centralia church of the nazarene

Dive Deeper Devotional 10/18/2026

Day 1 – The Spirit Gives Us Courage

Scripture: Acts 1:8; Acts 2:1-14

The Peter we meet in Acts 2 is the same Peter who once denied knowing Jesus. He had made bold promises, experienced failure, and received restoration from the risen Christ. Now he stands before a crowd and proclaims Jesus with courage. What changed? Peter did not discover greater willpower. The Holy Spirit filled and empowered him.

Jesus did not promise that His disciples would never feel afraid. He promised they would receive power to be His witnesses. The Spirit gives us courage to obey even when the next step feels uncomfortable. That may mean speaking honestly about our faith, offering to pray with someone, or showing compassion when it would be easier to remain silent. We are not sent to make ourselves impressive; we are sent to point people to Jesus.

Reflection Question: Where do you need the Holy Spirit's courage to take one faithful step?

Prayer: Holy Spirit, thank You that I do not have to follow Jesus in my own strength. Replace my fear with courage and help my words and actions point others to Christ. **Amen.**

Day 2 – More Than Trying Harder

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; Romans 5:5; 2 Corinthians 3:17-18

We often approach spiritual growth as if the answer is to try harder: pray more, do better, be more patient. Yet the good news of holiness is that God does in us what we cannot do by ourselves. His grace forgives us, and His Spirit transforms us.

In the Wesleyan tradition, we speak of entire sanctification: a distinct work of grace following the new birth in which, as we fully surrender to God and trust Him by faith, the Holy Spirit cleanses our hearts and fills us with holy love. This does not mean we stop learning or growing. It means our hearts can be wholly yielded to God while His grace continues shaping us into the likeness of Jesus. The Spirit does not merely equip us to accomplish more; He changes how we love God and our neighbors. Holiness is a life formed by that love.

Reflection Question: What part of your heart or life needs to be surrendered more fully to the Spirit's work?

Prayer: Holy Spirit, search my heart. Cleanse what is unlike Jesus, fill me with Your love, and keep forming me in grace. I offer myself fully to You today. **Amen.**

Day 3 – Formed Together

Scripture: Acts 1:14; Acts 2:42-47

Before the disciples preached to the crowds, they gathered and prayed together. After Pentecost, the church devoted itself to the apostles' teaching, fellowship, breaking bread, and prayer. The Holy Spirit's work was not limited to one dramatic moment; it reshaped the habits and relationships of a whole community.

Following Jesus was never meant to happen in isolation. God's grace meets us as we pray honestly, listen to Scripture, encourage one another, and share life around ordinary tables. These practices do not earn us God's love. They help us stay attentive to the Spirit who is already at work. When we make room for people, we also make room for accountability, encouragement, and the kind of growth we rarely experience alone. The Spirit draws us toward Jesus and toward one another so that we can be sent in love.

Reflection Question: Who could you pray with, encourage, or invite into a deeper conversation this week?

Prayer: God, make me available to You and to others. Teach me to pray, listen, and share life in ways that strengthen Your church and reflect the love of Jesus. **Amen.**

Day 4 – Grace Around the Table

Scripture: Acts 2:44-47; Hebrews 13:1-2

The first believers began seeing their possessions and schedules differently. They shared with people in need and ate together with glad and sincere hearts. Generosity was not simply a financial transaction. It became a way of life shaped by the Spirit.

We sometimes wait for an extraordinary opportunity to serve God, but so much discipleship happens in ordinary places: a kitchen, a lunch break, a conversation after worship, or a quiet moment with someone who needs to be heard. The Spirit can use our time, attention, homes, and resources as gifts of grace. Generosity may cost convenience. Hospitality may interrupt our plans. Yet as the love of Jesus takes root in us, we discover that what God has given us is not only for us. Even an ordinary table can become a place where another person experiences the welcome of Christ.

Reflection Question: What could you make available to someone this week - time, attention, a meal, or practical help?

Prayer: Jesus, open my hands and my schedule. Help me see ordinary moments as opportunities to share Your grace and love someone well. **Amen.**

Day 5 – Leave Your Nets, Live Sent

Scripture: Mark 1:16-20; Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:18-20

When Jesus first called Peter, he left his nets and followed. Later, filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter became a witness to the risen Jesus. Both moments required surrender. The Spirit empowers our obedience, but He does not eliminate our invitation to say yes.

Some nets are easy to recognize; others have become part of our routine. Fear can keep us silent. Busyness can crowd out relationships. Comfort can make us reluctant to open our lives. Shame or past failure can convince us that God cannot use us. But Jesus does not send us to make disciples alone. He gives us His Spirit. The Christian life is not a competition to prove how spiritual we are. It is a continual response to the God who is already at work in us: filling us, forming us, and sending us to love others. Ask the Spirit to name one net and give you grace to release it.

Reflection Question: What is one net you sense the Holy Spirit inviting you to leave behind - and what step will you take?

Prayer: Come, Holy Spirit. Show me what I am holding too tightly. Free me to follow Jesus, form His love in me, and send me to serve others. **Amen.**

Weekly Challenge

- Begin each morning by praying: “Come, Holy Spirit. Do in me what I cannot do in myself.”
- Read Acts 2:42-47 slowly; notice one habit of the early church you could practice.
- Name one area of fear or resistance, and surrender it honestly to God.
- Make room for someone through prayer, hospitality, or an unhurried conversation.
- Share one specific word of encouragement or an invitation to take a step toward Jesus.

Remember:

The Holy Spirit empowers us to witness to Jesus.

God’s sanctifying grace forms holy love in us.

The Spirit shapes a praying, generous, Jesus-centered community.

Ordinary places can become opportunities for grace.

We are filled, formed, and sent - never in our own strength.