

## Week Four: Committing

**Mark 16:5** And he said to them, 'Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.'

## Sermon Notes

## Generosity Prayer Prompt

Talk to the Lord honestly:

**Is what I am/we are planning on giving convenient?  
Is it conditional? Or is it a real commitment to You, Lord,  
and Your purposes? Am I saying "no" to some things so  
that I can say "yes" to this?**

## Responding to the Message

- **Journal.** Fill in this sentence. If you are so moved, feel free to write more.

"I feel \_\_\_\_\_ about \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_."

- **Share.** Share one big idea from this week's message with a friend, someone in your small group, or on social media.

- **Table Talk.** At a meal this week, discuss: What is keeping you from committing every aspect of your life to proclaiming the gospel of Jesus to "the whole creation?"

# Week Four: Committing - Small Group Study

**Opening Prayer:** Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Amen

**Opening Question:** Up to this point, how have the key ideas of Fan the Flame - Following, Staying, and Prioritizing - been calling you into a deeper commitment to Jesus?

**Scriptures:** Read the following Scripture passages. What is one thought or idea from this week's Scripture passages that especially intrigues, provokes, challenges, or encourages you?

*2 Timothy 1:6-7* [6] For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, [7] for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

*Acts 1:1-11* [1] In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, [2] until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. [3] He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

[4] And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me; [5] for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

[6] So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" [7] He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. [8] But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." [9] And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. [10] And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, [11] and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

## Questions:

Throughout this Easter Season we have heard the phrase "You are my witnesses." Imagine Jesus looking you in the eyes right now and saying, "(insert your name), YOU are my witness."

How do you feel about this statement? What does it make you want to do?

As his witnesses, Jesus promised us that we would receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon His followers. St. Paul echoes this when he tells Timothy, "For God gave us a Spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control." (2 Timothy 1:7)

How did the Spirit work powerfully among the Apostles and first believers?

How have you seen him work powerfully in your life?

How do you see him working powerfully now?

Where do you need his power in your life right now?

Next weekend we celebrate the Feast of Pentecost and the giving of the Holy Spirit. It is also our final week of this Fan the Flame series and our Commitment Weekend.

How has the Spirit been 'Fanning your Flame' by stretching and challenging you?

Where are you finding joy and excitement?

What do you see the Spirit doing in the Trinity family?

**Respond:** This week, please set aside 45-60 minutes personally or as a couple/family to prayerfully consider these questions as you prepare your 'Fan the Flame' Commitment.

1. List out the financial commitments that you currently have. Examples would be a home mortgage, a lease agreement, a car loan, a cell phone contract, school tuition, etc.

2. Now list out the commitment you are planning to make for the 'Fan the Flame' initiative.

- Where does it fall in the priority of these other commitments?
- Is there a financial commitment you currently have that appears to be prioritized above your sacrificial gift?
- Do you need to change or modify one or more of these other commitments in order to be able to fulfill your 'Fan the Flame' commitment?
- What if you wanted to raise your 'Fan the Flame' commitment? What would that require?

3. As you keep this commitment over the next two years:

- How do you hope it changes you and continues to 'Fan the Flame' in you?
- How do you hope it impacts our Trinity family?

Finish by spending time in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to 'Fan the Flame' of your generosity and everyone else's for the work of Jesus among us.