

1-15-2023, COTR Texarkana

Title: Experiencing Something More with the Holy Spirit

Purpose: Provoke people to desire and experience something more of the Holy Spirit working in them and through them.

Truth for Today: We can experience more of the Holy Spirit working in us and through us in 2023.

Text: John 14:16-17, Acts 1:8

Topic: Holy Spirit, Sanctification, Character, Baptism in Holy Spirit, Spiritual Gifts

Series Title: Something More

Series purpose: Provoke people to a deeper and more productive spiritual life in 2023.

## Experiencing Something More with the Holy Spirit

- I. Introduction
  - A. Review series: Something More. My purpose is to provoke us to a deeper and more productive spiritual life in 2023.
  - B. Last week we learned how to pursue a deeper and closer relationship with God. We looked at the basic habits for spiritual growth in Christianity 101 and then dealt with issues of the heart causing spiritual growth in Christianity 102.
  - C. Today we'll see what the Bible says about experiencing something more with the Holy Spirit working in us and through us.
  - D. Title: Experiencing Something More with the Holy Spirit
- II. The types of relationship between the Holy Spirit and a person.
  - A. Jesus to apostles, [John 14:16–17 (NLT) And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate (*ANT Comforter, Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengthened*), who will **never leave you**. 17 He is the **Holy Spirit**, who **leads into all truth**...But you know him, because **he lives with you now and later will be in you**.] [ Acts 1:8 (NLT) But **you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses**, telling people about me everywhere...]
    1. With (before conversion/ conviction), in (at conversion/ indwelling), upon (after conversion for spiritual power). Understanding how the HS works has brought confusion and divided some but many have experienced a greater depth and power in their spiritual life. Personal testimony, AG church Adak.
    2. When we are saved or born again, God the Holy Spirit literally comes to live inside us. He wants to be an active force in our life through His Presence, His voice speaking to us, shaping our character and values, and giving us spiritual gifts and power to witness for Christ.
    3. The big question for us, however, is do we want to experience more of the work of the HS in us and through us. I do and I believe you do, too.
- III. The Holy Spirit wants to work 'in us' in a deeper, more significant way
  - A. Def. sanctify/ sanctification: make us holy; to consecrate us to God in our character and values.<sup>1</sup> Sanctification is a process whereby the HS convicts us of sin, error, or a need for change and then we say yes or no, e.g., reading the Bible about a cultural subject, e.g., marriage; convicted about fudging/ lying about overtime at work.
  - B. Gal. 5:16–25 (NLT) So I say, **let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves**. 17 The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And **the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires**. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions... 19 **When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear**: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, 21 envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that **anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God**. 22 **But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in**

**our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control...25 Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives.**

- C. Life application: How do we let the HS work 'in us' to sanctify us?
1. Say yes to the Bible's teaching and the conviction of the HS.
  2. When it's hard to say yes because our flesh wants to say no, confess to a spiritually mature friend, and seek prayer. We must see our sin as an enemy and not a friend.
  3. Fasting from food or pleasure is a way to say no our flesh. The more we weaken our flesh and strengthen our spirit the easier it is to let the HS change us.
  4. Close doors and break relationships that lead us away from the HS.

IV. The Spirit's wants to work 'through us' in a more significant way.

- A. Hearing God's voice and spiritual power, [Acts 9:1–18 (NLT) **Saul** was uttering threats with every breath and was eager to kill the Lord's followers...3...a light from heaven suddenly shone down around him. 4 He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul!... 5..."I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting! 6...go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."...8 Saul picked himself up off the ground, but when he opened his eyes he was blind... 10 Now there was a **believer** ...named Ananias. **The Lord spoke to him in a vision**, calling, "Ananias!" "Yes, Lord!" he replied. 11 **The Lord said**, "Go over...to the house of Judas..., ask for a man...named Saul... 12 I have shown him a **vision** of a man named Ananias coming in and **laying hands on him so he can see again.**" 13 "**But Lord,**" exclaimed Ananias, "I've heard many people talk about the **terrible things this man has done to the believers.**"...15 But the Lord said, "**Go...** 17 **So Ananias went...He laid his hands on him** and said...Saul, the Lord Jesus...has sent me so that you might **regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.**" 18 Instantly something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he got up and was **baptized.**]

1. A religious, deceived zealot for God was supernaturally healed and converted and became the greatest apostle who ever lived writing 2/3 of the NT and bringing the gospel to the non-Jewish world. How did this happen? An ordinary believer like you and me let the HS work 'through him'.
- B. Life application: How do we let the HS work 'through us' with spiritual power and spiritual gifts?
1. Ananias had an intimate relationship with God & discernment to know His voice.
  2. Ananias said yes to the HS. He obeyed.
  3. Ananias didn't let fear of the possibility of something bad happening to him stop him from following the HS.
  4. There was a 'spiritual transference' when Ananias laid his hands on Saul. [Acts 19:1–6 (ESV)...Paul...came to Ephesus. There he found some **disciples**. 2 And he said to them, "**Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?**" And they said, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." 3 And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They said, "Into John's baptism." 4 And Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus." 5 On hearing this, they were **baptized** in the name of the Lord Jesus. (NCV) 6 Then **Paul laid his hands on them, and the Holy Spirit came upon them.** They began **speaking different languages** (*ESV speaking in tongues*) **and prophesying.**]
    - a. Converted Christians indwelt by the HS were baptized in water and then had a 2<sup>nd</sup> experience with the HS and began using spiritual gifts.
    - b. "Filled" class teach more about HS, SAM 9.
- C. Divine guidance from the HS as He worked through Paul, Map [Acts 16:6–10 (NLT) Paul and Silas traveled through the area of Phrygia and Galatia, because **the Holy Spirit had prevented them from preaching the word in the province of Asia at that time.** 7 Then coming to the borders of Mysia, they headed north for the province of Bithynia, but again **the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them to go there.** 8 So instead, they went on through Mysia to the seaport of Troas. 9 **That night**

Paul had a **vision: A man from Macedonia**...was standing there, pleading with him, “Come over to Macedonia and help us!” 10 So **we decided to leave for Macedonia at once, having concluded that God was calling us to preach the Good News there.**

1. If Paul had not operated under divine guidance the gospel would have gone east towards Russia, China, India instead of west to Europe and ultimately America.
2. Life application: How do we let the HS work ‘through us’ by divine communication? (1) Read the Bible, (2) Live a yielded life to the HS, [Eph. 5:18 (NIV) Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery (*excess indulgence in sensual pleasures*). Instead, be filled with the Spirit] i.e. GK. tense continually filled, under the control of the HS, // controlled alcohol, (3) Try to listen and obey; it’s ok to experiment to see if it’s truly the HS.

V. **Conclusion: Life application: Ask the HS to work through you**

A. [Luke 11:11–13 (ESV) What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent... 13 If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, **how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!**”]

1. Adak, pers. test. I’ve been asking for HS to work in me and thru me in sp. gifts, guidance, and spiritual power ever since.

VI. **Response**

- A. Altar
- B. Prayer
- C. Souls

VII. **Bibliography/ Resources: Logos Bible Software and Library, Platinum Edition, was used to prepare this message.**

1. Achtemeier, P. J., Harper & Row and Society of Biblical Literature. (1985). In [\*Harper’s Bible dictionary\*](#) (1st ed., p. 904). Harper & Row.

VIII. **Supplemental Material**

A. Romans 8:29 (NLT) For God knew his people in advance, and **he chose them to become like his Son**, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.