

## Message: ***Have You Received the Gift?***

**Scripture: Acts 1:4-8**

(11-05-23 Pastor Tony Hao)

The Book of Acts tells us that something very special happens when we trust and put our faith in Jesus. We have the promise of a special gift from God. The Holy Spirit is the power of God within us. He assists in our witnessing: by guiding us to people we can talk to; by giving us boldness to speak to others; and by working in the hearts of those we care about to convict them of their personal sin, their need for righteousness, and the real possibility of the coming judgment.

Having received the Spirit means: (1) we **PRAY** - acknowledging and asking God's Spirit to work in people's heart (for only He can change people); ... (2) we **TRUST** - depending on the Holy Spirit to do His part (remember Zech 4:6 *Not by might nor by power but My Spirit says the Lord*) ; ... (3) we **LISTEN** for God's guidance (through diligent study of God's Word); (4) and ... we boldly **SPEAK** about who God is and what He has done.

### **GROWING DEEPER (Reflection & Application)**

1. Have you ever felt frustrated talking to family and friends about Jesus ... inviting people to church? People don't seem to listen to us. They politely put us off. They never come. Why is that?
2. Do witnesses prosecute the defendant? Do witnesses convict the defendant? Witnesses do their best to give honest & true testimony. What did they see? What did they hear? How does this realization help you in your role as a witness for Christ? What help do you need to be a better witness?
3. Our witness for Christ is important. Unless someone witnesses, people cannot hear the Gospel. If they don't hear, they can't believe. If they don't believe, they won't be saved. The salvation of the people hinges on our faithfulness in witnessing. Make a list of people who needs to hear about Christ. Plan to share with them this week.