



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Holy Spirit Blaze Series, Lesson 6

Lesson Title: Ask to be Filled with the Holy Spirit

Take Home Point: Ask to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Warm-Up:

Our culture is permeated with the idea of being independent and self-sufficient. How many times have you heard from an adult, "I'll do it myself," or "Look what I did," or "I don't need (or want) help from anyone"? How many times have you said something like that? But children do it all the time, don't they? At least until they get older; then most of them take on the attitude that they don't need help, at least certainly not from adults! For most of us, even without the cultural influence, which is very strong, as adults, most of us resist admitting that we need assistance from anyone. Why is it wrong to ask for help? What makes it such a bad thing?

Read: Luke 11:9-13; 1 Corinthians 3:16; Ephesians 5:17b

Observation (What happened?):

What key verb is repeated several times in Luke 11:9-13?

In 1 Corinthians 3:16, what does Paul say we are?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

What does it mean that we are God's temple?

What does it mean to understand what the Lord's will is?

Insight:

So why is it a natural tendency for people to want to be self-sufficient and not depend on anyone else for anything? You probably know the answer as well as I – it's just good old pride. To admit dependence is to be perceived as inadequate or not as good as someone else. Our old sinful nature doesn't do too well with those ideas. And as a spiritual issue, this problem goes very deep. For example, have you ever heard anyone say, "Why do I need to pray? If God already knows what I need, why do I need to ask him? Why doesn't he just give it to me?" God does not do that precisely because of our pride. He wants us to recognize just how much we need him. There is absolutely nothing we can do that is good or right without him as our guide and power source. I usually believe I know what my children need, sometimes long before they do. But I wait for them to ask for my help. Why? Because I'm mean or want to lord it over them? Of course not. I do it so they recognize they need teaching, guiding, and assistance to grow up with wisdom and the right perspective on life. Just as Jesus emphasized in Luke 11, God is the perfect Father, who always knows exactly what we need. He wants us to humble our pride and come to him as that perfect Father, ready and more than willing to give us what we need.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

How often do you ask God to give you his Holy Spirit, or the Spirit's fruit as we learned about in the previous lesson?

What in you do you need to change, give up or get rid of to live as God's temple?

Kingdom Quest Year 1 - Lesson 6