

Start Yielding

Week 2

We sing “Holy Spirit, You Are Welcome Here” on Sunday and spend the rest of the week treating Him like an unwanted passenger – so stop resisting and start yielding.

We love control.

We want God's direction as long as it does not interfere with our destination, His wisdom as long as it agrees with our decisions, and His power without surrendering our control.

What if the Holy Spirit has not been silent, and we have simply been too busy, too distracted, or too determined to do things our own way to hear Him?

Big Idea: Spiritual transformation begins when we stop relying on our own strength and start yielding to the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

Main Scriptures:

Acts 1:4-5; Acts 2:1-4; Galatians 5:16-17, 25; Romans 8:1, 12-16

Main Point: The Holy Spirit leads us into the life God has for us when we slow down, surrender control, and trust Him to guide our next step.

Context:

1. The Helper Was Always the **Plan**

In Acts 1:4-5, the risen Jesus tells His disciples to wait for the promised gift of the Holy Spirit before going anywhere.

He was not withholding help because they were unworthy; He was promising help precisely because what He was calling them to do was bigger than what they could accomplish on their own.

You cannot accomplish a Spirit-empowered mission through human effort alone.

2. **Slow** Down

The yield sign the pastor carried onto the stage carries three lessons – and the first is to slow down.

Galatians 5:25 calls us to "keep in step with the Spirit," using a Greek word (stoicheō) that pictures soldiers marching together in line.

The problem is that we want the Holy Spirit to keep up with our pace instead of adjusting our pace to His, and we keep asking God to speak while filling every quiet moment with noise.

3. Give Him the **Right** of Way

Romans 8:12-14 declares that we are not obligated to do what our sinful nature urges. Just because you feel something does not mean you have to follow it.

The key thought the sermon drives home is this: you are not getting more of the Holy Spirit – the Holy Spirit is getting more of **you**.

Yielding is not weakness; sometimes **surrender** is the strongest thing you will ever do, because it means admitting you were never meant to do this alone.

4. **Peter** Is the Picture

Peter promised he would never abandon Jesus, then denied Him three times – because he was confident in Peter.

After the resurrection, Jesus did not discard him; He restored him beside another fire in John 21, and then in Acts 2 that same Peter preached boldly and three thousand people responded.

Peter's greatest transformation did not come when he tried harder. It came through the grace of the risen Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit.

5. **Follow** His Lead

Romans 8:14-16 says those who are led by the Spirit are God's children, and that we have not received a spirit of fear but the Spirit of adoption.

We are not following a master who threatens to discard us at every failure; we are following a Father who has welcomed us into His family through Jesus.

The Spirit leads from the security of belonging, not the fear of rejection – and often His direction is not dramatic but simply a conviction to apologize, forgive, stop, or take one faithful step today.

Conclusion

Whatever came to mind during the moment of silence – the one thing you already know you need to surrender – this is not about making yourself worthy of God's love. Jesus has already made a way.

The same grace that forgives you is the grace that invites you to change, and the same Holy Spirit who turned a denying fisherman into a bold preacher is at work in every person who belongs to Jesus today.

NEXT STEPS

Apply the message

Identify the one intersection in your life where what you want and what God wants are not lining up, and bring it to Him honestly. Tomorrow morning, before reaching for your phone, pray one sentence: “Holy Spirit, where do I need to yield today?” When you recognize His leading, respond.

Stop asking God for a five-year plan while ignoring the direction He has already given you – obey Him in the ordinary, today.

Know

At the end of the Ghosted series, the church will make intentional space to pray and lay hands on people who desire prayer for the Spirit's filling and empowerment.

More details will follow in coming weeks.

_____