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October 5 & 6, 2019

Valley Church
Week 31: The Filling of the Holy Spirit

Introduction

Acts 2:3
Matthew 3:11-12

How Am I To Be Filled With The Spirit? Three Keys...

1. The _____

Ephesians 5:18 – "...be (*continuously being*) filled with the Spirit."

- see also John 7:37-29

2. The _____

Ephesians 5:18 - "Do not be drunk (*controlled by, under the influence of*) on wine..."

3. The _____

How do we cultivate a life of being filled with the Spirit from the inside out?

- _____ by the Spirit (Galatians 5:16)
- Do not _____ the Spirit (Ephesians 4:30)
- Do not _____ the Spirit (1 Thessalonians 5:19)

The Big Idea:

"Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." (Jesus Christ, John 7:37-38)

QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

Personal Life:

1. Based upon the last two messages of our series, what do you understand to be the difference between the *baptism of the Spirit* and the *filling of the Spirit*?

Ponderings:

2. Read John the Baptist's statements in Matthew 3:11-12 as a group. With a passage this clear on what John means by the baptism of the Spirit (salvation) and the baptism of fire (judgment), why do you think so many Christians have been taught to link the "fire language" to the speaking in tongues of Acts 2:3-4?
3. How does understanding the filling of the Holy Spirit as something that comes from the inside-out (rather than the outside-in) affect your relationship with God in the way you pray? In the way you think about His work in and through you? Why is it critical for us as believers to think Biblically about the filling of the Spirit?
4. If Christ's Holy Spirit is permanently indwelling you, explain your understanding of how this ongoing "filling" of the Spirit is to work in your life...
5. In Paul's contrast between being under the influence of alcohol and under the influence of the Spirit (Eph. 5:18), what are the specific differences that come to mind?
6. If "being continually filled" with the Spirit is a command to be obeyed rather than a condition to be asked for in prayer – how do we, in practical terms obey that command?
7. Would you agree or disagree with the following statement: "The filling of the Holy Spirit is not about how much of the Spirit we have in us – but about how much of our lives we are yielding to His influence." Explain your perspective...

Promptings:

8. Will you, with God's grace in full view, trust Him in the days ahead to show you where you may be grieving or quenching the Spirit – and consciously yield those areas of your life to Him so that you will walk more obediently?