

Small Group & Personal Bible Study

Memory Verse: Luke 3:16

“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.’”

Discovery Bible Study Exercise: In your journal or on a piece of paper make three columns and follow these steps:

- Step #1: Write out **Luke 3:16**
- Step #2: Re-write **Luke 3:16** in your own words
- Step #3: Write out something you discover from this passage and how God wants you to respond in obedience to this passage.

Daily Meditation Reading: Power from the Spirit of Christ

Day 1: John 14:25-27

Day 2: Acts 2:1-13

Day 3: Ephesians 1:3-14

Day 4: 2 Timothy 1:3-14

Day 5: 2 Peter 1:12-21

1. Make a list of the things you think are required in order to be considered a church. **Use this exercise to begin talking about what makes a church. Don't be concerned about what is right or wrong as this will be worked out over time as we study Acts.**

2. Look up and read the references on the Holy Spirit in the book of Acts in the early church.

Holy Spirit References in Acts 1:2, 1:5, 1:8, 1:16, 2:4, 2:33, 2:38, 4:8, 4:25, 4:31, 5:3, 5:32, 6:5, 7:51, 7:55, 8:15, 8:16, 8:17, 8:19, 9:17, 9:31, 10:38, 10:44, 10:45, 10:47, 11:15, 11:24, 13:2, 13:4, 13:9, 13:52, 15:8, 15:28, 16:6, 19:2, 19:6, 20:23, 20:28, 21:11, 28:25

3. What do these verses reveal to you about the connection between the Holy Spirit and the church?

I have discovered that the Holy Spirit, the Word of God, and people are the absolute requirements of the Church of Jesus Christ. All other elements are complementary to the church but do not make the church. Another way of saying it is like this; you can not have a building but still have a church. You can not have a Pastor but still have a church. You can not do music but still have a church. On the other hand, if you have a building, a Pastor, a band, a Sunday School, a mission team, but you do not have people filled with the Holy Spirit and the Word of God being used to teach you would not have Christ's Church.

Having said that, when people come together, filled with the Holy Spirit and led by the Word of God, Jesus moves them to obey what he has commanded. That leads us to remembering him in communion. That means loving God with all are heart, mind, soul, and strength which includes worshiping him with songs and praises and our offerings. That moves us to loving our neighbor which includes being in fellowship and serving our brothers and sisters.

Read Ephesians 1:13-14

4. What does this tell you about the Holy Spirit in your life?

It reminds me that when I believe, I am given the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit of Christ is then a guarantee of my eternal salvation with Christ.