

Beyond 20/20 Vision 4 - SPIRIT-FILLED

The church we SEE is SPIRIT-FILLED: Passionate in worship, where His presence is tangible, where gifts of HS are in operation, where those in need receive personal ministry and where services are not religious rituals but encounters with God.

→ *What does the expression 'Spirit-filled' mean to you? How do you become 'Spirit-filled'? What are the key aspects of the Holy Spirit's ministry?*

THE ALTERNATIVE (Zechariah 4:6)

- * We are NATURAL beings, living in a NATURAL world, being trained in NATURAL principles ... so we tend to DEFAULT to NATURAL METHODS.
 - * This is what the Lord describes as MIGHT & POWER.
 - * The challenge: Have we REALLY EMBRACED what it means to be PEOPLE of the SPIRIT?
 - * KEY: We need to UNLEARN natural ways & RELEARN spiritual ways.
- *Can you give an example of an instance in which we might 'default to natural methods,' rather than leaning into the Holy Spirit? What might qualify as 'might & power' in a church context? What ways might we need to 'unlearn?'*

4 ELEMENTS TO THE SPIRIT-FILLED CHURCH

1. CONNECTION (2 Corinthians 13:14)

- * Connection is about intimacy of RELATIONSHIP, closeness of WALK & the pursuit of ONENESS.
 - * Being UNITED with Christ, ENGRAFTED in the Vine, ABIDING in Him.
 - * Church was birthed in a baptism of FIRE and our intent should be to stay as CLOSE to that FIRE as possible (Acts 2:1-4).
- *What does connection with the Holy Spirit look like to you? What would you like it to look like and how do you think you might get there?*
- *How do you stay 'close to the fire?' What in you needs to be 'set on fire?'*

How do we foster that connection?

- TALK to the HOLY SPIRIT
- INTENTIONALLY LISTEN
- TRAIN your DISCERNER

→ *What has God taught you over the years about hearing from Him or discerning what He's doing, and how did you learn the lessons?*

2. CONVICTION (Acts 2:42-43, 1 Thessalonians 1:5)

- * When the Holy Spirit is IN THE ROOM, there will be a sense of AWE.
- * Conviction is a BURNING AWARENESS of the presence, power & holiness of God.
- * When people COME UNDER the conviction of the Spirit, walls come TUMBLING DOWN and God is able to MOVE.

→ *How can you tell the Holy Spirit is 'in the room?' What role do praise & worship play in that? What does the Spirit use conviction to accomplish?*

3. COMPASSION (Philippians 2:1, Colossians 3:12)

- * Sympathy is a NATURAL response to someone's pain that says, "I FEEL SORRY for them."
- * Compassion is the HOLY SPIRIT stirring within you and saying, "That person NEEDS ME and I want to TOUCH them."
- * Sympathy is NATURAL; compassion is SUPERNATURAL.
- * In Jesus' ministry, compassion was the Holy Spirit TRIGGER that CATALYSED the miracle (Mark 1:41, Luke 7:13).
- * When you RESPOND to compassion, you set the Holy Spirit LOOSE to do what ONLY HE can do.

→ *How can you tell if it's sympathy or compassion (or even empathy)? Why is the distinction important? When you feel that compassion rising, what is the Holy Spirit up to? What does our response to that leading potentially open up? How do we become more compassionate?*

4. CONSTRUCTION (Psalm 127:1, Matthew 16:18)

- * Key Question: WHO is building WHAT?
- * Unless the LORD builds the house, the builders labour IN VAIN.
- * MAN-MADE isn't going to CHANGE the WORLD.
- * In the face of all the GOOD ideas, what are the GOD ideas?
- * If WE try to build it, we'll be INEFFECTIVE, grow FRUSTRATED & become EXHAUSTED.
- * If we want our church to be truly Spirit-filled / touched / empowered, we need to DEFER, at all times, to the MASTER BUILDER.

→ *How much of a role does the Holy Spirit play in building your house? What are the benefits of allowing Him to build or the dangers if we don't?*

→ *"Too many churches have fallen or failed because people have tried to build church in their own way, with their own strength and resources." Is that a true statement? How does Matt 16:18 play into that?*

→ *How do we make sure it is the Lord doing the building?*