

To Stir Up the Fire of The Holy Spirit

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“Why do some churches stop growing?” Many people have shown concern about this issue. To answer this question, we can find many answers. If we summarize various answers, we can come to a conclusion: Man is estranged from God.

Many members seem very busy nowadays, but they lose the direction in life. Actually being “busy” cannot accomplish great things; yet it makes people to overlook prayers in spirit. Hence the power of the Holy Spirit cannot be manifested. Without spreading the fragrance of Christ, how can we edify one another? This kind of church will lose the testimonies of life. As a result, how do we stir up the fire of the Holy Spirit? Or, how can we be filled with the Holy Spirit? This is the main point for our self-reflection.

1. The effect brought with the fullness of the Holy Spirit

The development in the initial stage of apostolic era was based upon the believers’ following the Lord’s teaching, waiting for the descending of the Holy Spirit. Until the Holy Spirit descended, they received great power and bravely testified for the Lord (Acts 1:8). The gospel was spread from Jerusalem, the land of Judah, Samaria, to the end of the earth. This was the effect of the Holy Spirit.

We shall frequently ask ourselves: Have we pursued the fullness of the Holy Spirit before we serve? Without the fullness of the Holy Spirit, we will not have sufficient power, hence the servitude will become fruitless and the work will be done in vain. Thus it is very important to pursue the fullness of the Holy Spirit before serving.

In Acts, we can see the effect brought by the fullness of the Holy Spirit. Paul and Peter evangelized and achieved much, and many people added to the church daily. This proves the effect brought by the fullness of the Holy Spirit.

2. When does the Holy Spirit fully fill in our heart?

The seventy disciples sent by the Lord accomplished the work and returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name.” (Lk 10:1, 17) This shows some results from the work. Some may conclude that it is the appearance of being fully filled with the Holy Spirit. However, the Lord said “He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” The Lord Jesus spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified (which means the Lord had not yet died, resurrected and ascended) (Jn 7:38-39). At that time the reason why the disciples displayed the power is not by receiving the Holy Spirit. Instead, by the name of the Lord, they received special gifts.

The Holy Spirit promised by the Lord is the One, first descending in Jerusalem after the

Lord's resurrection, received by the believers when they prayed, and they began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. (Acts 2:4)

When Ananias laid his hands on Saul, he said "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." (Acts 9:17)

Many believers were filled with the Holy Spirit after prayer and spoke the word of God with boldness (Acts 4:8-12, 31), and they even died for the Lord (Acts 7:55-56). This is to say that in their prayer, not only they received the Holy Spirit, but at the same time the effort was brought from the fullness of the Holy Spirit.

3. How to be filled with the Holy Spirit?

The Lord taught the Samaritan woman to worship God in spirit and truth. (Jn 4:24)

When we come before the presence of the Lord, we shall worship God in spirit and in truth. We need to have a habit to come to church early and pray for the fullness of the Holy Spirit. When we receive the truth, our spirit can receive contentment and rest.

Those who have not received the Holy Spirit shall earnestly pray for the promised Holy Spirit by faith, and the Lord will grant it to us (Acts 2:38-39). Those who have received the Holy Spirit shall pursue the fullness of the Holy Spirit. We shall pray every day to let the Holy Spirit gradually come up over to us until we fully immerse in it (Eze 47:3-5). So that we will understand the will of God and be joyfully walk with the Lord and to bear fruit of the Holy Spirit (Gal 5:16-18). If we are always filled with the Holy Spirit, we will rejoice. Not only we like to pray, but also pray unceasingly (1Thess 5:7).

Conclusion:

For spiritual growth, we shall humbly pray for the fullness of the Holy Spirit, so that we can regain an abundant life to become a bearer of the testimonies of the Lord.

For the development of the church, the church council members shall set a good example and place importance on prayers in spirit (Jude 20, Eph 5:18). We shall stir up the fire of the Holy Spirit when we serve. As a result, the pastoral and evangelical work will make significant progress and become evident of the fullness of the Holy Spirit. Many people will be saved and be added to the fold daily.