

GHOST STORIES WEEK 1 Holy Spirit Baptism

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Today we're going to ask and answer 4 questions - 4 questions about the Holy Spirit.

1. Who is the Holy Spirit?
2. What is "Holy Spirit Baptism?"
3. Why do we Need the Holy Spirit? What does He do?
4. How & When are we Filled with the Holy Spirit?

Who Is The Holy Spirit?

He is one Person of the Trinity. God is triune God - God the Father, Holy Spirit & Son. He's the Helper & Comforter.

He is the one who enables God to be "Emmanuel" God with us.

He enables us. He is our Helper and Comforter.

As the one who is given to us by Father God as Emmanuel, he helps and comforts and enables us with power and courage and even giftings. He gives us the enabling - the ability to be who God's called us to be.

Jesus describes Holy Spirit in ...

John 15:26-27 (ESV) "But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. 27 And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning."

I love how Jesus doesn't even say "The Holy Spirit" in this passage yet chooses to define him simply by his function. Who am I sending "The HELPER"

It answers the instant question "What does he do?" He helps. He is the Spirit of Truth who brings about truth. That's why someone filled with the Spirit of Truth can discern the truth about a certain situation before details ever come to light.

What is the Holy Spirit's relation to Jesus? Isn't faith all about JESUS? Who is the Holy Spirit?

Jesus went to Heaven and SENT the Holy Spirit so that God could be with us and IN us at all times. Jesus could only be in one place at a time. HS can be moving and does move in millions of ways all at once! WOW! Talk about genius! God is GENIUS in sending the SPIRIT to lead us just like Jesus led the disciples and all who followed Him, the Spirit leads us. WOW!

Thought today and the next two weeks, I'm going to tell you "GHOST STORIES" stories of when the Holy Ghost took over a situation and introduced Jesus.

The Holy Spirit (Holy Ghost) will always point attention to Jesus. (away from man)

GHOST STORY 1 - DWIGHT at AT&T on Thursday

Thursday morning I decided to go get a new phone bc no matter what I did, I couldn't get my phone to have good signal and work well.

The Holy Spirit led me there. I didn't realize it at the time, but He was leading me there.

Dwight was bent over in pain when I walked in. This is a huge man - 7 foot tall. I walked over to him. He tried to walk towards me but could barely walk bc of his pain.

I asked a few questions about my phone - letting him know mine wasn't working well - those first few minutes, I was feeling like I'm supposed to pray for him. I asked if I could pray and he said "sure"

Next thing you know I say amen and he stands up straight and say Oh my gosh I feel great! My pain is gone! Oh my word how'd you do that! I can't believe this!!! He was telling his coworkers. He jumped up and down a little... He was totally healed! I kept telling him "Jesus healed you!" And next thing you know he shouts to his coworkers "Jesus healed me y'all!"

These are "Ghost Stories" Stories of the Holy Ghost brining glory to Jesus - awakening someone's heart to the care and concern and love of Jesus, the Son of God!

God intended man to be a reflection of Him on this physical earth - an image of God on the earth. The Holy Spirit enables us to become what God intended - an image of Jesus on the earth.

What Is The Holy Spirit Baptism?

Baptism of the Spirit enables us to be God's image on the earth.

In John 14 Jesus told us that when the Holy Spirit comes, God will "make His home" in our hearts. We become the temple or the HOME of God. WOW!

We read that when we are baptized in the Holy Spirit, like the early believers, we will be immersed in God's ocean of love. We'll be passionate about the things God is passionate about.

John 14:12-15

12 "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.

13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak,

and he will declare to you the things that are to come. 14 He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. 15 All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

Jesus empowers His followers to live like Him (Acts 1:8, Acts 2:6, 1 Cor 3, etc (and now that is you and me)

And it turns out that because we're partnering with our Creator, we find JOY in knowing Him and JOY in bringing truth to others! When I do what I'm made to do, I find joy. When I do something other than what I'm made to do, I find frustration.

The Holy Spirit enables us to find joy in sharing the truth of Jesus with others!

Acts 1:8

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. ESV

When the Holy Spirit comes upon you and me, He will make us courageous enough and passionate enough to tell people about Jesus! He empowers us to pray for the sick and offer the hope of Jesus to all who are open to receiving Him!

Acts 2:1-6

When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. ² And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³ And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them.

⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. ⁵ Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. ⁶ And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language.

So the Holy Spirit came exactly as Jesus had promised to all who were waiting for Him. Notice that 500 were promised the Holy Spirit's baptism in Acts 1:8 as Jesus ascended to heaven. 500 heard the offer and were given the promise but only 120 were in the upper room waiting and believing for it. The same is true today. All are offered the promise of the Spirit but many won't actually receive it because they're not wanting it, waiting for it, valuing it.

Let us be a people who desires to receive all that Father God wants to give us! 380 people didn't receive what the Father had promised that day! 120 did. 120 were ready, positioned to receive what God had for them.

What's this about "speaking in other tongues" as verse 4 says?

So the Bible teaches us "those that were filled began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance." So the Holy Spirit gives us a "heavenly language" or it's also been called a "spiritual language" or "prayer language" It's taken on many terms over the years but it all means the same. Speaking in tongues is our way of connecting with God in a special unique way.

Notice though that this is different than the "gift of tongues and interpretation" mentioned in Romans 12 and 1 Cor. 12. That gift is to be used in the assembly of the believers as the Spirit prompts a certain person and usually happens as everyone gets quiet as if God has a message to say to us all.

But ALL are promised a prayer language from heaven. Now there have been many who I BELIEVE are filled with the Spirit like Billy Graham who didn't speak in tongues. But clearly the Spirit flowed through Him to draw millions to trust in Jesus. But what we see in Scripture is that most times when Holy Spirit is poured out, people who are filled speak in other tongues.

YES it's mysterious.

YES it seems weird in the sense that it's foreign.

But just because something is foreign to you or seemingly strange, doesn't mean it isn't God or a gift from God.

Let Him do something NEW in your life.

The Holy Spirit is not limited by cultural barriers. He is bilingual, trilingual and every and all lingual! The Kingdom of Heaven supersedes every culture on earth to communicate the glory of Jesus to mankind.

GHOST STORY 2 - Mexico Missions Trip Elderly Couple

I was extra open to letting the Holy Spirit work in me on that Youth Group Missions Trip. For some reason I remember telling God in my tent on that hard dirt floor "God use me this week." Person after Person that I met I had a prophetic word for. Holy Spirit would move; I'd share something through the interpreter, she'd say it in Spanish and you could see the person react under the glory of God's presence.

I remember one couple in particular. They were easily about 70. 65 at the least but I'd guess in their 70's. I asked like I always did "Can I pray for you?" Once they said yes I saw in my mind's eye a picture of them arguing with people at church and never going back.

I said "I believe the Lord wants you to know that you need to forgive people at your church and go back. He doesn't want you to stay bitter and holding a grudge towards them. You belong there and they are your church family..." Both of them began to cry.

They said through the interpreter that they had an argument about 2 years ago and were so hurt and never went back.

God as the HOLY GHOST, was speaking to them bringing them into alignment with His will for their life. That was a corrective word, a kinda call to repentance like the old days prophetic words were - but it was what they needed. God loved them enough to speak the truth. The Spirit of Truth brought TRUTH to their hearts that they tried to ignore.

Let Him do something new in YOUR life!

Are you OPEN to the Spirit of Truth bringing you into alignment with His will for your life? Even if it offends you?

Are you truly open to what God has for you? OR do you want to just live an average, mundane version of Christianity? I hope you're like me and you want ALL that God has for you!

Is the Holy Spirit Baptism just for Pastors, Small Group Leaders or Board Members? NO!

Who is it for? Everyone!

Acts 2:38-39 (ESV): And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself."

Everyone can receive the gift of Holy Spirit Baptism!
Everyone can be filled with the Holy Spirit!

I've seen children baptized in the Holy Spirit and moving in His gifts!
Holy Spirit wants to fill every Christian who's heart is open to being filled - every person who is actually open to the things of God - open to God doing a NEW thing in their life.

Jesus only gave us one pre-requisite for receiving the Holy Spirit? What is it? Thirst.

Jesus said in John 7:37 “Those are THIRSTY” will be filled with the Spirit.

Remember, God doesn't force His ways upon you. He is a powerful gentlemen. He waits to see if you are thirsty and humble enough to ask for a drink.

Woman at The Well

He prophecies to her and tells her that she can have her thirst in life quenched - that she can finally be happy if she'd only turn to Jesus and be filled with the Holy Spirit. He spoke to the deepest part of her soul

That's what the prophetic does - it gets to the heart of the matter quickly. At the heart of most problems is a problem of the heart. And Jesus knew she had a heart problem. She was never happy, never full of joy, always wanting another fix, another man, another short-term solution to an eternal longing.

Jesus stood right in front of her and offered her the Living Water Of The Holy Spirit. She realized that what He said was truth - she sense the Spirit of Truth - the same Spirit of Truth that guides you and me as believers today - and she gave her heart to Jesus and was filled with LIVING WATER.

What happened as a result?

John 7:37-39

³⁷ On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. ³⁸ Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’ ” ³⁹ Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

A days after this encounter with the woman from Samaria, Jesus goes up to Jerusalem for the Feast of Tabernacles (aka Feast of Booths)

Imagine a music festival where everyone comes to camp out in tents. That's what it looked like - hundreds of families coming to Jerusalem, setting up their tent, their tabernacle - to emulate the years in their history when their ancestors traveled with Moses in tents in the wilderness.

When Jesus enters the temple and loudly declares that He's the living water and no one would ever thirst again once they drink from Him, He was there during feast of tabernacles when the high priest would pour a large cistern of oil down the temple steps to illustrate what the prophet foretold about rivers of living water. Sadly, even some of the priest didn't recognize Jesus for who He was as He stood in their midst and declared His identity.

GHOST STORY 3 - Carlos Annocondia

Carlos Annocondia was used greatly in Argentina primarily in the 90's as God was healing thousands of people through his ministry. Sean Smith was seeking what revival was all about and he visited the revival in Argentina. He got some alone time with

Carols. He asked him “Besides the person and working of the Holy Spirit, what revelation launched the outpouring that resulted in all these miracles...” He said he’ll never forget Carlo’s response ... “There is no greater revelation than the person of the Holy Spirit. He is the reason this revival has taken place.”

Do you realize that God can transform an entire country, even an entire continent for the glory of Jesus when the Holy Spirit is welcomed and invited to do what He wants!?

Jesus was standing in front of hundreds of people as He shouted “Whoever believes in me, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water” and yet only SOME embraced that truth.

The same is true today. In this exact moment in time, as I preach about the person of the Holy Spirit, some of you will leave here today unchanged, not seeking Him at all. BUT, some of you will come forward and receive the gift of the Spirit and be forever changed.

Same Holy Spirit. Same Spirit of Jesus.

Same room. Same message. Same opportunity.

The difference is the posture of the heart. Is your heart open to letting God do something new? Do you WANT THE HOLY GHOST!?

Do you see Him for who He is? Or is He just another add-on in your life - a good teacher - someone with some nice ideas about how to be a good person - OR is the Living Water who has satisfied your very soul and caused to be born again - a new person!

This woman at the well - she was filled with living water of the Spirit, then she was led by the Spirit to tell everyone in her town about Jesus!

Do you realize that only Jesus is the Living Water who will satisfy your very soul and make your life more rich and beautiful than you ever imagined? The Holy Spirit is the voice of Jesus on the earth. He fills a void that possessions, popularity, power and people can never fill.

As humans we try to fill this void where the Spirit of Jesus is designed to live. We try to fill it with **possessions**, with **popularity** (acceptance and/or praise of others) with **power** (authority or high roles at work) achievement

Many people, even Christians, don’t understand what’s available to them. They accept Christ as Savior but fail to recognize that Jesus - the Holy Spirit of Jesus - who is JESUS ON THE EARTH NOW - the Holy Spirit/Spirit of Jesus is the ONLY ONE, the only thing in life that will satisfy your should.

DO YOU WANT THE HOLY GHOST!?!?

What Does The Holy Spirit Do?

The Holy Spirit, the voice of God on the earth, evokes, enables, empowers & educates.

The Holy Spirit evokes a response to God; He convicts us of sin.

John 16:7–15 (ESV): “Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send Him to you. 8 And when He comes, He will convict the world concerning sin (evokes glory to Jesus and surrender of man) and righteousness and judgment: 9 concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; 10 concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see Me no longer; 11 concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

“No one comes to the Father unless the Spirit draws him” so the HS draws men to God - convicting them of sin.

The Holy Spirit enables us to be born again and enables God to reside in us.

Remember what we read in John 14 where Jesus said...

“You will be IN me and I will be IN you. The Father and I will make our home in you.” - Jesus

WOW!

Jesus told His disciples “Look, right now I’m with you but it’s better for you if I go bc I’ll be IN you and will never leave you. I will tabernacle with you at all times. You won’t have to GO TO the tabernacle to meet with God because you ARE the tabernacle!”

The Baptism is NOT tongues. The tongues are a possible and likely sign of being baptized. They are a sign, not the gift itself. The gift is a person. Tongues are a sign.

The goal is not that you speak in other tongues, although you will likely speak in other tongues once you are baptized. The goal is that you look like Jesus and are empowered to tell people about Him.

Let me illustrate. **Tea Kettle ILL>**

My wife has this teal blue tea kettle on the stove. She likes to make tea.

After we get the kids and bed she doesn’t look at me with excitement and say “I’m going to put some water in the tea kettle on the stove so it get’s really hot and whistles! I love when it whistles! I love that high pitch shrilling sound it makes when it gets hot. That’s why I make tea!”

No. She doesn’t say that. Why? Because that’s NOT why she the puts the water on the stove! She puts the water on the stove so that she can make tea. So that something useful can come out of her effort.

The whistling is just the by-product; it's simply one of the effects of all that energy building up steam and pressure and yes it's designed to let you know that when it whistles, the water IS indeed hot.

But the whistling is NOT the purpose of the tea kettle.

In the same way, the Holy Spirit baptizes you and I with one distinct purpose in mind: To empower us to look like Jesus - to glorify Him - to tell people about JESUS!

DO YOU WANT THE HOLY GHOST!?!?

The Holy Spirit empowers us to partner with Jesus to bring truth to others.

Let Him fill you, empower you, evoke worship to Jesus out of you and let Him teach you the best way to do things. He can teach you the best way to say things, the best time to approach a matter or a person about a matter. He's a teacher; He's the Spirit of Counsel Scripture says. So...

The Holy Spirit educates us!

The Holy Spirit specifically teaches us - educates us - on how we're gifted and how to reach our cities, how to reach our neighbor for Jesus, etc.

What does a good Teacher do? A great teacher teaches specifically HOW their students best learn.

Repeat that

This is also why I'm slow to judge another church on their corporate decisions. Why? Because the HELPER is teaching THEM on how THEY can reach THEIR city.

The beauty and genius of God is that His Holy Spirit specifically instructs and educates each believer and church how they can strategically reach those within *their city - their Jerusalem, Judea & Samaria*. What works to reach people in my city could be totally different than what works to reach people in another city.

This is another reason why we as Christ-followers so desperately need the Holy Spirit!

He guides us into all truth, enabling us to live righteously.

He empowers us with boldness to speak about Jesus without fear, filling us with God's love.

He educates us as to who we are to reach, how we are to reach them, and even when we are to reach them.

There are times when the Holy Spirit says “NOW” and you do it.

Sometimes He says “Them.” “Now”

And we must learn to obey Him right away.

He’s like a wind at times telling us what to do - but like the wind, it can be very unexpected.

GHOST STORY 4 - Olivia Smith

Olivia our administrator was telling me she has been more bold now than ever before to share her faith and the TRUTH of who Jesus is - to old friends, to new friends, to people on Tik Tok - to anyone she encounters. The Holy Spirit has revived her and filled with a desire that people walk in the freedom and TRUTH of JESUS Christ! Who did that in her? What did that? What force has brought that about? THE HOLY SPIRIT!

DO YOU WANT THE HOLY GHOST!?!?

Turn to Acts 16 please. I want to tell yo about ...

Paul and Silas’ Trip: notice as we read when it says ... “And the Holy Spirit did not permit them to go ...”

Acts 16:6–10 Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia.

7 After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Holy Spirit did not permit them. 8 So passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas. 9 And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” 10 Now after he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go to Macedonia, concluding that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them.”

So the Holy Spirit had specific places for them to go and specific assignments. The Holy Spirit even stopped them from going somewhere. The Holy Spirit teaches us where to go and even what to say once we’re there. He teaches us who to pray for and even gives us discernment concerning the needs of people. So...

The Holy Spirit educates us. He is our personal teacher, guiding us into what God wants.

The Holy Spirit can be your best friend! If you’re to be a Christ follower, the Holy Spirit must be your best friend! Even if friends tell you one thing, you have a best friend named the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth, who will tell you the best thing.

**Don't compromise the 'best thing' for the opportune thing.
Just cause something looks right doesn't mean it's for you. Holy Spirit calls us into holiness.**

Many Christians take steps in the wrong direction in their job, in their relationships because they don't take time to pray - to ask the Holy Spirit what He thinks about it.

You have the wisest, most brilliant counselor and advisor in all the universe and yet how often do you not consult with Him?

Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Counsel - He's our teacher. He educates us in all matters. How to parent, how to design something at work, how to get along with your boss or co-worker or relate to that difficult co-worker, how to write music if you're song writer, how to cook if you love to cook, how to love someone well.

The Holy Spirit taught me and Olivia last week WHICH flowers to send to a single mom in our church. We thought it was chance - Holy Spirit had designed WHEN they would arrive AND WHAT TYPE of flowers would carry the greatest meaning.

When you are led by the Spirit of God, you are the children of God and you will walk in a favor that is unlike the rest of mankind.

Just because you can climb a hill doesn't mean it's a hill the Holy Spirit wants YOU to climb. Let Him teach you and give you advice. He can do that through rehma word meaning just Him to you during prayer. He can speak to you and advise you through what's called a prophetic word from another Christian. Scripture says to then test that word, pray it through and see if it's honoring to Jesus and brings you to a deeper level of surrender to Him and His will. Thirdly, Holy Spirit will advise you through a pastor or one of the 5 fold ministry: Apostle, Prophet, Teacher, Pastor or Evangelist. I wonder how many Christians are not hearing and learning what Holy Spirit wants to teach them because they refuse to make church - the gathering of God's people - a priority in their life. They say it's too hard to get the kids there. But they get the kids to school, to games, to everything else. I'm not being harsh, I'm brining you to reality. You will always make time for what you value most. You will always make time for what you value most. You like to eat. That's a high value in your life... so you take time to eat. You like your children to get an education. So you get them up, you get them ready, you feed them and you get them to school. You do that bc you value education. Parents who value the Body of Christ, the 5 fold gifts of Apostle Pastors Prophet Teacher & Evangelist - those who value the Family of believers will do something every Sunday apart from a funeral or vacation or something;

they'll get the kids up, get them ready and bring them to church. You will always make time for what you value most. Do you love the church? The Family of God? The Holy Spirit moving in your life and teaching you new things and revealing the beauty of Jesus?

Remember, Holy Spirit is a person. He's a friend, your best friend. He knows us and we can know Him therefore He can give us specific instructions for our lives as to how we are to personally please God by doing certain things. He teaches us *how* we are to reach certain people.

He teaches us about the Father. He's a voice to us telling us what we need to hear and learn each day. It's contextualized for us! How genius is this! AI has nothing on the Holy Spirit!

DO YOU WANT THE HOLY GHOST!?!?

Parent Illustration of Holy Spirit Relationship

Listen if you saw me in public with my children and I was correcting them or demanding they put their shoes on... you might think "He's kinda rough on them. Why is that stranger so demanding? Why is that random guy forcing his kids to eat their lunch? Why doesn't he just cut them some slack?"

Then you understand that I am their DAD and now you have none of those thoughts.

Now, because you understand my relationship to those children, you have a different view about my actions.

When you understand the relationship of one person to another, you understand or properly assume their actions.

When you tell me the Holy Spirit spoke to you about going to another church to serve there, I'm not going to be angry at you or make you feel guilty about your faith decisions... No. Why? Because I'm trusting that you have a relationship with the Holy Spirit who is your Helper who guides YOU into all truth - the path that HE wants YOU on, not the path that I want you on. I don't assume you're an illegitimate child. I assume that you DO have a Heavenly Father who speaks to you and you're to build HIS church not my church.

What if more pastors understood this? What if more ministers let the Holy Spirit do the leading? I think there'd be a lot less heart-ache and a lot more joy.

God's ways are higher than our ways the Holy Spirit IS the Educator, the TEACHER, who wants to speak to us and tell us where to work, where to minister, how to love our spouse well, how to parent, how to honor our boss, even if they're difficult. The Holy Spirit teaches us!

The Holy Spirit **evokes** a response of surrender to Jesus, glorifying Him.

The Holy Spirit **enables** us to accomplish the works of Jesus on the earth.

The Holy Spirit **empowers** us to live righteous & compassionate, to be the people God intends us to be.

The Holy Spirit **educates** us as to how & where we are to minister. He **enlightens** the Scripture, illuminating it's truth for us on a daily basis.

The Holy Spirit educates us, teaches us HOW to minister to each person and each city we are called to.

He teaches us how to love our spouse and give them the treatment that they deserve. If you're a woman, the Holy Spirit will teach you how to treat your husband like a king. If you're a man, the Holy Spirit will teach you how to treat your wife like a queen. The Holy Spirit is the teacher who whispers to your heart "Put the dishes away."

He will whisper "Why don't you cook for her tonight?" Or "Your wife would like her feet rubbed."

Some of y'all might say "pshhh my wife's feet are nasty! The Holy Spirit would never ask me to do such a thing! Look I'll go be a missionary in Africa but I aint rubbing her feet!"

LOL

Just having some fun with this.

But really. The Holy Spirit is the voice of God on the earth. Jesus said "it'll be better for you if I go bc He'll remind you of everything I've said and lead you into all truth."

You see the Holy Spirit is the one who leads you - teaching you to be selfless, generous, kind, patient, merciful, understanding, giving, committed, faithful, honest, friendly... these are things the Holy Spirit teaches you as you welcome Him into your life.

Let me ask again ... **DO YOU WANT THE HOLY GHOST!?!?**

MUSIC STARTS: 2020 REWORKED by Christopher Galovan (on Prayer Soak playlist)

GHOST STORY 5 - Father's Heart of Adoption

Once we are filled, we THEN can be led by the Spirit. Jesus is our example. The same way Jesus was led by the Spirit to care for the marginalized is the same way that we are led (empowered, enabled, educated by...) The Holy Spirit.

The Holy Ghost came upon me in such a powerful way 3 years ago when it came to foster care. He did it in Danielle's heart first. She'd cry just taking about kids needing a home. I'd say "ill think about it."

Next thing you know, I'm crying. Like all the time - like every time I read a scripture where the word "FATHER" is present, I would just tear up.

Every song that had the word father or son I'd tear up. I had some UGLY CRIES y'all!

Times when God was laying a heavy burden upon my heart - not just for one kid but for the kids in our region - the orphans in our backyard. God did that in me - how? THE HOLY SPIRIT.

In Luke 4, the Holy Spirit came UPON Jesus and anointed Him to preach Good News. "The Spirit of the sovereign Lord is upon me to bring good news to the poor, to set the captive free, to bring liberty to the oppressed..." Some in Pentecostal or Charismatic circles think the Spirit of God comes upon us for one person only - goose bumps during a good song or good sermon. NO MY FRIEIND. The Spirit of God comes upon you for one purpose and that's to bring glory to JESUS to bring you in alignment with the heart of God and that heart is to love the marginalized, care for the orphan, love the single mom, pick up the stranger and call him friend, give money to whomever needs it, the Spirit of the Sovereign God comes upon us to teach us how to love like Jesus loves!

The Holy Spirit filled Jesus.

The Holy Spirit led Jesus, first into a time of testing, then back into the city where He grew up.

The Holy Spirit empowered Jesus to set captives free by giving them the truth about forgiveness!

The same is true for us when the Holy Spirit fills us or baptizes us - we are empowered and enabled to preach the Good News to others and become the person God intends us to become.

How & When Are We Filled With The Holy Spirit?

We can and should be continually filled with the Holy Spirit baptism.

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*, ...

Eph 5:18 Be filled - that Greek word for “filled” means “Ongoing. Continuous or Continually”

How? It's a mystery. **We simply ask and He does it.** We wait. We seek. We worship. We thirst. THEN He fills us!

Our Role: THIRST & DESIRE

John 7:37–39 (ESV): 37 “On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. 38 Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’ ” 39 Now this He said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.”

We have to simply want it! We have to thirst for the Holy Spirit Baptism. That's IT!

My Story of being Baptized in the Holy Spirit

Are you asking the Father for the Holy Spirit? Are you believing in faith that He will give it to you and will withhold no good gift from you?

We have power to live righteously and change the culture around us! We can bring LIFE to others by the same Holy Spirit power!

Holy Spirit Baptism Call

I want to invite the prayer team to go **to the sides of the church** and we're going to pray today for each of you who want filled with the Holy Spirit. If you want the Holy Spirit LIFE to fill you again like we've been talking about today, then step out of your seat and come thirsty for God to meet you!