

The Spirit and Kingdom Living

Pastor Jeremy Peters

Mark 1:8 NIV

"I baptize you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

A. What does it mean to be 'baptized' by the Holy Spirit?

To be baptized by the Holy Spirit means that He becomes _____ and _____ influential in our lives.

1. It does _____ mean that we get _____ of the Holy Spirit than we did at _____. Rather it means the Holy Spirit gets more of _____ (ie. our full _____).
2. It is _____ a _____ occurrence, but something that is _____.

Ephesians 5:18: *Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit...*

"**be filled**" has a verb tense that actually means "keep on being filled."

B. What does a life baptized (immersed) in the Spirit look like?

(According to Paul in Romans 8:1-14)

The Spirit-filled life (is)...

1. ...Free from the _____ of sin (vs. 2, 9)

And because you belong to him, *the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death.* (8:2)

But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. *You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you.* (8:9)

2. ...Naturally thinks about the things that _____ the Spirit (v. 5)

Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, *but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit.*

3. ...Able to enjoy the fruits of _____ and _____ (v. 6)

So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. *But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace.*

4. ...Experiences the same power that _____ Jesus from the dead (v. 11)

The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, *he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you.*

C. How do we enter fully into the Spirit-filled life?

1. Learn to _____ in Jesus
 - a) Invite Jesus into your day _____ getting out of bed
 - b) Utilize naturally occurring _____
 - c) _____ scripture phrases
 - d) _____ with Spiritual Disciplines

* See Pastor Jeremy's blog for a recap of the examples given here.

2. Leverage the power of _____

* For more on the Holy Spirit refer to the podcast "**Spirit—Empowered Living**" (April 22, 2012)

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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Mark 1:8, Romans 8:1-14

- 1) What from the teaching on Sunday morning stood out to you?
- 2) Have someone from your group read Romans 8:1-14 from “*The Message*” paraphrase. Ask Jesus to ‘highlight’ a word or phrase that He wants to draw to your attention and then discuss the following:
 - a) What phrase did Jesus ‘highlight’ to you?
 - b) Has this kind of life been your experience? If not, do you know anyone whose life reflects Paul’s description?
 - c) Do you think this kind of life is truly possible?
- 3) In his teaching on Sunday Pastor Jeremy referred to four things that are characteristic of a life immersed in the Spirit, one of which was that we are able to enjoy the fruits of life and peace.

In his book *The Me I Want to Be*, John Ortberg says:

“I asked a wise man, ‘how do you assess the well being of your soul?’”

He immediately said, “I ask myself two questions:

- am I growing more easily discouraged these days?*
- am I growing more easily irritated these days?”*

At the core of a flourishing soul are the love of God and the peace of God. If peace is growing in me I’m less easily discouraged, if love is growing in me I am less easily irritated.

As you feel comfortable, self-assess the ‘well being of your soul’ using this grid and share within your group. Be sensitive to the Spirit’s prompting to pray for one another.

- 4) In *The Message* rendering of Romans 8:4, Paul says “And now what the law code asked for but we couldn’t deliver is accomplished as we, **instead of redoubling our own efforts**, simply embrace what the Spirit is doing in us.”

Where in your life are you tempted to redouble your efforts instead of simply embracing what the Spirit is doing in your life?
- 5) Abiding in Jesus goes hand in hand with living a surrendered life to the Holy Spirit. In his sermon Pastor Jeremy spoke about a number of different ways that we can be intentional to abide in Christ.

What are some ways that you would like to intentionally engage Jesus throughout your everyday life?
- 6) Rehearsing a phrase from Scripture can deeply minister to an area in our life where spiritual growth is needed. Pastor Jeremy listed multiple examples of how a scriptural phrase might be used throughout our days to help ‘re-train’ ourselves to align with Jesus.

Can you identify an area in your life where rehearsing a phrase from scripture would be meaningful?

Consider experimenting with a scriptural phrase throughout the next 6 weeks of your Small Group study and then share what your experience was like.
- 7) Pray for each other using Romans 8 language, that you may more fully enter into a life immersed in the Holy Spirit.