



## Receiving the Holy Spirit

Message Notes, May 7, 2017

Luke 11:11-13

Last week's Call to AWAKEN was powerful in the lives of many individuals, and in our church as a whole. The Holy Spirit stirred and is stirring in us, awakening us to more of His presence, power and purity. He is also calling us to a lifestyle of prayer – coming together daily to seek Him and listen for His voice. He wants this to be a part of the fabric of our life as a church. We will continue to have prayer gatherings for any and all who can come at 6:30 a.m. and noon every Monday-Friday.

Pastor Keith recapped Mark Nyeswander's image of a three-room house as a depiction of our nature as human beings, made in the image of God for intimate communion with Him:

1. Front Room: My body. The part of me that engages/functions in the physical world – primarily through the experience of the five physical senses. Oriented toward the physical realm – food, shelter, clothing, work, play, relationships, etc.
2. Middle Room: My soul. This part of me is not physical. It is made up of three elements – mind, will and emotions. The soul is not a generic dimension; it is unique to each person (just as our bodies are unique). Oriented toward the spiritual realm – God, power, miracles, life.
3. Back Room: My spirit. This part of me is also not physical; it enables me to engage with the spiritual realm where I can know and experience God. My spirit is similar to my soul, with some overlapping characteristics, but these two dimensions are definitely different. Can orient toward the physical or the spiritual; in a sense, body and spirit are vying for the attention of our mind, will and emotions.

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:23 and Hebrews 4:12. How do these two verses reveal the distinction between the soul and the spirit?

This full life in God begins with salvation. It is at salvation that our spirits are made alive. Before that time, we are spiritually dead because of sin, unable to experience the presence and life of God. See Colossians 2:13.

Conditions for Salvation (Acts 2:38, Romans 10:9)

1. Repentance: Turning away from sin and independence and turning toward God and His grace.
2. Belief: Trusting in the redeeming work of Jesus to save me from sin through His cross and resurrection.
3. Confession: Speaking my repentance and belief with my mouth, freely acknowledging my faith in Jesus – in that day of persecution this was a surrender that could result in death. Confession embodies a heart of sacrificial surrender.
4. Baptism: An outward, physical expression of my inward spiritual transformation of salvation.

By these four responses to the saving grace of God, the Holy Spirit comes into my (dead) spirit and makes me spiritually alive. (Just as God, at creation, breathed into Adam's lifeless body the breath of life.)



Many believers stop at salvation, only allowing Holy Spirit into “the back room.” They are basically choosing to manage their soul themselves. This is not the abundant life God intends for us. We were created to be in full (not partial) surrender to the love and lordship of our Maker.

In salvation, Holy Spirit establishes a “beachhead” in our spirit from which to invade the rest of our being. He wants to fill the “whole house” – the middle room (soul) and even the front room (our bodies).

Many have had painful experiences when another person has been controlling and dominating, so an invitation to surrender to the invasion of Holy Spirit can be fearful. However, the Holy Spirit’s invasion in us is not a harsh, controlling domination but rather a loving, empowering liberation that frees us to live life in the fullest.

### **Conditions for Being Filled with the Holy Spirit:**

1. Surrender (Romans 6:20-22, Romans 8:5-6)
  - We were created to live under God’s loving lordship, not to be gods of our own lives.
  - If not God, we will come under the power of whatever/whomever we give ourselves to (sin, Satan, worldly possessions, fame and popularity, etc.) We are going to serve something!
  - Surrendering to the loving, transforming Spirit of God sets us free and gives us true life.
2. Asking God to fill us (Luke 11:11-13)
3. Receiving His gift by faith. There may be a dramatic, demonstrative sign of Holy Spirit’s filling, but it may be quiet, and the evidence of His filling may emerge gradually over time. If we have surrendered and asked, we can rest in faith that He has filled us – just like the moment of salvation can be for many people.

Even though there is an initial experience of being filled, we must continually be filled. This posture of surrendering to His fullness is a way of life, for we still contend with our selfish nature that resists the Spirit (Galatians 5:16-17) and also with the polluting influences of the world.

A life of fullness emerges from continual surrender. Our lives are fruitful as we abide in the vine (Jesus).

When this is our daily posture, when our middle room is oriented towards God and filled by His Spirit, the distinction of the Sacred from the Secular is dissolved. When we are filled with Holy Spirit, all of life is Godly.

### **Reflection Questions**

Which “state of the house” reflects where you are in your life right now?

- Back room is empty, you have never repented and believed for His salvation, you are spiritually dead. Do you feel ready to trust Him as Savior and Lord and invite Holy Spirit into your life?
- You are saved, but you have never surrendered and asked Holy Spirit to fill your “middle room.” Are you ready to fully surrender and welcome Holy Spirit’s full invasion of your soul?
- You have surrendered and been filled with Holy Spirit. Are you continuing in a life of daily surrender that keeps you filled with His Spirit?

