

## Discerning the Spirit & the LIFE that follows...

Today I'd like for us to spend some time listening in on and talking about this...  
(bottom line:) \*If we will listen...**The Holy Spirit applies God's truth to the specifics of our lives.**

Now let's think through **a couple examples** of this to get our minds around this idea...

God's Truth would be this.

**"For if you forgive others when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins."**

**Matthew 6:14 & 15**

So there you go. That's truth, plain & simple. Right? We know this!

But think through this **in your everyday life**. Think of someone **you need to forgive...** When we pause and spend some time in prayer for this person and our need in forgiving them, it is the HOLY SPIRIT **who applies this truth in our everyday lives.**

And let's look at another example...  
we know **this** to be true.

**"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'"**

**Matthew 25:40**

And yet how beautiful is this? When the Spirit applies God's truth to our lives, it just feels good, right & beautiful. **The Holy Spirit, animates and energizes, gives gifts and fruit to the church of followers & believers.**

**Friends this is how the CHURCH glorifies God!**

**When we (1) know the truth,  
When we (2) Listen to the Spirit, and  
When we (3) Act on His calling.**

at the end of the gospels, Jesus says this in Luke's account...

Then he said, "When I was with you before, I told you that everything written about me in the law of Moses and the prophets and in the Psalms must be fulfilled." **Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.** And he said, "Yes, it was written long ago that the Messiah would suffer and die and rise from the dead on the third day. It was also written that this message would be proclaimed in the authority of his name to all the nations, beginning in Jerusalem: 'There is forgiveness of sins for all who repent.' You are witnesses of all these things.

"And now I will send the Holy Spirit, just as my Father promised. **But stay here in the city until** the Holy Spirit comes and fills you with power from heaven."

Luke 24:44-49

Did you catch that?

"I'm gonna send you what my Father has promised, **so stay in this City** until you've been clothed with Power from on High."

Now, I mean, for this sermon we can just say that and then I could just sit down.

Jesus is saying **you cannot engage, in the journey I'm asking you to engage in, until you are filled with the power of the Holy Spirit.** Don't even try!

He could have said go study at the feet of the best Rabbi's, but he didn't.

I want us to pause our thoughts here. Because I don't want us to miss this. Jesus has, at this point in the story, given the Disciples an amazing list of things to do. At this point in the narrative **he had already challenged them to make disciples of all the nations.**

So it would have make sense for them to just "blast off" and make it happen, but Jesus is telling them something HUGE! Essentially he's telling them ; **"Do not go at this alone, but to wait for a strength and guidance that can only come from the Spirit!"**

If **they** go at this alone, they'll mess it up! &  
If **WE** go at this alone, we will surely mess it up.

So this makes me wonder...

Do the challenges that we all face in today's world require the Holy Spirit? Just think about that for a moment... Do the challenges facing the World today, and the churches' roll in the Earth **as Salt and Light: Do you think we can get by with our best "thinking" ?** :) Like if just enough of us can go to Harvard or Stanford, Do you think we can pull this off?

No obviously no.

So then, what are we going to do? I mean we could give "lip-service" to the person of the Holy Spirit, we could land in sort of "Doctrinal Precision" where we've got a quiet accurate doctrine of the Trinity, and a quite accurate understanding of the third person of the Trinity, OR **we can begin living a life of awareness and submission to the bidding of the Holy Spirit.**

This week David Woods, our Senior Minister said something profound. We were talking about mentoring, and raising up some young leaders and he said;

**"I can train someone and teach them the right things to do, but one thing I cannot do is put that "Fire in their Belly".**

Listen friends... I have no hope in accomplishing the magnificent things set before me without the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in this Life!

"The Calling"

It is the Spirit who takes amazing truths, concepts that are mind-blowing, and puts them into action by generating COMPASSION. **It's the Spirit moving inside of us who puts arms and legs to these truths.** The 18 inch Journey from our heads to our hearts begins with the work of the Spirit.

Now let's back up for just a second and look at the Journey we've been on together over the past couple of years. If you'll remember we spend all of 2011 studying the Life & Teachings of Jesus. **Truth after truth, story after story, on who Jesus was, how he lived, and the things he taught us.** Then in 2012 we've moved into a season of studies on ENGAGE. This is a strategic prayer for Park Chapel to grow in our faith **as we put into action,** the life & teachings of Jesus.

Which leads us to this series on the Spirit. **We are completing a paragraph here.** As we look at how powerful & effective the early church in the book of ACTS was, we realize that it is Pentecost, it is the promise & the power of the Holy Spirit, that leads us into living a life that glorifies Christ Jesus!

The Spirit gives us the calling and the strength to live out the teachings of Jesus that we cannot do on our own!

## **Discerning the Voice of the Spirit...**

### **1. Gifts emerge and evolve in response to a call.**

People in this room have not known or understood the extent of their gifts because they have not heard and responded whole-heartedly to a “call” from God. And you will not know the extent of your gifts until you hear a call and respond whole-heartedly”

### **2. Calling asks that we set out **from** a place that’s comfortable and secure **to** a place that can only be faintly seen, and because of the obstacles along the way, we’re not sure we’ll ever make it.**

(example of Abraham’s calling from Haran to Canaan.)  
Embrace the possibility of failure. “Courage to fail”

### **3. When we think of “Calling” there’s a mutually dependent relationship to Spiritual Formation.**

Un-heeded callings go away meekly without much protest. They just dissolve. If we explain away the voice of God, rarely will he respond with fire & lightening. Listen this is big stuff. If you are expecting spiritual growth, and you’re frustrated because you just feel “Stuck”, it’s because you’re NOT responding to God’s calling in your life.

Just ask any of the spiritual giants in this room how they’ve grown, and they will tell you. “I am growing in the trenches of God’s work. It’s tough, costly, and beautiful all at same time.”

### **4. God’s calling for you will most likely be in those places that make you LAUGH & CRY. (\* \* \*invite the band here.)**

Story of my mom, Linda Holliday getting kicked out of church when she was 9 years old for not having good enough clothes to wear. When I heard this

story from my momma for the 1st time, I cried my eyes out. And part of why I am here today is to make sure that none of you “Christians” kick my momma out of church. Ever again. Or somebody else’s momma in 15 years. Boy I’m here to tell you, I will wear you out. There you go momma, I’m here for you, I am on your team! Hey that made me cry, and God called me to act on it!

What makes you laugh? There is nothing stronger as God calls you than the things that make you laugh! We need more Christians, laughing and loving life as they Go about HIS work!

My favorite quote, of all times is this. BIG STUFF. Listen to this line from John Eldredge..

“Don’t ask yourself what the world needs. Ask yourself what makes you come alive. ‘Cause what the world needs is people who have come alive.”

John Eldredge..

Benediction:

Christ has  
No body now on earth but yours;  
No hands but yours;  
No feet but yours;  
Yours are the eyes  
Through which is to look out  
Christ’s compassion to the world;  
Yours are the feet  
With which he is to go about  
Doing good;  
Yours are the hands  
With which he is to bless now

Saint Teresa of Avila

Now may the Holy Spirit give you strength  
to live out the Life & Teachings of Jesus

Amen