



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Holy Spirit Blaze Series, Lesson 2

Lesson Title: God Sends the Holy Spirit

Take Home Point: God sends the Holy Spirit to fill us with his presence.

Warm-Up:

When my daughter was little, she enjoyed playing basketball in our yard. Being a young child, of course she was too small to shoot the ball through the net by herself. It was frustrating for her. So I would lift her onto my shoulders and approach the net so she could make a basket. She liked that. But every day we played, after a few times of shooting from way up, she would tell me to put her down so she could do it by herself. I would try to tell her she was too short but she insisted she didn't need me. "I can do it myself!" You know the outcome. She could not do it by herself; she did not have what it took to do it. Unless she leaned on me, she couldn't make the basket. Without me it was only frustration and failure; with me it was fun and success.

Read: Acts 2:1-41; John 14:16-17

Observation (What happened?):

What happened to the believers on the Day of Pentecost?

What did Jesus promise his disciples in John 14:16-17?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

What does it mean to be "filled with the Holy Spirit"?

Why do you think the crowd reacted the way it did to Peter's speech?

Insight:

Why do we need to be filled with the Holy Spirit? Why can't we do it ourselves? First, just as with our rescue from sin, God wants it to be clear that it is his work, not ours. As Ephesians 2:8,9 (NIV) says, *"Being saved is a gift from God. It's not the result of anything you've done, so no one can brag about it."* Second, we can't possibly do the work of the Spirit. What is his work? Jesus tells us in several places. John 14:17,18 (NIV) *"...he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you all alone. I will come back to you."* John 14:26 (NIV) *"The Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything. He will remind you of everything that I have ever told you."* John 15:4,5 (NIV) *"Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me."* John 16:8 (NIV) *"He will come to convict the world of sin, to show the world what has God's approval, and to convince the world that God judges it."* So the Spirit is God's presence with us, teaching us the things of God; he is the power source for bearing godly fruit, and he convicts the world of its guilt. We can do none of these things. God knows this and has provided his Spirit in us to work his will.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

Are you filled with the Holy Spirit? How do you know? How do you live like it?

Take a few minutes to thank God that he does not leave us to fend for ourselves.

Kingdom Quest Year 1 - Lesson 2