

Unwrap the Gift of Christmas: The Gift of Spirit-Filled Living

December 2-3, 2017

INTRODUCTION: Living Under the Influence

Mark 1:8 (All Verses from the New International Version 1984)
I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.

1. Water: Washed by the Spirit, welcome to a living relationship with God.

- Mark 1:4 ***And so John came, baptizing in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.***
- Acts 2:38 ***Peter replied, "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."***

2. Wind: Filled by the Holy Spirit, follow where He leads.

- Luke 4:1-2a, 14a ***¹Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert, ²where for forty days he was tempted by the devil...
^{14a} Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit.***

- John 14:26b *...the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.*
3. **Fire: Empowered by the Spirit, live the life God always intended.**
- Matthew 3:11 *I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.*
 - Acts 1:8b *...you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*

CONCLUSION: Holy Spirit Holes

A Holy Spirit Breath Prayer

When you inhale, pray: **Holy Spirit, fill my soul.**

When you exhale, pray: **Holy Spirit, guide my day.**

G.P.S. Grow. Pray. Study.

Things I'd like to remember from this week's message:

Get the weekly GPS on your computer/phone/etc. by going to the site: www.clcm-gps.com. You can also get automatic notifications by sending a text to 81010 with the text @clcm-gps, or by subscribing through Feedly.com (or any other RSS reader).

This week each day before you do the Bible reading and answer the question, use a Holy Spirit breath prayer to start your time with God. When you inhale, pray: **Holy Spirit, fill my soul**. When you exhale, pray: **Holy Spirit, guide my day**.

Day 1: Read *Mark 1:4*. You can't un-sin. You can only re-pent. You can't change the past, but you can remember your baptism, repent, and receive the forgiveness God desires to give. Where do you need to repent and be washed clean of your sins?

Day 2: Read *Acts 2:38*. The image of water for the Holy Spirit reminds us the Holy Spirit washes away our past. How can you embrace the truth today that God preempted your past faithlessness in your life with His past faithfulness on the cross?

Day 3: Read *Luke 4:1-2a, 14a*. These verses bracket three temptations of Jesus by Satan. Notice how the Spirit led Jesus into the temptation zone of the wilderness and then back to Galilee. Think of two places in the past 24 hours where the Holy Spirit has led you? What's the same? What's different? What's the lesson you're learning about the wind of the Spirit guiding you each day?

Day 4: Read *John 14:26*. The image of the wind reminds us the Holy Spirit leads us where we need to go, much like the wind leads a tumbleweed. So, if you were a tumbleweed, what direction is the Holy Spirit leading you in the past day and the day ahead?

Day 5: Read *Matthew 3:11* and *Mark 1:8*. Matthew has a longer version of what Jesus says than Mark does in *Mark 1:8*. How does the image of fire help you understand the life-changing work of the Holy Spirit?

Day 6: Read *Acts 1:8*. Jesus reminds His disciples of all ages how much we need the fire power of the Holy Spirit. Without the Holy Spirit, a good deed is most often not much more than a good try. Take time today to yield this day to the fire power of the Holy Spirit. How have you sensed the Holy Spirit's guidance as you have used a breath prayer for the Holy Spirit this week?

Going Deeper:

Book: *Embraced by the Spirit: The Untold Blessings of Intimacy with God* by Chuck Swindoll

Next Week: Isaiah 61:1-4 **Unwrap the Gift of Christmas: The Gift of Purpose-Filled Living**