

SERMON TITLE:	LIKE CHRIST: LED BY THE SPIRIT
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DATE:	20.06.2010

Luke 4:1.

"And Jesus being *full of the Holy Spirit*, returned from Jordan, and *was led* by the Spirit into the wilderness."

Eph. 5:18.

"Be *filled* with the Spirit."

Rom. 8:14.

"For as many as *are led* by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."

From His very birth the Lord Jesus had the Spirit dwelling in Him. But there were times when He needed special communications and fellowship with His heavenly Father through the Holy Spirit. When Jesus was water baptised the Holy Spirit came down on Him in the form of a dove and lighting.

Matt 3;16-17

16 As soon as Jesus was baptised he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lightning on Him. 17 and a voice from heaven said, "this is my Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased.

God declared three things here

Acceptance – this is My Son

Affection - who I love

Affirmation - with Him I am well pleased

Jesus was filled with the Spirit and He returned from the Jordan full of the Holy Spirit. Straight after this experience with the Holy Spirit He was led into the desert, into the wilderness, where He had to wrestle with and conquer severe temptation. He could do this and overcome because Jesus did this not on His own but in the power of the Spirit, in Divine power. He was strengthened and led by the Holy Spirit.

Heb 2:14-18

¹⁴Since the children have flesh and blood, He too shared in their humanity so that by His death He might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—¹⁵and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. ¹⁶For surely it is not angels He helps, but Abraham's descendants. ¹⁷**For this reason He had to be made like His brothers in every way**, in order that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that He might make atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸Because He Himself suffered when He was tempted, He is able to help those who are being tempted.

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

John 3:16 NKJV

He had to be made like His brothers in every way,

The other side of the truth is that we are also being made into the likeness of Jesus.

Rom 8:29

For those God foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of His Son.

2 Cor 3:17-18

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit is there is freedom. And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into His likeness with ever increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

We are called to live like Jesus. This is not demanded from us without us having the same power. This power is the Holy Spirit dwelling in us, whom we have of God. Even as Jesus was filled with the Spirit, and then led by the Spirit, so must we be also filled with the Spirit and be led by the Spirit.

When we think and meditate on the different characteristics of Christ, when we think of who He is and how He lived it seems to be impossible to be like Him. We have fallen short in the past and lived so little like Christ, but we can take courage in the thought: Jesus Himself could only live this life through the Spirit.

It was after He was filled with the Spirit that He was led forth by that Spirit to the place of conflict and of victory. And this blessing is ours as surely as it was His: we may be filled with the Spirit; we may be led by the Spirit. Jesus, who was Himself baptized with the Spirit, to set us an example how to live, has ascended into heaven to baptize us with His Spirit and to enable us to be transformed into His likeness.

Anyone who would want to live like Jesus, who would want to please His heavenly father must begin here: He must be baptized with the Spirit. What God demands from His children He first gives. He demands entire likeness to Christ because He will give us, as He did Jesus, the fullness of the Spirit. We must be filled with the Spirit.

The reason why the teaching of imitating and becoming like Christ is so little preached in the church is because we have sought to live like Christ and failed because we have sought it and lived it in our own strength. Men sought it in their own strength, with the help of some workings of the Holy Spirit. The result of our failure is that we then believe that real conformity to Christ cannot be expected of us, because we have not sought to be filled with the Spirit of God on a daily basis.

The privilege of being filled with the Holy Spirit and seeing the demonstration of the Spirit through our lives is not for a few select people. It is the calling and duty *of every child of God*. The church is powerless and weak because we are living without the full realisation of the command to every Christian "Be filled with the Spirit."

Only when the Church gives the baptism of the Spirit, and Jesus, as the Saviour *who baptizes with the Spirit* each one who believes in Him, their right place, only then will likeness to Christ be sought after and attained. People will then understand and acknowledge: to be like Christ we must be led by the same Spirit, and to be led by the Spirit as He was, we must be filled with the Spirit. Nothing less than the fullness of the Spirit is absolutely necessary to live a truly Christian, Christ-like life.

The way to arrive at it is simple. It is Jesus who baptizes with the Spirit: he who comes to Him desiring it will get it. All that He requires of us is, the surrender of faith to receive what He gives

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

John 3:16 NKJV

For many faith and the infilling of the Spirit has become the means to get rich, to become successful or to get power. Faith in Christ has become the means to self-enrichment and satisfaction.

Acts 8: 9-25

If faith or the infilling of the Spirit has become the means to become rich and successful, Peter may say the same to us as he said to Simon the sorcerer.

Acts 8:20-21

May your money perish with you, because you thought you could buy the gift of God with money. You have no part or share in this ministry, because your heart is not right before God.

What Jesus is asking of His church today is are we are indeed earnest to follow in His footsteps, and for this reason to be baptized of the Spirit? May there not be any hesitation as to what we will answer.

What is our birth right, health and wealth? What about putting the emphasis on Christ likeness, what about walking around this week and claiming your birth right to become more like Jesus, to bring glory to the Father in all you do. If the world and its pleasures has still got a grip on you then the Spirit of God has not found room in you.

Acknowledge the sacred right of ownership Christ has in you and me His blood-bought ones: and let nothing prevent you from answering: "Yes, dear Lord, as much as is allowed to a child of dust, I will be like Thee. I am entirely Thine; I must, I will, in all things bear Thy image. It is for this I ask to be filled with the Spirit."

And let this surrender of faith be entire. The fundamental law of following, Christ is this: "He who loses his life shall find it." The Holy Spirit comes to take away the old life, and to give in its place the life of Christ in you. Renounce the old life of self-pleasure and fulfilment and believe that, as the air you breathe renews your life every moment, so naturally and continually the Holy Spirit will renew your life.

Christian, have a deep reverence for the work of the Spirit who dwells within you. Believe in God's power, which works in you through the Spirit, to conform you to Christ's life and image moment by moment. Be occupied with Jesus and His life; be occupied with thoughts "become like Christ, be more Christ like".

The only way to live like this is to live it in the strength of the Spirit of God who dwells in us and whose job it is to give us strength and power to be Christ like. Remember that the fullness of the Spirit is yours in Jesus, a real gift which you accept and hold in faith. Even when there are no real feelings or rattles or shakes, walk out of here today with faith believing that the power of the Spirit and the ability to become more Christ like and to be effective in the Kingdom of God and to be a testimony and to bear much fruit and to live to Gods glory, all of this is only possible by the Baptism and indwelling of the Spirit Of God.

If your motive is being Christ like and living For His glory, seek the baptism and infilling of the Spirit by faith and receive it irrespective of outward manifestations. It is your fuel and energy it is your life and source, it all you need more than this would not be necessary less is fatal. Seek the baptism and infilling of the Spirit of God on a daily basis and see and live in the power of God.

If you seek after worldly satisfaction and pleasures you will die with your riches, if you seek His kingdom first you will inherit it. Seek fellowship with God's children, who will with you plead and believe for the baptism of the Spirit.

If you seek the Spirit of God for your pleasure and enjoyment may you be disappointed if you seek him to be Christ-like and effective in His Kingdom seek him until you find him. Seek the Baptism and the fullness of the Spirit to make you fit in character and in ministry.

Christ was filled with the Spirit that He might be fit to work and live and die for us. Give yourself to such Christ-like living and dying for men, that is why the spirit was given and that is why you may depend on and receive the Baptism and infilling of the Spirit of God.