiver of instructions from a person's soul. It is the tool that is used to enact everything from the soul's mind, emotions and will.

Slide #25

<u>The Problem:</u>
<u>Ephesians 2:1-2. "As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient."</u>

Sin disrupts God's original design. Where the spirit of man was made to receive from God in order to experience life, sin causes people to now receive instruction from the 'the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.'

The soul then processes this broken information and then it translates into expression in the world.

Remember: the soul only processes what it receives from spirit: either God or the Enemy.

Reminder: 2 Corinthians 5:17. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: the old has gone, the new is here."

The 'old' that has gone is what's going on in our spirit. Where the Enemy had taken his place in authority over us because of sin, now God Himself takes up residence there. The 'new' is that our spirits are now made alive just like Adam was in the beginning!

That is what has taken place for us (past tense)

Slide #26

<u>2. But what about what is going on (present and future tense)?</u>
<u>Galatians 5:25 "Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives."</u>

We have been made alive in our spirit by God once again. We are in communion with Him. But even more, we have been blessed by having the Holy Spirit now *residing* in our spirit! We have the very presence of God Himself within us.

But the passage in Galatians says that even though we have been made alive by the Spirit, it also says that we are to *follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives*.
So that means we are being told that our soul is to live under the tangible guidance to the Spirit.

But our soul is still fighting against spiritual things because it still wrestles with sin.

Slide #27

Galatians 5:16-17 "So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want."

We have been made alive by the Spirit, but we are now being asked to walk by the Spirit. The 'walking' is the soul's part.

We are being asked to have our soul's thinking come under the influence of the Holy Spirit once again. We are being asked to have our soul's emotions come under the influence of the Holy Spirit once again. We are being asked to have our soul's choices and will come under the influence of the Holy Spirit once again.

When Kirk contacted me about this weekend, he told me one of the overarching desires he has for everyone that is a part of this church is this: "How do I experience the fullness of the Spirit in every area of my life? What is the next step?"

I would say that this is in exact alignment with God's own desires for you. . .that you would experience increasing freedom in who He has made you to be. He has made you entirely free in your spirit and God, the Holy Spirit lives in you there. But your *experience* of that reality happens in your soul that is still wrestling with sin. It's there that God wants to help you grow in freedom. Because as you grow more free in your soul, then it translates into expression through your body and it pours out into this church and the broader world where more and more people will see Jesus!

So what 'next step' can we take now?

Slide #28

Let's go to 2 Chronicles 7:14. "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sins and will heal their land."

(Invite the people into a time of prayer for the following. . .pray this over them. . .)

If my people: You are known by God and He is pleased to say over you 'you belong to Me and I love you with all my heart.'

Who are called by my name: I'm proud to have others know Me through you. My identity is upon you and in you. I am all in to help you experience the fullness of what that really means for you.

Will humble themselves: God calls our souls (all our thinking, emotions and will) to stop fighting against Him. The clear invitation from Him is that we humble ourselves before Him.

We are invited to give up our agendas, or the way we think we have things figured out and say to Him: "I don't really know but you do, help."
We are invited to give up our emotions, fears, anger, strongly and passionately held beliefs, and offer them all back to Him, giving Him permission to take them away, or change them, or affirm what is good.
We are invited to give up our will. We say to Him that the direction of our thoughts, our emotions and our choices are now His. We forfeit any kingdoms built in us into His hands to do with as He pleases.

Pray and seek my face: We do all this in an open and honest conversation with God himself, and confess any hesitancy to accept the Holy Spirit as the One who is God meant to commune and speak to us. Seeking the face of God is accepting that work of the Holy Spirit to bring us close to Him. We desire to come close regardless of what God wants to do in my life.

Turn from wicked ways: We embrace the reality that our battling souls still hold on to sin that affects my thinking, emotions and will. This translates into thoughts, choices and actions that are not holy. God is not inviting us into a place of condemnation, but freedom! As He illuminates things in us that aren't right, we confess them and we receive forgiveness and we come closer in our experience of God Himself the Holy Spirit who communes with us.

God will hear, forgive and heal: This is promise and it's real. He will make a difference that is experienced. Freedom will grow. Courage will rise. Love will increase. Vision for life and ministry will emerge. Wounds will be healed and our souls will be changed!

Amen!

Take Away Points:

Slide #29
Slide #30
Slide #31

1. Ministering in the Spirit means that our souls must submit
2. There is a war going on in us (Spirit/soul)
3. God makes a way for our freedom to live in the Spirit and walk in the Spirit

Q/A Time

Slide #32

Dipping Our Toes. (1:15-2:30. 75min.)
We invite people into deeper relationship with Jesus and the Holy Spirit by talking about and modelling ministry <u>for and to them</u>.
Talk about how Jesus ministered in the Spirit to model for us how to live. He was the perfect example of the Spirit-empowered life.
Give a bit of time for people to experience this as well (leaders minister to the people)
A 'light' launch.

Welcome back everyone!
Well, we have been on a bit of a journey haven't we?

We've learned that Holy Spirit ministry is built on the foundation of love, that that is the motivation of it all.
We've learned that our identity in Christ makes our spirits new and full of the Holy Spirit whose role is to teach our souls how to grow by living increasingly under His direction.
We've also learned that our souls and spirits play different roles and that they are often at odds with each other.
To address this, we took one little step toward increased freedom by humbling ourselves and choosing to put our souls before the Lord for Him to forgive, heal and bless.

And now we are going to hear specifically, something the Lord wants us to receive deeply from Him and then what designs He has for our us moving forward in ministry and life in the Spirit.

As I was praying in preparation for this event I heard something from the Lord very clearly and this is what He said:
"I want them to know and experience My love."

That's God's desire for you!
The Father wants this for you; the Son wants this for you; and the Holy Spirit wants this for you. They are in perfect unity in this.

So how do we know and experience the love of God more deeply?

Slide #33

<u>Philippians 3:10</u>
<u>"I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead."</u>

Paul wants to *know* Jesus Christ. 'Know' here is the GK word *ginosko* which implies not just a knowledge of rational data, but *personal, relational and experiential* knowing.
This is a kind of knowing that comes only through living it out and experiencing it.

Paul puts together the life of Jesus with the power of the Holy Spirit. . .'I want to know Jesus experientially which includes the power that resurrected him.'

The life of Jesus and the life of the Holy Spirit are intertwined here. And we need to take this further in order to help us grow in our ability to walk and live and minister with and in the Holy Spirit.

If we want to learn how we need an example: Enter Jesus!

Hebrews 1:3 “The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being…”

Jesus is sent to us to show us who God really is.
And He is the one that sets our example of how to live. . .

Slide #34

1 John 2:6 “Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.”
Ephesians 5:1-2 “Follow God’s example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself for us. . .”

So we are to follow Jesus’ example. Pretty clear right?
Maybe easy to agree with, but not so easy to know how to apply it in our lives.

Obstacles arise in our minds when we try to get serious about following Jesus’ example even though He, himself said this:
John 14:12-13 “I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father. You can ask for anything in my name, and I will do it, so that the Son can bring glory to the Father.”

A few thoughts:

1. Another reminder that we are to follow Jesus’ example and do the things He did.
2. We can do these works because when Jesus went to be with the Father, He sent to us the Holy Spirit (who is God in us).
3. The burden is not ours to carry! Jesus said “I will do it”. He will never leave us (it’s the ‘Spirit of Christ’ in us) and He is highly motivated to do good things in order for people to see the glory of the Father.

Slide #35

“But Jesus was God and I’m not!”

Let’s remember what Jesus is saying so clearly to us: He is inviting us to do what He did. He wouldn’t ask us to do something that we simply couldn’t do.

Slide #36

We need to start there: “Do I believe that Jesus is telling the truth?”

Slide #37

And: “Am I allowing myself to see the plain examples in scripture be my guide in showing me what Jesus did?”

Ok, then that means that I need to understand how it’s possible to do the things Jesus did.

Slide #38

1. Jesus ministered as a Holy Spirit empowered human. He chose not to access his own divine power.

Phil. 2:6-7 “Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being.” NLT

Slide #39

2. There are many scriptures that indicate that Jesus did what he did using the power of the Holy Spirit.
   Matthew 4:16 “After his baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and settling on him.” NLT
   Luke 4:1 “Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan River. He was led by the Spirit in the wilderness where he was tempted by the devil for forty days.”
   Luke 4:14 “Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit.”
   Luke 4:18 “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor.”
   Matthew 12:28 “But if I am casting out demons by the Spirit of God, then the Kingdom of God has arrived among you.”

Slide #40

3. Jesus never stopped being fully God and fully man. He chose not to access his own divine power and instead chose to completely trust the power of the Holy Spirit to do all the works that He did.

Slide #41

And he did this to set an example we could follow.

Jesus has made living as He did accessible to every person that has accepted Jesus as their Saviour.
That means living by the Spirit.

Taking a Step:
One of the things we are working toward is developing a culture of Spirit-led prayer.
We want to take some initial steps in following Jesus’ example.

We want to keep it very simple to understand and simple to do, the results are in the hands of Jesus and that’s exactly right!

So we want to employ a bit of a strategy:
First a few Reminders:

Slide #42

1. Remember that ministering in the power of the Holy Spirit is for you as a child of God.

Slide #43

2. Remember that Jesus set the example for me and that He invited me and said that He is right there with me (. . .in My name and I will do it. . .)

Slide #44

3. Remember the foundation of love: I want to operate out of a place of love, not performance.

3 Step Strategy in Prayer:

Slide #45

1. "What do you want?" Mark 10:51

Slide #46

2. "Is it ok if I pause briefly and ask the Lord to reveal anything that He might want to say or do?"

Slide #47

3. "In the name of Jesus. . ." bless the perso

If there is time, then we will minister to the people there using the above strategy.

Slide #48

All In. (3-4pm 60min.)
We invite people to move into a place of doing some of the ministry themselves so they can experience it firsthand.

Hello my friends welcome back. This is our last session for the day. . .You're almost there!

So what have we learned so far?

Slide #49

1. The foundation of living and walking in the Spirit is love. Everything flows from here.

Slide #50

2. God designed us to live in unity and obedience to the Spirit. Living in the Spirit is actually our souls living in submission to the Spirit.

Slide #51

3. Jesus is our example to follow, and we are to do what He did.

Slide #52

4. Really knowing Jesus means knowledge *and* experience (Phil. 3:10 *ginosko)*

Experiencing life and ministry in the Spirit.

Ultimately, we want the wall between our spirit and soul to come down. Sin creates the wall and hinders our souls from fully experiencing the Spirit's power and presence.

We have been made new creations in our spirit but we experience all of life in our souls. This is our sanctification journey. . .

I want to touch on 'anointing' for a minute because we often associate doing powerful things in ministry with the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

Slide #53

One example: Acts 2:1-4 "On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability."

Anointing means pouring over.

Slide #54

Now read Eph. 5:17-18 “So be careful how you live. Don’t live like fools, but like those who are wise. Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. Don’t act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do. Don’t be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead be filled with the Holy Spirit. . .” Be filled: GK *plerousthe*, indicates ongoing, habitual and repeated action rather than a single, isolated event.

Ephesians 5:18 invites us to be anointed again and again.

I want to suggest to you that we are not being invited to pursue a massive, one-time event, but an ongoing filling so that the Spirit can increasingly fill up our souls to have our minds, emotions and will operating under the Holy Spirit’s anointing.
So what do we do? Powerful Holy Spirit ministry is much more a lifestyle. Engage in it longterm and you will see amazing results!

Life Strategy

Slide #55

1. Confess, repent and receive. (Holy Spirit flows over into our soul)
2. Instruction (Scripture and Spirit)
3. Ask to be filled again and again (Luke 11:9-12 and 13 NLT) “And so I tell you, keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. . .how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him.”
4. Do what you are shown and told. (James 1:22)

This will not only change your life, but it will radically change the culture of your church to reflect the beauty and power and life of Jesus!

And one last thing:
Please do not forget that you are far from alone on this journey!

Slide #56

Phil. 2:13 “For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases Him.” NLT

Ministry Time.
Now we are going to invite you to minister to each other.
First thing you probably feel is a bit anxious and you are tempted to switch into “how” mode!

But I want to remind you of two primary things:

1. Love is the foundation

2. Knowing Jesus better means experiencing Him

So ministry time now is an opportunity for you to experience love and to get to know Jesus better!

And this is how you are going to do it:

Slide #57

1. Get into pairs to pray
2. Follow this pattern:
   -What do you want?
   -Can I pause to listen to Jesus?
   -Bless 'in Jesus' name'

Any questions?

We will gather back together for a short debrief and final comments after.
-How did it go?
-Do you think you could do this tomorrow for the people in the church service?

Reminder and encouragement:
We have only scratched the surface today. We have been working on how we can create a Holy Spirit culture in us and in our church.

We didn't once talk about all the different spiritual gifts, but Kirk has you on that road and I want to encourage you to press in with everything you've got because each of those gifts has been tailor made and given to you to use as tools to bless people with.

If you take seriously the principles of living in the Spirit today and apply them to using individual spiritual gifts. . .you will be amazed at what God will do!

Blessings!

Sunday Morning
"Ministry From Above"
Isaiah 6:1ff. The Glory of God and the Sending. . .