

PILGRIM HOME GROUPS

The smaller groups in our church community are inside our homes where we go deeper, build friendships, and walk out the Christian life with each other.

HOME CHURCH/SMALL GROUP/CLASS GUIDE

1. "Breaking the Ice" question: (group facilitator)
2. Check-ins: What's been happening in your week(s) since last meeting? Introduce yourself if new/new people in group, check in with each other
3. Care: Needs in the group; name needs and have sentence prayers (short sentences/open ended, not long-winded) at end of the gathering time
4. Compassion: What compassion work is the group planning? Are you inviting your neighbors to join?
5. Group Announcements (church-wide and group-only)
6. Dig in: Any reflections, discernments, disagreements from last week's teaching (or since you last met)? Look at the Bible passage(s) again and read some of them out loud in the group (and other verses that may have been mentioned). What jumps out at you? Discuss some of the questions as a group.
7. End and Homework: Final questions, prayer huddles for personal requests. Consider breaking into small groups (huddles) of 2-4, by gender, if large enough.

PRAYER REQUESTS THIS WEEK:

PILGRIM CHURCH SUMMER SERIES

June 10, 2018

UNDER THE RUG

Filled with the Holy Spirit

We have a choice to be open to the Holy Spirit, or not.

We often choose not to be open because of two main reasons:

1. We don't want transforming power
2. We don't want His transforming presence in our life, because we would rather not change.

PERSONAL REMARKS AND RESOURCES

Simon Chan, Craig Keener, Glen Menzies, Scott McKnight, Roger Olson, James KA Smith, Wolfgang Vondey, Amos Yong,

In one sense, every Christian is and should be, increasingly charismatic we learn from Paul, but it is also true that there is a dimension of the Spirit's enabling that one enters by virtue of a baptism-filling in the Spirit distinct from conversion. This dimension might be properly called the prophetic dimension. In Luke's perspective, the community of faith is potentially a community of prophets; and it is by reception of the Pentecostal gift (Spirit-filling/baptism) that this potential is realized (Menzies 197).

I have tried to rationalize away the work of the Spirit, but I cannot.

"If the Lord's people were only half as eager to be filled with the Spirit as they are to prove that you can't be filled with the Spirit, the church would be crowded out." The Tozer Pulpit, Vol I

"There are many people in our churches who would like to think that they are filled with the Holy Ghost, even though they don't know it. This is a most shocking thing, and I am sure that this is one of the attitudes through which Satan opposes the doctrine of the genuine Spirit-filled life... Let me say that I do not find in the Old Testament or in the New Testament, neither in Christian biography, in church history or in personal Christian testimonies, the experience of any person who was ever filled with the Holy Ghost and who didn't know it! I can be dogmatic about this on the basis of deep study. No one was ever filled with the Holy Ghost who didn't know that he had been so filled!... In the Scriptures and in church history, persons filled with the Spirit always knew they were filled, and it was an instantaneous act, not a gradual filling... God does not come rushing into a human heart unless He knows that He is the answer and fulfillment to the greatest, most overpowering desire of that life." The Tozer Pulpit, Vol I

SIX THOUGHTS

1. OPEN OR CLOSED? Luke and Paul – different but complementary (25% of NT is Luke-Acts!). Both affirm the present work of the Holy Spirit.

Well before Pentecostalism however, and outside of it, many evangelical Christians have believed in and promoted an experience subsequent to conversion (although most would say it can happen at conversion) the launches one into a “higher” or “deeper” spiritual life marked by supernatural, Spirit-endowed power to overcome sin and engage in service to Christ’s mission. Bill Bright, for example, founder and leader of Campus Crusade for Christ, regularly led participants in his evangelism training events in receiving the infilling of the Holy Spirit–after conversion.” -Roger Olson, Baptist Theologian

According to the New Testament, there are two kinds of Christians.

- + I Corinthians 3:1-4 – spiritual and worldly (carnal)
- + Romans 7 and Romans 8 – self-propelled and Spirit driven
- + Ephesians 5:18 – filled and not filled

2. PAUL AND TWO USES OF “BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT”

Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4–8; Acts 2:38,39; Acts 10; 19; 1 Corinthians 2:4,5; Acts 9:17,18

Two Uses of phrase “baptism in the Holy Spirit”

1. The baptism into the body of Christ-indwelling Holy Spirit, Spirit baptizes you
2. The infilling/subsequent and ongoing encounters with the spirit.
It is number two that most of us neglect and wonder why we do not have staying power and a drive to share Jesus.

3. FIRST STEPS: Receiving the infilling-baptism, promise of the Father (Luke 24:49)

- + Embrace weakness
- + Know Biblical data
- + Take the time/openness. Desire cultivated out of awareness of our need for His power and desire because we are held captive by the beauty of Jesus.
- + Experience matters. Can you learn from New Testament and others?

Steps To A Spirit-Filled Life, John Soper. The opportunity to experience the two realities of sanctification is available to every believer. The path to the Spirit-filled life involves faith-filled risks that always involve change.

- + Surrender:
- + Accept:
- + Abide:

We need to understand that there is more than conversion. Consider the pattern in these seven verses...

4. PAUL AND LUKE, COMPLEMENTARY BUT DIFFERENT TEACHINGS ON THE HOLY SPIRIT. Paul: Soteriological | Luke: Charismatic - effective witness.

Jesus tell us to anticipate this empowerment. Luke 11:1-13

1. Luke has the post Acts 2 church in view
2. The promise is made to the disciples.

3. Luke’s usage elsewhere indicates that he views the gift of the Holy Spirit in Luke 11:13b as an endowment of prophetic power.

- a. Luke alters Mark’s account of Jesus baptism - so that Jesus receives the Spirit after his baptism while praying (Luke 3:21)
- b. Later in Acts 4:31 the disciples after having prayed, “where all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.”

5. POWER OF OUR WORDS AND TONGUE What this will look like? It is speech/tongue related.

6. RECEIVING AND RESULTS

- + Why I teach the baptism or filling of the Holy Spirit?
- + Seeking the ongoing filling of the Spirit...
- + Patterns of reception on Acts 2, 10, 19
 - Draw close to Jesus.
 - Holy Spirit comes on those who have a positive attitude/posture of seeking.
 - Yield to Holy Spirit prompts in your mind.
 - Continue to do this in prayer life

Neither in the Old Testament not in the New, Nor in Christian testimony as found in the writings of the saints as far as my knowledge goes, was any believer ever filled with the Holy Spirit who did not know he had been filled. Neither was anyone filled who did not know when he was filled. And no one was ever filled gradually. -A.W. Tozer

FINAL CHALLENGE/NEXT STEPS

- + Learning to sit in silence and listen. Waiting on God. A lost art, but take a day away from your phone and computer, devices with a bible, a notebook and beauty.
- + Ask the Father and the Son to fill you with the Spirit.
- + Like Paul my prayer for us to be able to say this like Paul 1 Cor. 2.1-4

Lord, I am open to the Holy Spirit

**Come to me, dwell in me, speak to me
so I may become more like Christ.**

Lord, give me the courage to be open.

Lord, I am open to the Holy Spirit.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Amen.

-Scott McKnight, Open to the Spirit, xvii