

APPLICATION

What is the relevance of the Word to my life?

- Describe your present relationship with the Holy Spirit
- What kind of relationship would you like to have?

How do I apply the Word to my life?

- What are you going to do differently in response to the Word?
- What things are hindering you from an intimate relationship with the Holy Spirit?
- What fruit are you trusting God for in your life as you develop your relationship with the Holy Spirit?
- How could walking in the Spirit affect life on your frontline? (remember Acts 1:8)

PRAYER

- Pray for God to fill you (again!) with the Holy Spirit
- Pray for your spiritual appetite to be awakened or increased
- Pray for any friends, family and colleagues who still do not know Jesus

Jesus, A man full of the Holy Spirit

NOTES

WARM UP

I'll leave this to you this week! Perhaps those who were at church on Sunday can share if God did anything for them.

WORD

*The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recover of sight to the blind, to set the oppressed free, and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour. **Luke 4:18,19***

In Luke's Gospel, we see clearly the portrait of Jesus as a MAN, full of the HOLY SPIRIT. Several times in chapters 3 and 4, Luke records that Jesus went out in the "power of the Spirit" – and in Luke 4:18, Jesus himself declares that his entire mission is going to be possible because "The Spirit of the Lord is on me." In other words, "everything I'm going to say and do from now on, is going to be by the power of the Holy Spirit." He didn't say and do amazing things primarily because he was God – he said and did things, as he was led by the Holy Spirit. This has very important implications for you and I today:

1. I CAN WALK AS JESUS WALKED

*"Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father". **Romans 1:20***

The significance of Jesus, "going to the Father," is that the Holy Spirit could not be sent until Jesus was glorified (John 7:39). For many of us, the Christian life is pretty ordinary. Apart from going to church and a few behavioural modifications, we don't look too different from the world. If we're honest, most of us realise that there is a world of difference between the Christianity of the Bible and the life we're living – and more than likely, for a good number of us, there is a quiet dissatisfaction. Friends, we need not be dissatisfied! If Jesus, the apostles, and the early church did mighty exploits for God because they were filled with the Spirit, then so can we! How satisfied are you with your Christian walk? Do you long for more? If so, what in particular?

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2. IF I AM FILLED AS JESUS WAS FILLED

*"And as he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." **Luke 3:22***

We often think of being filled with the Spirit as a once off event – or maybe something that happens from time to time. The reality is that the normal Christian life is a life of WALKING DAILY in the Spirit. This means being constantly aware of God's presence in your life – his love, affirmation and guidance. Practically, we do this by reading his Word daily, spending time in prayer (two-way prayer, where we also LISTEN and not just SPEAK), and fasting. Fasting helps us to subdue our flesh in pursuit of the things of the Spirit. It's a physical hunger that helps us to stir our spiritual hunger. How hungry are you spiritually, and what can you do to stir up hunger?

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3. AND ALL I NEED TO DO IS ASK!

*"If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?" **Luke 11:11***

We are so accustomed to working for everything we get – and that's wholly appropriate; except for the things the Bible teaches us that we can never earn with our labour or good deeds! Things like salvation and the gift of the Holy Spirit. Jesus teaches us that God our Father is eager to give the Holy Spirit to us when we ASK him. In the power of the Spirit, Jesus overcame temptation, proclaimed the truth of the Kingdom of God, healed the sick, raised the dead, overcame opposition from people, remained focussed on his mission, went to the cross, and was raised from the dead! What are you and I going to do WITHOUT the power of the Holy Spirit?

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