

Paul's Bible Notes

In Step With the Spirit

Outline

God calls every believer to live by the Spirit. The natural outcome of this is that we should be walking in step with the Spirit. To walk in step with someone is to match their speed and direction.

It speaks of co-operation and unity. Our call is to walk in step daily with the Holy Spirit co-operating with him and allowing him to set the speed and direction of our lives.

Key Points & Scriptures

Galatians 5: 25

Paul was calling the Galatian church to live a life that was dramatically different to the people around them

- We're called as individuals and as a church to be counter cultural. In step with the Spirit but out of step with the world around us.
- We're supposed to stand out - In the world but not of the world.
- Culture is simply the shared values, attitudes and beliefs of a group - our values, attitudes and beliefs are based on God's word which means they will be massively different to the rest of society.
- Like the verse says we've just read shows, in order to be in step with the Spirit we first need to be living by the Spirit. The only way for us as individuals and as a church to fully live by the Spirit is to be filled with the Spirit.

What does being filled with the Spirit mean?

There are 2 aspects to this that we need to consider:

1) Firstly, When we're saved, God comes and dwells in us.

- **Romans 8: 9 and 2 Cor 1: 21-22**

- In one sense, every believer has a measure of the Holy Spirit. Salvation doesn't happen at the point when someone is baptised in the Spirit.

2) Secondly, there is the Baptism of the Spirit.

- **Acts 2: 1-14**

- It's a release of the Holy Spirit into our lives that empowers us for living, ministry, worship, prayer, service and witnessing.
- However, what I'm not suggesting is that there are 2 classes of Christians. Being baptised in the Spirit doesn't make us any more saved than a believer who isn't. In fact, you have to be saved in order to receive the baptism in the Spirit.

Holy Spirit brings empowerment for:

Living:

- He empowers us to be counter-cultural
- He empowers us to resist sin - **Romans 8: 13**
- He empowers us to break free from fear - **Romans 8: 14 -15**
- He empowers us to bear the fruit of the Spirit. **Galatians 5: 22-24**

Ministry:

- God has something for us all to do

- We're not supposed to keep the Good News for ourselves - **John 7: 37-39**

Worship:

- True worship is when our spirit connects with God.

Prayer:

- He guides and prompts us to pray - **Romans 8: 26**
- James says that the prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. Why? Because it is Spirit lead and full of faith.

Witnessing:

- We're called to be witnesses. But this isn't just supposed to be in words alone. It's supposed to be followed by a demonstration of the Spirit's power.
- **Mark 16: 15 - 18**
- **Acts 1: 8**

How do we live by the Spirit and ensure we stay in step with Him?

1) Firstly, be filled with the Spirit

- There is no formula for being filled
- You don't get filled through having good theology. It's possible to have all your doctrine sorted out but miss the Holy Spirit.
- Ask - What does James say? You have not because you ask not.
- Faith is key - **Hebrews 11: 6**

2) Secondly, once you are filled with the Spirit, Keep being filled up

- **Ephesians 5: 15-20**

3) Take time to be in God's presence and in his word, listen to what he says and then go do it.

4) Relax! God can be trusted to keep his promises, and the promise of the Holy Spirit is no different. Remember, we can position ourselves to receive but we can never earn it.

Conclusion

We've been issued a challenge, to walk in step with the Holy Spirit. It's up to each one of us as to whether we accept this invitation. When we walk in step with the Holy Spirit He empowers us to live, minister, worship, serve, pray and witness. If we're empowered in each of the areas, just think about the impact we can have for the Kingdom.

Life application questions

- 1) If you're not already baptised in the Holy Spirit and you would like to be, find a leader in your church, or someone who you know is Spirit filled (someone you trust) and ask them to pray for you.
- 2) If you are Spirit filled, ask God to show you 1 area in your life where you need to fall into step with the Holy Spirit.
- 3) Which aspect of the fruit of the Spirit do you need to develop?