

BACK TO NORMAL... BACK TO PNEUMA

Thirsty?

April 18, 2021

Overarching theme: In 2021, FUMC will be SENT with the peace of Christ!

Instructions:

When using this material as teacher, feel free to pick and choose the point you want to emphasize in the lesson. *The format of the curriculum is designed to have an abundance of information in which to refer as desired.*

Core Point:

On Easter evening, the Risen Christ appears to his gathered disciple for the first time since Good Friday and speaks these words: "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I send you." Just as Jesus sent his disciples into a divided, conflicted 1st Century with his peace, so he sends us into a divided, conflicted 2021 with his peace.

John:

The Gospel according to John is written by John, one of the apostles, who was the brother of another apostle named James and all the Gospels mention their father's name as Zebedee (Mark's Gospel in addition mentions that Jesus gave these brothers the name 'Sons of Thunder'). John's Gospel is quite different from the other three (does not contain a genealogy, or any record of Jesus' birth, childhood, temptation, transfiguration, appointment of the disciples, nor any account of Jesus parables) because more than his Gospel giving an account of the life of Christ, it is a powerful argument for the incarnation of Christ. The purpose of the writing of this Gospel was to demonstrate conclusively that Jesus was, and is, the very heaven-sent Son of God and that all who believe in him will have eternal life because he is its only source. It was written to new Christians and also to seekers of salvation and truth sometime between AD 85 and 90. A key verse of this Gospel is: "Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name" (20:30,31). Some of the special features of this Gospel are: In every chapter Jesus' deity is revealed and his true identity of the divine-human nature

and life-giving mission is underscored through the many titles he is given as well as through the eight miracles of Christ which John mentions, calling them signs. The greatest sign, of course, is the resurrection and John provides a stirring eyewitness account of finding the empty tomb and various post-resurrection appearances of Jesus. Of these miracles, six are unique to John as well as the 'Farewell / Upper Room Discourse' (chapters 14-17); over 90% of John is unique to his Gospel. John records seven 'I am' sayings of Jesus through which he affirms his preexistence and eternal deity.

– Adapted from The Life Application Bible, p. 1866.

Reflect on this Scripture:

John 1:32-33 NRSV

³² And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. ³³ I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.'

John 7:37-39 NRSV

³⁷ On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, ³⁸ and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, 'Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water.'" ³⁹ Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive; for as yet there was no Spirit, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

Introduction:

Last week we started this new series by looking at what the Old Testament said about the Holy Spirit. This week we will look at how we can experience the Holy Spirit in our lives.

This week:

John the Baptist testified that Jesus would be the one who would baptize with the Holy Spirit. This means that after his return to the Father, Jesus would send to all those who believe in him the Holy Spirit to live in them and to fill them. By the Spirit one receives spiritual birth of putting faith in Jesus as Savior and Lord and belongs to him (Jn. 3:5-8; Rom. 8:9) and through Baptism belongs to all other believers in Christ – the Church (1 Cor. 12:13). Further, the Father and the Son give the Holy Spirit more and more to all believers who are 'thirsty' (Jn. 7:37) in

the midst of life's wilderness in order to experience the fullness of the Christian life.

The Scriptures tell us that the Holy Spirit 1) personally acts, 2) has the essence of a person, 3) has a distinct character, and 4) can be acted against. Read over the following descriptors of the Holy Spirit's work. As you have time, look up these verses in the Bible that speak about the distinct aspect of the Holy Spirit's nature in each category.

1) The Holy Spirit Personally Acts:

- Speaks – Acts 13:2
- Guides and forbids – Acts 16:6-7
- Intercedes – Romans 8:26
- Teaches – 1 John 2:27

2) The Holy Spirit has the Essence of a Person:

- Advocate or Helper – John 14:16-17
- Testifies for and exalts Jesus and the Father – John 15:26; 16:14-15
- Loves us – Romans 15:30
- Searches and knows – 1 Corinthians 2:10-11

3) The Holy Spirit has a Distinct Character:

- Mind – Romans 8:27
- Will – 1 Corinthians 12:11
- Emotion – Ephesians 4:30

4) The Holy Spirit can be Acted Against:

- Can be blasphemed – Luke 12:10
- Can be lied to – Acts 5:3
- Can be resisted – Acts 7:51
- Can be quenched – 1 Thessalonians 5:19

All the above Scriptures show us that the Holy Spirit is a 'who' and not a 'what.' The Holy Spirit of God is the Third Person of the Trinity who can be received and accepted more and more by asking God to fill us or the Spirit can be turned away. If the Holy Spirit is received and accepted then the Spirit works in our lives as God wills and we will be blessed and also be channels of blessing for others.

Questions to Ponder for accountability in the group:

1. John 7:37-39 speaks of thirst and of quenching it. What strikes you about this thirst and how is it quenched? Can you think of a time in your life when you 'thirsted' from wandering in the 'wilderness of life'?
2. What are some ways that people today try to address their spiritual thirst other than through the Holy Spirit? How effective are these alternatives in the long run? What are some ways that you have experienced the Holy Spirit when you were 'thirsty' within?
3. The word 'baptized' means to be 'immersed in.' What does it mean for you to be immersed in the Holy Spirit of God?

Activity for the life of a disciple:

1. Remember to find encouragement for the day by reading the daily devotional from FUMCC.
2. Ponder and pray on this scripture this week: John 7:37-38 NRSV
³⁷ On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, ³⁸ and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, 'Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water.'"
4. Prayerfully approach God in asking to be filled with the Holy Spirit so that you would experience 'rivers of living water' in your life.