



The first is this: surrender to the Spirit's leading, even into the wilderness.

Verse 1 tells us the Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness. That word led in the original Greek is actually the word for being driven or carried. It is an active, directional word.

The Spirit is not passive. He has a direction for your life, and sometimes that direction runs straight through the hardest place you have ever been in. If you are in a wilderness season right now, do not assume that God is absent or that you took a wrong turn.

Ask yourself whether the Spirit is in fact leading you into this season for a purpose. What is being stripped away? What dependency on your own resources is being exposed? What is God trying to cultivate in the quiet and uncomfortable places of this season?

Surrender to the Spirit's leading does not mean passive fatalism. It means active trust. It means continuing to pray, to stay in the Word, to gather with other believers, to stay in the rhythms of spiritual life even when you cannot see what God is doing. Because the text says Jesus came out of the wilderness in the power of the Spirit. The wilderness was the pathway to the power.

Secondly, stay full of the Spirit by staying surrendered to God.

Notice that verse 1 does not say Jesus was filled once at His baptism and then coast. It says He was full of the Spirit as He entered the wilderness. The language implies an ongoing state. Ephesians 5:18 commands us to be filled with the Spirit, and the verb tense in the Greek means to keep on being filled, continuously. It is not a one-time experience. It is a daily orientation of your heart toward God.

Practically, this means beginning each day with a conscious surrender. Not just asking God to bless your plans, but genuinely placing yourself under the Spirit's direction. It means taking seriously the things the Spirit brings to your attention about sin, about relationships that need repair, about people God is nudging you toward.

It means not grieving the Spirit through persistent disobedience, and not quenching the Spirit by shutting down what He is doing in and around you. A Spirit-filled life is not a dramatic, perpetually emotional life. It is a life that is consistently, quietly oriented toward God's presence.

Thirdly, know your anointing and walk in it.

In verse 18, Jesus read His mission statement out loud. He declared publicly what the Spirit had anointed Him to do. I want to ask you a direct question today. Do you know what you are anointed for? Do you know what the Spirit has uniquely gifted and called you to bring to the world?

One of the most remarkable transformations in the New Testament is the story of Peter. In John 18, on the night of Jesus' arrest, Peter stood warming himself by a fire and denied three times that he even knew Jesus. He was afraid of a servant girl. He was operating in his own cowardice, totally disconnected from the power of God. But then Acts chapter 2 happens.

The Spirit falls at Pentecost. And the same Peter who could not admit to knowing Jesus in a courtyard now stands before thousands of people in Jerusalem and preaches with such authority and conviction that three thousand people are added to the church in a single day. Same person. Completely different power. The only explanation for that transformation is the Holy Spirit.

You have been anointed. The Spirit who lives in you has gifted you, called you, and placed you exactly where you are for a reason. But most of us are living in the courtyard, afraid of servant girls, when God has called us to stand in the public square and proclaim good news. The empowering presence of the Spirit is not reserved for professional ministers and full-time missionaries. It is the inheritance of every single person who has said yes to Jesus. The question is whether we are walking in what we have been given.