

Walking In The Way Of Jesus; What Does It Look Like For Us
Considering the path from the tomb to the world

I want us to view the book of Acts through another lens this morning or another subtitle.

The Acts of the Apostles

The Acts of the Apprentice

The Acts of the Holy Spirit

The book of Acts chronicles the launching of the early church and the reality of Jesus' teaching to His apprentices. It is the reality of the transition from Jesus living on the planet to the Holy Spirit being sent to continue the work of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Son of the Living God.

With that in mind, I want us to consider "What Does It Look Like For Us.....Today?"

I had an honest question posed to me by someone who is growing in their understanding of walking in the ways of Jesus. This is a person who has trusted Christ as Savior & Lord, been baptized, reading/studying the Bible, and learning to pray.

"What does it look like to be filled with the Holy Spirit?"

This is a very honest question that I believe many of us struggle to answer on a very functional level.

The follow up to the question was some general statements that several of us discussed like.....

"I don't hear the voice of the Lord speaking to me."

"I am not overcome or touched by some deep range of emotions."

"I don't sense these huge directional leadings."

"I don't know that I have ever experienced miracles like we read about in the NT."

Then, I question myself regarding my faith and whether I am truly born again. I question whether the Holy Spirit truly lives in me.

Back to the question.....**"What does it look like to be filled with the Holy Spirit?"**

There seems to be a natural embracing of extremism in the Church when it comes to being filled with the Holy Spirit.

It seems like an "Either/Or" approach to the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Extreme perspective of "in the flesh" (interpret as no Spirit presence) or "full of the Holy Spirit" (interpret as completely overcome by the presence of the Holy Spirit with unbelievable experiences non-stop)

Can you see this "Either/Or" perspective.

Either sinful slug **Or** some magical walk

I want to have an honest, heartfelt presentation this morning of us trying to understand a deeper reality to being filled with the Holy Spirit.

I want to remove the extremes.....**No “Either/Or” but both.**

Peter in Acts but especially Acts 12:1ff

Consider the powerful displays of Holy Spirit presence through Peter but now he is captured and chained between two soldiers as a normal human being. He is powerless. Why, because he has been a normal human being ever since he made a decision to follow Jesus.

Barnabas in Acts 11

Cornelius in Acts 10

Saul in Acts 9

Philip in Acts 8

Stephen in Acts 6-7

Ananias & Sapphira in Acts 5

Peter & John in Acts 3-4

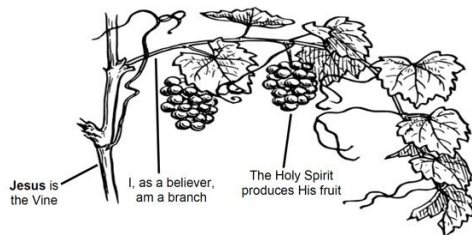
The Spirit of the Living God, The Holy Spirit, The Comforter, The Helper was actively involved and working in the lives of literally thousands of people.

Normal people like us who were learning to walk in the ways of Jesus teaching by learning to embrace this new presence in their lives to help them, comfort them, and guide them.....The Holy Spirit.

Living as normal human beings and then, “all of a sudden” they were given extra wisdom, help, and power to meet the challenges before them.

Yet, every single one of these individuals had to make a choice.

Reminder:



Reminder of one of our first lessons on Acts 2.

John 15:5 NIV. *“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; **apart from me you can do nothing.**”*

Nothing has changed since Jesus instructions as John recorded them.

The Holy Spirit is the power or strength for this abiding blooming process.

Consider the process of fruit production.

Allow that concept to sink into your heart and mind.....**abiding blooming process.**

Fruit produced by The Spirit working in and through our lives. (note: SpiritSpeakAI logo/plug)

Galatians 5:16-26 NLT

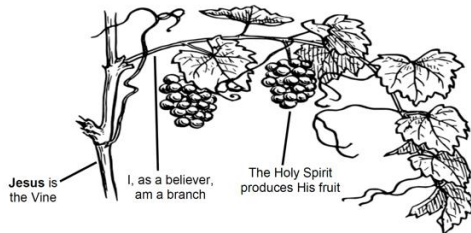
***16 So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives.** Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. **17** The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions. **18** But when you are directed by the Spirit, you are not under obligation to the law of Moses.*

***19** When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, **20** idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, **21** envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.*

22 But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **23** gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

Please take note of what is and what is NOT on this list of Holy Spirit produced fruit.

***24** Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. **25 Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives.** **26** Let us not become conceited, or provoke one another, or be jealous of one another.*



Balance of a Spirit filled and controlled life involves Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The God Family involvement in our lives.

We have a steep learning curve but we have been given The Helper. We are not alone but we have to be intentional regarding our participation with The Helper, The Holy Spirit.

Our faith must involve action steps. Two things to help:

⇒ **Yieldingness (some use the word, Yieldedness)**

- Yield/submit to the flesh/sin/temptation
- Yield/submit to the Holy Spirit/Jesus ways

This battle for yielding is nothing new and is part of our struggle for growth and change
Romans 6:15-18 NLT ***15** Well then, since God's grace has set us free from the law, does that mean we can go on sinning? Of course not! **16 Don't you realize that you become the slave of whatever you choose to obey? (To whom you yield)** You can be a slave to sin, which leads to*

death, or you can choose to obey God, which leads to righteous living. ¹⁷ Thank God! Once you were slaves of sin, but now you wholeheartedly obey this teaching we have given you. **(We can now wholeheartedly yield to the teaching of Jesus by the Holy Spirit)** ¹⁸ Now you are free from your slavery to sin, and you have become slaves to righteous living.

Ephesians 5:15-21 ESV ¹⁵ Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸ **And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit,** ¹⁹ addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, ²⁰ giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

To What or Who are you yielding your life?

All of us are yielding to something or someone.

⇒ **Sensitivity**

Ephesians 4:1-16 is all about maintaining spiritual sensitivity.

Hebrews 3:8-15 NASB (1995) vs 8....**Do not harden your hearts as when they provoked me,**

Proverbs 4:23-27 NIV ²³ **Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.**

²⁴ *Keep your mouth free of perversity; keep corrupt talk far from your lips.*

²⁵ *Let your eyes look straight ahead; fix your gaze directly before you.*

²⁶ *Give careful thought to the paths for your feet and be steadfast in all your ways.*

²⁷ *Do not turn to the right or the left; keep your foot from evil.*

Guard your heart, mind, and eyes to live with spiritual sensitivity.

We are striving to be a balanced church.....a balanced family that is full of the Holy Spirit.

We are all still human beings wrapped in flesh living in a carnal world but through the forgiveness made available from Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection....we have the Holy Spirit upon spiritual birth.

I am striving to be a balanced man, husband, father, grandfather, and friend who is yielding and sensitive to the Holy Spirit.

When we promote the three attributes of Learning, Growing, and Changing it is reinforced and promoted through the characteristics of yieldingness and sensitivity.

This is not as complicated as we tend to make it.

Let's not make this any harder than it needs to be. Let's allow God to do the great things on our behalf that He wants to accomplish. Let's do it together.

Simply put.....Will you yield?

Will you be sensitive?