

## ***What Does it Mean to be Filled with the Holy Spirit? — February 4-5, 2017***

### **Follow-up Bible Studies**

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#### **Day One: Judges 14**

- Who are the characters of this story (1-2)? What does Samson want (2)? Describe his conversation with his parents, along with how the Lord was at work (3-4).
- What happened near the vineyards (5-6)? How does this outpouring of the Holy Spirit compare to what we usually expect of the Spirit? Consider whether you are complicit in taming the Holy Spirit. Pray God opens your eyes to see him and experience him as wild and powerful.
- How did things unfold with Samson's betrothed and the aftermath of the lion attack (7-11)? Describe the situation with the riddle (12-18). What happened when the Holy Spirit again filled Samson (19)? What else happened when Samson was angry (19-20)?
- Not only is the Holy Spirit untamed in this story, but he also reveals a willingness to move through people who are acting less than stellar. Ruminates on this with the Lord.

#### **Day Two: Luke 4:14-21**

- Set the scene of this text (14-16). What was Jesus' experience of the Holy Spirit (14)? What was given to Jesus to read (16-17)? Summarize the specific text he read (18-19)? It outlines five actions he claimed to be anointed to do. Give an example of what walking out each of these would look like. Do you think one needs the Holy Spirit to do any of these things? Why or why not?
- What similarities do you notice between verse 14 and the beginning of verse 18? Do you think Jesus knew which scroll would be handed to him? Did he already have in mind which section he wanted to read? Who or what was guiding his actions in these moments? Invite God into these considerations, asking him to impart a fresh Spirit-inspired view of these verses.
- What happened after Jesus' reading (20)? What did he say (21)? Imagine yourself in the audience with your eyes "fastened on him," listening to his words in verse 21. How do you feel?

#### **Day Three: Luke 4:31-37**

- What is the setting (31)? What was Jesus doing (31)? How did the people respond (32)? What do you think the text means by "his words had authority"? Was it Jesus' tone of voice, body language, or something else that gave his words authority? Explain.
- Describe the demonized man's behavior (33-34). How did Jesus address the demon (35)? What did the demon do (35)? Similar to their response to Jesus' *teaching*, how did the people react to his *activity* (36)? What exactly do you think they were noticing about Jesus? Who else heard about what he was doing (37)?
- This text practically illustrates the power of the Holy Spirit to work miracles through people. Ask God to help you notice the world's need for miracles. Each day this week, ask the Holy Spirit to empower you and use you to do miracles as Jesus did.

#### **Day Four: Acts 2:1-21**

- Set the scene of this text (1). Describe the sudden event (2-4). Contrast this with how you typically experience the Holy Spirit. Talk to the Lord now about how you desire to experience the Spirit; share with him your deepest longings.
- How did Jews from all over the world respond to this event (6-12)? What did a subset of this group assume was happening (13)? Compare this to Ephesians 5:18. What do you think of comparing the influence of alcohol to the influence of the Holy Spirit?

- What happened next (14)? What were Peter's opening statements to the crowd (14-16)? Summarize the prophecy he quotes from Joel (17-21). Which part of the prophecy moves you the most? Why? Give thanks to God for the way the Holy Spirit is speaking to you through this text. Ask him how he wants you to respond.
- How can you position yourself to regularly experience the outpouring of the Holy Spirit? Think of one or two helpful spiritual practices and begin to engage in them this week.

#### **Day Five: Romans 8:1-17**

- Who is not condemned (1)? Why (2)? Here Paul is emphasizing the Holy Spirit's power to purify us. How does this function compare to the Holy Spirit's role in empowering us to do the miracles of Jesus? Which attribute draws you in the most? Why?
- Summarize how living according to the law and flesh compares to living according to the Spirit (3-8). In what realm do believers reside (9)? Describe life in this realm (10-11). In one sentence, sum up life in the Spirit. Evaluate whether your life reflects this definition. Ask God for grace to make it so.
- What obligation comes with the Holy Spirit (12-13)? Contrast sonship with the slavery of the law (14-15). How does the Holy Spirit help us to know this new status (15-16)? What does it mean to be not only a son but also an heir (17)?
- Meditate on how radical transformations in your relationship with God flow from "the law of the Spirit." In response, take some time to thank God for the gift of being filled with the Holy Spirit.