

THE SPIRIT-FILLED CHURCH notes

The Spirit of the Kingdom of the hope of the Church

The Spirit comes as the result of a divine Kingdom promise.

Luke 24:49 “And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with *power* from on high.”

Acts 1:4,5 “And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for *the promise of the Father*, which, he said, “you heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

John 16:7-8 ⁷ “Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸ And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment...”

Second, the Spirit comes with power to bear witness to Jesus.

2nd Cor 13 - read
Luke 3:16-17 ¹⁶ “John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

The Spirit comes to give us four Kingdom priorities.

The Spirit calls and equips us to be devoted to the Scriptures.

Romans 12:2 “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

Ephesians 4:23-24 “be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.”

The Apostles’ teaching puts us in touch with Jesus so therefore we have to give ourself to reading, study and hearing of the Word.

Matthew 5:17 “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.”

John 5:39 “You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me...”

Key specifics of their teaching or their doctrine.

Luke 8:1 “He went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with him.” After our Lord’s resurrection what did HE do with His disciples?

Jeremy Treat “God’s rule through God’s people over God’s place.

Devotion to the Apostles’ Doctrine reflects the reality God’s New Covenant in Christ with us.

Jeremiah 31:31-34 “Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

Sinclair Ferguson in his book “Devoted to the Church” p. 52 defines this word as meaning to glued or even addicted. In speaking of verse 42 he writes “This is – if only we could see it – a triple addiction (Apostles’ Teaching; Fellow Christians; The worship of God) that delivers us from all other addictions; it is, therefore, a blessed addiction indeed.

Fellowship goes much deeper than socializing.

J. I. Packer “*God’s Words*” “The fact that we share social activities with other Christians does not of itself imply that we have fellowship with them... It is an abuse of Christian language. And it is a dangerous abuse. It makes for self-deception. It fools us into thinking that we are thriving on fellowship when all the time our souls may be starving for lack of it.”

Thabiti Anyabwile “The Life of God in the Soul of the Church” “Spiritual fellowship is the life of God in the soul of man, experienced personally by believing the truth, shared relationally in the church, and leading to joy and holiness.”

Devotion to the Fellowship is specific.

Devotion to the fellowship causes us to deal with conflict rightly because we have the Spirit of Christ.

Ephesians 4:1-3 “I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

Devotion to true fellowship involves 2 realities: togetherness and sharing.

First, True fellowship involves togetherness.

1 John 1:3 "...that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ."

Hebrews 3:12-14 "Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. ¹³ But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. ¹⁴ For we share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end."

Second notice true fellowship involves sharing our material blessings.

2 Corinthians 8:1-5 "We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints— and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us."

2 Corinthians 8:9 "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich."

Third, True Fellowship involves sharing our time and homes with each other.

True Fellowship involves sharing in suffering with Christ.

Acts 5:14 "And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women..."

Acts 6:7 "And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith."

Acts 9:31 "So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied."

Acts 12:24 "But the word of God increased and multiplied."

Philippians 3:10 "that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death."

Hebrews 10:24-25 ²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

(Devotion to the) True fellowship calls for local church membership.

Sinclair Ferguson “Devoted to the Church” “Paul uses this language when he speaks about the church. The imagery comes from human anatomy – the various parts of the body are its ‘members’: arms, legs, ears, eyes, mouth, hands, and feet. These parts are very different from each other: they look different and they act differently. Yet there is an organic connection and unity among the parts. Each part needs the other parts for the body to function properly. There is mutual dependence among the parts.”

Hebrews 13:17 “Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.”

Too many Christians are shacking with the church; getting the benefits without the commitment.