

Devotional guide based on the themes from the June 8th sermon, "Ekklesia."

Day 1: The Gift of the Holy Spirit Reading: Acts 2:1-21 Devotional: The day of Pentecost marks a pivotal moment in Christian history - the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. As we read about the disciples speaking in tongues and the amazement of the crowd, let's reflect on how the Holy Spirit works in our lives today. Just as the Spirit enabled the disciples to speak in various languages, He empowers us with diverse spiritual gifts. Consider what gifts the Spirit has given you. How are you using them to glorify God and build up the church? Pray for a renewed awareness of the Spirit's presence in your life and for the courage to step out in faith, using your gifts to serve others and spread the Gospel.

Day 2: The Fruit of the Spirit Reading: Galatians 5:22-26 Devotional: The pastor mentioned the fruits of the Spirit - love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. These aren't qualities we have to strive for in our own strength, but are the natural outworking of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Which of these fruits do you see growing in your life? Which ones do you struggle with? Remember, you haven't been "shorted" on any of these. Ask the Holy Spirit to cultivate these fruits in your life, particularly in areas where you feel weak.

Day 3: The Power of Faith Reading: Hebrews 11:1-6 Devotional: Faith is the cornerstone of our relationship with God. It's not just believing in His existence, but trusting in His character and promises. As you read about the faith of the ancients, consider your own faith journey. What challenges are you facing that require faith? Remember, faith isn't the absence of doubt, but the choice to trust God despite our uncertainties. Today, identify one area in your life where you need to exercise greater faith. Pray for God to strengthen your faith and commit to taking a step of faith, however small, in that area.

Day 4: The Hope of Salvation Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9 Devotional: Peter reminds us that our salvation gives us a "living hope." This hope isn't wishful thinking, but a confident expectation based on the resurrection of Jesus Christ. In a world often filled with despair, we have an inheritance that can never perish, spoil, or fade. How does this eternal perspective change how you view your current circumstances? Reflect on times when this hope has sustained you through trials. Today, share this hope with someone who needs encouragement. Let your words and actions be a testament to the living hope within you.

Day 5: Hearing God's Voice Through the Spirit Reading: John 14:15-26 Devotional: Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would teach us and remind us of His words. In a world full of noise, it's crucial to learn to discern the Spirit's voice. The sermon encouraged daily prayer to better recognize the Spirit's presence and guidance. As you read this passage, reflect on how you've experienced the Holy Spirit's guidance. Have there been times when you've felt convicted of sin or redirected in your path? Remember, God's correction always comes from a

place of love, like a parent guiding a child. Ask God to sharpen your spiritual hearing and to help you respond obediently to His voice.