

The Life Challenge

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10

Title: Spirit Empowered People

Speaker: Matt Ewert

Text: Acts 1:1-9

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Discussion

It's not uncommon for Christians to talk about the Holy Spirit as though "He" is an "it" —a power or force that is in some way less than God. Often times that is done unintentionally; we know the Holy Spirit is God but we have a habit of defaulting to using impersonal, "it", language.

- Why do you think it is that Christians sometimes slip into that kind of thinking (but never do when it comes to God the Father or Jesus)? What are some of the practical dangers in thinking about the Holy Spirit in non-personal terms?

Read 2 Corinthians 13:11-14, which is the closing to the book of 2 Corinthians. In the last line Paul refers to each person of the Trinity and uses a unique descriptor for each. Notice which word Paul chooses to associate with the Holy Spirit.

- Why do you think Paul chooses this word? What is Paul trying to communicate to his readers about the Holy Spirit by this statement?

Read Zechariah 4:6 for a word from God, given through Zechariah to Zerubbabel, who was overseeing the process of rebuilding the temple.

- How would you differentiate in your life between an experience of Holy Spirit empowerment, and you simply doing something well in your own strength? Can you describe a moment or event in your life that you would describe as having been Holy Spirit empowered?

In this weekend's teaching, I suggested that two critical issues we need to consider in regards to Holy Spirit empowerment have to do with "person" and "power." "Person" dealt with the way in which the Holy Spirit enables intimacy with God and allows us to hear God speaking to us during the course of our days. "Power" was the idea that the Holy Spirit is passionate about God's Kingdom building project and that living a Spirit empowered life is directly correlated with giving ourselves to that work as opposed to expecting the Holy Spirit to simply empower whatever I want to be giving my life to.

- Of these two particular ideas, which represents the biggest growth curve for you: (a) expecting the voice of God in your life and getting into the habit of listening for it regularly or (b) reorienting your life such that your best time, energy, and efforts are aligned very specifically with involvement in God's Kingdom building project? Share with the group and pray for one another around Next Steps to address those areas of weakness and challenge.