

Text: Acts 2:38
Title: Use your Gift
Thought: Use what the good lord gave you
Topic: utilizing the power of the Holy Spirit
Teaching: We need the gift of the Holy Spirit to accomplish God's purpose for our lives

Story Start:
At my former church I was on the pastor's aid committee as the time approached to celebrate the pastor's anniversary, it became clear that the church didn't have much money and the fund raising wasn't going so well, some of us decided that we would personally purchase gifts for pastor to make sure he had a joyous celebration.

Story Setup:
Pastor Holt is one of them old school preachers who likes to wear preaching robes, so I decided my gift to him would be a brand-new robe. I went online and searched for robes and found one that I thought looked nice; however, I was blown away when I saw the price, it cost $500 and that was the cheapest one, the others were more expensive.

Story Shift:
It wasn't like I had $500 laying around I knew it would be a sacrifice, but I felt like he deserved it. I presented the robe during the celebration; he showed his appreciation and gave every indication that he liked it and that he looked forward to wearing it. However, several Sundays went by and he continued to wear his old robes.

Story Significance:
Finally, one Sunday, I ask him why he hasn't worn the robe that I bought him, he told me he was saving it for special occasions, AKA he didn't like it. I sacrificed and spent all that money to buy him a precious gift and he wasn't even using it. I was not happy, it made me feel some type of way that I paid so much for something that wasn't getting used.

Story Switch
That story reminds me of what's going on in today's scripture, Jesus scarified his life so we could receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, but Just like my father received that robe but didn't use it, many believers have received the gift of the Holy Spirit, but they rarely use it. God has given us a new robe, but many of us are still wearing the old one.

The Spirit Is Your Helper
The gift God has given you is the Holy Spirit as your helper
Jesus is the author he wrote the script, the Holy spirit is the director
The Holy Spirit is assigned to help you, his goal is to perfect and protect you
The best kind of gift is the one that you need, God knows what you need help with



Use What the Good Lord Gave You

It’s hard for God to use someone who’s not using the spirit as their help
To have something that’s needed and not to use it, is to abuse it.
The reason we need help is there are something we can’t do ourselves
Only two reason to refuse help, pride- you know, and control won’t let go