

Week 12 | Holy Spirit

How can I experience the power of the Holy Spirit?

Even though Christians have access to God's power, if we do not avail ourselves to it we will run out of power. The power given to us is provided by the Holy Spirit.

We have all the power we need "*to be conformed to the image of his Son*" (Romans 8:29). How do we tap into the power? Or the way the Bible puts it, to "be _____ with the Spirit."

You see, we can be _____ by the Spirit, yet not filled with the Spirit. Confused? No worries, Ephesians 5:18 will help clear it up for us.

Ephesians 5:18 says...

"And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit."

The more a person says yes to wine, the more it will begin to i _____ their behavior for bad. But the more a person says _____ to the Spirit, the more it will influence their behavior for g _____, for godly good.

Letting the Holy Spirit influence our lives, which leads to seeing His power at work, requires us to give up c _____, and be willing to do what He _____ to do. Galatians 5:25b describes it this way, "*let us also keep in step with the Spirit.*"

When you were a kid, did you ever try to walk in the footprints of somebody else at the beach? That's a great image for us. The Spirit takes a step in our lives. So what do we do? Keep in _____!

When we keep in step with the Spirit, we know where it's going. It's somewhere p_____ and toward something that looks like _____.

Whenever we feel the Spirit prompting us, and we are hesitant to take the step of faith, remember that He's taking us somewhere powerful that will help us look more like Jesus.



Whole Group Discussion

So how would you describe to someone the difference between the indwelling of the Spirit and being filled with the Spirit?

Who is someone you would say is truly filled with the Spirit. How so?

If we don't keep in step with the Spirit, for whatever reason, be it fear or just plain selfishness, we won't experience the Spirit's power in our lives.

The Bible describes this in two different ways. When we don't keep in step, we either q_____ the Spirit or we g_____ the Spirit.

The Bible talks about quenching the Spirit in 1 Thessalonians 5:9, "*Do not quench the Spirit.*" The Bible talks about grieving the Spirit in Ephesians 4:30, "*And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.*"

Here's a memorable way of understanding the two...

We quench the Spirit when we say "No" when the Spirit is saying "Yes". And we grieve the Spirit when we say "Yes" when the Spirit is saying "No".

How do you stop a fire? Pour water on it. The Bible refers to the Holy Spirit's power as "the Spirit's fire." When the Holy Spirit is prompting us to do something and we don't do it, it's like putting _____ on the fire.

When our lives are grieving the Holy Spirit, it doesn't leave room for Him to be _____ in our lives. Saying "Yes" to sin grieves the Holy Spirit and affects His working in our lives.

Is s_____ weighing you down? Is the Spirit grieving because you've l_____ Him? If so, we are missing out on the exciting power-filled life He has for us.

So how do we know if we are truly being filled by the Spirit? By the _____. We'll be filled with fruit when the filling of the Spirit is f_____.! How's that for a tongue-twister?

Jesus said in Matthew 7:16, "*You will be recognize them by their fruits.*" Galatians 5:22-23 tells us what the fruit of the Spirit is when we are experiencing His filling.

The fruit that will show up in our lives is _____. You want to see the Spirit's power flowing in your life? Want to see the incredible fruit of love oozing out of your life? If so, say "Yes" when the Spirit says "Yes", and "No" when the Spirit says "No"!



Small Group Discussion

Read Galatians 5:16-26. What contrasts do you see in this passage?

Sometimes people say "fruits" instead of "fruit" of the Spirit. Yet in verse 22, the Greek word for "fruit" is "karpos" and it's in the singular. The fruit is love. Look at the other qualities mentioned after love. Go through and discuss how each one is a demonstration of love.

What was the most interesting thing you learned about the Holy Spirit? What was the most convicting? What is one application as a result of this week's study?



Prayer Focus

Which of the fruits of the Spirit do you need to see more of in your life?
Take time praying for it.