

“Let’s Ask”

Luke 11:1-13, Joel 2:28-32

May 28, 2017

“...how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!” Luke 11:13b

- We’re spending 10 Days in prayer, like the disciples did in the Upper Room.
- So what are we asking for when we ask for the Holy Spirit?
- What can we expect the Father to give us?
- Let’s remember the 4 basic works of the Holy Spirit.

1. The Holy Spirit brings people to faith in Jesus Christ.

John 3:5-8 ***Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. 6 Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit^[b] gives birth to spirit. 7 You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You^[c] must be born again.’ 8 The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”***

Romans 8:16 ***The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.***

I Corinthians 2:14 ***The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit.***

- This means that the Spirit brings us to understand the Gospel.
- Gospel presentation.
- So we are asking the Spirit to come and bring many to saving faith in Jesus.
- It also means the Spirit makes the Scriptures come alive to us.
- When God pours out His Spirit, spiritual things will be more enjoyable and attractive to us than worldly things are now.

I Corinthians 12:3 ***Therefore I want you to know that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, “Jesus be cursed,” and no one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit.***

→ Pray that God will pour His Holy Spirit out upon us so that many will come to vibrant, saving faith in Jesus Christ. (Perhaps mention individuals you would like to see come to faith.)

2. The Holy Spirit transforms believers to be more like Jesus. II Corinthians 3:18 ***And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate^[a] the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.***

Galatians 5:22-23 ***But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.***

- Think what will happen to our church and community as the Spirit begins to transform people around us. And transform us.
- Think what that will do for marriages and families.
- Think of what that will do to the power of addictions that blight our lives.
- Think of what it will do in our workplaces and families, as more and more people around us become more and more like Jesus.
- What will happen to the crime rate?
- In “revivals” crime rates go way down. Violence, robbery, drunkenness, promiscuity.
- These decrease because people have found something better!

→ Pray that God's Spirit will work in each of us (including yourself) to make us more like Jesus.

3. The Holy Spirit empowers us to do God's work in the world. Acts 1:8 ***But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.***

Joel 2:28-29 ***“And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. 29 Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days.”***

- People are already seeing prophetic visions.
- Miracles like healings. (We've seen some.)
- What else? What other miracles should we expect to see?

→ Pray that as God pours out His Holy Spirit upon our church and community He will work "signs and wonders" among us, like breaking addictions, healings (physical, emotional, spiritual, relational) and so on.

4. The Holy Spirit enables us to love in a fellowship of Christ-like love.

Romans 5:5 ***And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.***

II Corinthians 13:14 ***May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.***

→ Pray that God will pour His love into our hearts (particularly yours) so that we can love one another as Christ loves each of us. Pray that He will bless us to forgive one another (Colossians 3:13), love one another deeply from the heart (I Peter 1:22) and grow as a community of Christ-like love.

- We're pretty good at loving one another,
 - But imagine being part of a community where we always experience being loved by others as Jesus loves us.
 - Loving all the people in this room the way Jesus loves you.
 - Think what impact that would have on our community.
- Remember what we said last Sunday about praying in Jesus' name?
 - Authority, Glory, Purposes.
 - When we ask for the Holy Spirit, can we ask in Jesus' Name?

5. We have the authority to ask for the Holy Spirit.

Luke 11:13 ***If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!***

- John Knox, "Give me Scotland or I die."
- "Scotland has since the Reformation sent more saints to heaven than any country in Europe of the same population." (DAVID BOGUE)

Discourses on the Millennium, 1818)

- Give us Woodbury Road? Give me my street? My neighborhood?
- Has He not shown us the light of His love pouring down from heaven on this church and splashing on all those around us?
- Has He not shown us ourselves as shinny gold people walking amid drab gray people, touching them and turning them shinny gold?
- We certainly do have the authority to ask God to pour out His Holy Spirit on our church and our community.
- Failure to do so would be faithless disobedience!
→ Pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit because Jesus told us to ask for that.

6. Asking for the Holy Spirit brings glory to Jesus Christ.

John 16:13-14 ***But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. 14 He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you.***

- Bringing glory to Jesus Christ is what the Holy Spirit does!
- A Spirit-filled church is a Christ-centered church.
- A Spirit-filled Christian is a Christ-centered Christian.

→ Pray that God will pour out His Holy Spirit on our church and our community so that Jesus will be glorified.

7. We ask for the Holy Spirit to advance the Lord's purposes in the world.

Acts 1:8 ***But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.***

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Ezekiel 36:26-27 ***I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.***

Numbers 11:29 ***But Moses replied, “Are you jealous for my sake? I wish that all the Lord’s people were prophets and that the Lord would put his Spirit on them!”***

→ *Pray that God will pour out His Holy Spirit on our church and community so that God’s eternal purposes of faith, salvation and Spirit-filled, Kingdom living will be fulfilled among us. Indeed, the Holy Spirit is the agent through Whom all God’s purposes are fulfilled.*

Come, Holy Spirit.

Come and bring people to faith in Jesus Christ.

Open eyes to spiritual reality.

Come and transform us into the likeness of Jesus.

Come and empower us to do your work in the world.

Come and pour divine love into our hearts,

We are authorized to ask.

We are commanded to ask.

We ask for the glory of Jesus Christ.

We ask so that Your purposes will be advanced in our lives and community.

Come, Lord, Jesus.

We ask in Jesus' Name.

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