

**Introduction:**

- Last Wednesday I shared from the 23rd Psalm, The Good Shepherd Keeps the Sheep Calm.
- Tonight I want to share a word of encouragement about the Holy Spirit. It will be a kind of overview message but I believe you will be encouraged by it.
  - I want us to see how critical it is to have a relationship the Holy Spirit of scripture.
  - Right now in our everyday lives is where the Holy Spirit like to be.
  - I want to live with a supernatural edge!

**I. The Holy Spirit And The Birth of Jesus Luke 1-2**

- A. The Holy Spirit was very involved in the birth of Jesus. All you have to do is read the Christmas story and look for Holy Spirit in it. The Holy Spirit is the One who carries out the plans of the Father in the Christmas story. He empowers each one to complete their destiny accompanied by God. He makes the impossible possible! Old people have a baby. A virgin has a baby. Simeon is led to the Temple at just the right time. He did not have a cell phone or smart phone to get him there.
1. Luke 1:15 John the Baptist will be filled with the Spirit from birth.
  2. Luke 1:35 Mary miraculously conceives Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit. This is God activity carried out by the third person of the Trinity, Holy Spirit. *"The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God."* (Luke 1:35, NLT)
  3. Lk 1:41 Elizabeth's baby, John, leaped in her womb when she heard the voice of Mary and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.
  4. Lk 1:67 Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit.
    - a) note: Zechariah, Elizabeth his wife and John were all filled. The result Luke 1:80 John grew up and became strong in the Spirit.
  5. Simeon - the old man of Luke 2:25-ff who had been told by the Holy Spirit that he would not die until he had seen the Messiah was led by the Spirit to the Temple.
- B. When God wants to do something in the earth, He works through people. This brings this message tonight down to our level.
1. It is the Holy Spirit that empowers them.
  2. It is the Holy Spirit that leads them.
  3. It is the Holy Spirit who makes the natural supernatural. Meaning that we can see God's involvement here!
- C. The Holy Spirit was there and involved at the birth of Jesus.

**II. The Holy Spirit And The Birth of the Church Acts 1-8**

- A. Jesus stressed the importance of the 120 receiving the Holy Spirit. Acts 1:5,8. The Jews would be the first to be baptized in the Holy Spirit. Acts 2:1-4 **BOOM!** This is the birth of the church!
1. The Holy Spirit assists the church. Acts 4:8 Peter filled with the Holy Spirit:
    - a) faces threat
    - b) filled with boldness
    - c) speak with wisdom
  2. Holy Spirit fills the church with boldness Acts 4:31. Prayer meeting/place shook/filled with HS=speak with boldness.

- B. Holy Spirit witnesses along with the Apostles by miracles. Acts 5:32
  1. Stephen become the first witness/martyr. 6:5 Stephen full of Holy Spirit, a common man is working miracles and signs. Is arrested and stands and preaches with boldness.
- C. Peter and John Acts 8:15-17 the people of Samaria receive the Holy Spirit.
- D. Saul, the killer of Christians is saved and filled with Spirit. Acts 9:17-18
- E. Gentile's are baptized in the Holy Spirit. Acts 10:44
- F. Ephesus is turned over for God! Acts 19:1-7
- G. The Holy Spirit was there at the birth of the Church!
  1. They Holy Spirit baptized them.
  2. The Holy Spirit empowered them.
  3. The Holy Spirit equipped them to preach with bold, work miracle.
  4. The Holy SPirit made these natural people super natural!

### III. The Holy Spirit And Your New Birth

- A. Convicted by the Holy Spirit
  1. Conviction is different than condemnation. When you are condemned there is not way out. But when you are convicted God provides a way out...Jesus.
  2. In the NT conviction means to show people their sin and summon them to repentance.
  3. *"And when he comes, he will convict the world of its sin, and of God's righteousness, and of the coming judgment."* (John 16:8, NLT)
- B. Sealed by the Spirit
  1. The word used here means to be sealed with security. Well protected.
  2. *"The Holy Spirit of God has sealed you in Jesus Christ until you experience your full salvation. So never grieve the Spirit of God or take for granted his holy influence in your life."* (Ephesians 4:30, TPT)
- C. Baptized in the Spirit.
  1. To be baptized means to be immersed in the Spirit. The word actually means "to pickle." Something could only be pickled if it was immersed. God's desire is that we continually be saturated with the Holy Spirit.
- D. Living in the Holy Spirit.
  1. Fruit of the Holy Spirit. *"But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!"* (Galatians 5:22-23, NLT) This is what the Holy Spirit brings to our lives.
  2. Lead by the Spirit. *"Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives."* (Galatians 5:25, NLT)
  3. Gifts of the Spirit. 1 cor 12:4-7. Gifts are given so we can help each other.

### Conclusion:

- You can receive the Holy Spirit tonight!
- Jesus baptizes with the Holy Spirit. Mt 3:11
- You receive by faith!