April 12, 2026

THE HOLY SPIRIT SERIES

BOOK OF ACTS EDITION

SERMON: The Power from on High
SPEAKER: Pastor Steve
CORE SCRIPTURE: Acts 1:1-11

WATCH SERMON | SERMON NOTES

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

SUMMARY

Pastor Steve launched a new sermon series focused on the Holy Spirit through the book of Acts. He shared how God gave him a word—"wind"—back in January 2025, prompting Cornerstone to depend more deeply on the Holy Spirit's guidance and power. Before the early church could move forward in mission, the disciples had to wait for the promised Holy Spirit.

Pastor Steve highlighted three vital truths:

1. Jesus continues his work through us,
2. The Holy Spirit empowers us for mission, and
3. We are called to live "between the times"—the already and not yet of God's kingdom—and get on with the mission.

The message calls us to pray daily for a deep move of the Holy Spirit at Cornerstone and to step into Spirit-empowered witness in our everyday lives.

SHARE

Think about a time when you tried to accomplish something important in your own strength and realized you needed help beyond yourself. What was that experience like, and what did you learn from it?

READ

Take turns reading **Acts 1:1-11** aloud together as a group.

DISCUSS

Feel free to pick/choose what is most helpful for you. Remember, the goal is to have rich, relational, authentic, Jesus-centered discussions.

1. What stood out to you the most about the sermon?

2. In Acts 1:4-5, Jesus commands the disciples to "wait for the gift my Father promised" rather than

immediately beginning their mission. Looking closely at the text and its context, what does this waiting reveal about the nature of God's kingdom work? How does Jesus' command to wait contrast with the expectations of a typical earthly kingdom or movement?

3. Acts 1:8 connects the Holy Spirit's power directly to witness: "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses." What does this verse teach us about the purpose of the Spirit's power? How does this challenge or reshape our understanding of what it means to be "Spirit-filled"?

4. When have you experienced or witnessed the Holy Spirit's power at work in unmistakable ways, even if invisible? How did that shape your faith?

5. Pastor Steve emphasized that "Jesus continues his work through us" based on Acts 1:1-3. Considering Cornerstone's four Guiding Priorities (deeper discipleship, building bridges, joining God in our neighbourhood, and Cornerstone Centre as a hub), where do you sense Jesus inviting you personally to participate in his ongoing work?

6. The disciples asked Jesus, "Are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" (Acts 1:6), but Jesus redirected them to focus on being his witnesses empowered by the Spirit. How does living "between the times"—in the tension of the already and not yet of God's kingdom—shape how we engage with our workplaces, neighborhoods, and everyday relationships?

7. Pastor Steve invited the congregation to join him in praying daily for a deep move of the Holy Spirit at Cornerstone. What would it look like for you to genuinely seek the Spirit's power and guidance each day rather than relying primarily on your own strength and planning?

NEXT STEPS:

- **Daily Prayer Commitment:** Commit to praying the Cornerstone Holy Spirit prayer card daily. If you didn't pick one up, ask your group leader or download it from the church website.
- **Spirit-Led Witness:** Identify one specific person or place this week where you can step into Spirit-empowered witness—through an act of love, service, or sharing your faith story.
- **Reflect on Dependence:** Journal or reflect on areas of your life where you tend to rely on your own strength rather than seeking the Holy Spirit's power. Bring those areas to God in prayer.

PRAY:

Spend time praying together as a group:

- **Pray for Cornerstone:** Ask God for a deep, transforming work of the Holy Spirit in our church—purifying us, empowering us, and propelling us into mission.
- **Pray for Each Other:** Invite group members to share one area where they need the Holy Spirit's power this week, and pray specifically for those needs.
- **Pray for Witness:** Ask God to open doors for Spirit-empowered witness in your neighborhoods, workplaces, and relationships across the eastern GTA.

CONNECT:
Stay connected with what's happening at Cornerstone! Check out **The Hub** for upcoming community events, workshops, and opportunities to serve. Consider how your group might come alongside a ministry or outreach initiative as we live out our calling to join God in our neighbourhood.

CLOSING:
As we close, remember the words of N.T. Wright that Pastor Steve shared: "Jesus goes up, the power comes down, and the kingdom gets going. What are we waiting for?"

Let's hoist our sails, catch the wind of the Spirit, and step boldly into the mission Jesus has given us.