

# COMMISSIONED

THE ART OF LIVING OUT THE  
WORDS, WAYS, & MISSION OF JESUS

## 5.1 Infilling of the Holy Spirit

### Way of Empowerment

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At National Community Church, we believe that discipleship is fueled by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit plays a unique role in the Trinity and so we want to be deeply anchored in the Spirit so that discipleship isn't merely mentorship. But rather, it requires the discernment and dynamis (power) of the Holy Spirit. Acts 1:8 says, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you "

Hey All, Kiersten here again.

I do not know about your experience with the Holy Spirit— Maybe you are familiar with the Holy Spirit because you've heard prayers "In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit- Amen." Or maybe this is all new to you. Seven years ago, this was brand new to me. I always viewed the Holy Spirit as a distant cousin who I rarely had a conversation with, let alone engaged with.

Unless, we are truly looking for the Holy Spirit present in the Scriptures, we can easily gloss over Him. He's all throughout Scripture, all the way back to Genesis 1— when it says "The Spirit of God was hovering over the waters..."

One of my favorite stories to describe the HS is this story about a boy and a kite.

"One day there was a little boy who was flying a kite. It was a windy day, and the kite kept going higher and higher. Finally, it got so high that it was out of sight. A man passed by and saw the little boy holding onto the string. The man could not see the kite, and he asked the boy, "How do you even know you have a kite up there?" The boy replied, "Because I can feel it."

Although we cannot see the Holy Spirit, we can trust that He is there."

Now, I also recognize that we can't always feel or see the kite, especially when the string is loose

and not taunt, but we still trust that there is a kite flying!

We see these encounters with the Spirit all throughout Scripture– we just have to look closer–

- Samson: Judges 14-15 it talks about the Spirit of the Lord came on him as strength.
- Isaiah: Isaiah 61:1- a prophet who once said, “The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me”
- Ezekiel– Ezekiel 11:19- the Spirit of the Lord came upon him and the Lord said “I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them”
- Joel- Joel 2:28– - “I will pour out my spirit on all people, your sons and daughters will prophesy”
- Jesus- it says the Holy Spirit descended on him; he was full of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:16)
- Acts 2:1-4– the Holy Spirit descended on the people in the Upper Room at – Pentecost and they spoke in tongues and were filled with the Spirit

I could go on and on but my point is throughout the Old AND New Testament– we see the Spirit coming upon and filling people. Nicky Gumbel, Former Pastor of Holy Trinity Brompton in London and founder of Alpha says, “Before the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came on particular people at particular times for particular reasons. Kings, prophets, John the Baptist, etc. But on the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit was poured out on all people. He no longer selected particular people at particular times for particular reasons... he desires to fill every follower of Jesus. It is the fulfillment of the vision of the prophet Joel, "In the last days, I will pour out my Spirit on all people...". (Joel 2:28).

So, what would our lives look like if we were walking in step with the Spirit in a way where every decision we made was filtered through the Spirit? What do our lives say about us? Can other people see the Fruit of the Spirit evident in our lives?

Galatians 5:22-23 outlines, “ But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.”

Do I exude kindness and gentleness? In all things or just in some things? Do I have a peace that is rooted in Christ or is that an area that is missing in my life? A few verses later Paul goes on to say, “Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.”

Obedience is about pace– I don’t want to be too far ahead of God or too far behind him either. We want to be an overflowing, empowered community who is known more by our love and what we are for, than what we are against because – we are a people continually being filled and we choose to partake in the leadings and promptings of the Spirit–however, whenever, wherever. We are filled with the Spirit and so the fruit is just what you see on the outside, but deep below the surface, there are these roots that go down into the depths vertically and these lateral roots that connect horizontally.

But to be filled and fueled by the Spirit- requires a daily decision. Ephesians 5:18– refers to it as a continuous process– “to keep being filled” not a one and done. It’s daily asking the Holy Spirit to fill us. Just like everything else in life, it requires a daily discipline to be in tune with the same frequency hearing the voice of God. It requires a turning down, so that we can tune up. And there are so many ways that the Spirit speaks– and we will all hear him differently. Being filled with the Spirit is about receiving from the Spirit daily.

Daily because there are a lot of things in life that need a refuel to work at an optimum capacity.

- When my gas tank light shows E in my car, I find a gas station to fill up.
- When my stomach is roaring, I feed my body to get energy.

Renewing, refueling is cyclical. It’s a continual cycle of growth as we learn how to be filled by the Spirit & through that process become empowered.

So discipleship fueled by the Holy Spirit is:

- About receiving from Him daily--
- To intentionally pour out and then need to be refilled again.
- And the good news is that He’s an endless supplier

But To be filled and fueled–also requires a dance with the Spirit. He is always speaking (though sometimes we will wonder if it is our own voice), but I find in the areas I press in more: when I take the time to listen longer, to be still more than letting my internal drive dictate what I do, to meditate more frequently, and to praise God more through worship, the more I hear His voice. And all of a sudden, the noise around me grows quieter and the still small voice of the Spirit grows louder. I once had a friend share with me that, at the end of the day, whether I bring a tea cup or a dump truck to be filled with the Holy Spirit, the choice is mine. How are you pressing into the Spirit in this season?

Ultimately- the infilling of the Spirit forms a lifestyle of being fueled by the Holy Spirit that results in a partnership– you get to partner with the Holy Spirit. We see this all throughout the Early Church.

Specifically:

- It was through the power of the Holy Spirit “signs and wonders were performed by the apostles”.
- It was the Spirit that empowered the followers of Jesus to practice the one anothers and sacrifice their preferences in order to create a Beloved Community out of Jew and Gentile.

We are empowered daily SO THAT we can partner with Him– it’s not a solo dance. To partner with the Spirit so that we are people who are both, Spirit-filled and Spirit- led.

Walking in step with the Spirit, is about paying attention to that steady stream. A steady stream of the undercurrents of what the Spirit is doing, saying, and how we can become more aware to partner with where He is at work. You might even hear us use language at NCC like– “We sense the Spirit saying this...” Because being in tune with the Holy Spirit is like star link– satellite internet– providing coverage everywhere –or if you’re old school, it’s like saying your antenna is up.

What would our lives look like if we were so deeply anchored in the Holy Spirit -- that we sought to encounter the Spirit afresh each day? That people around us knew something was different because they could see the fruit of the Spirit oozing out of us. Maybe take a moment and journal that. What does your life look like as you seek the infilling of the Holy Spirit?