



## Part 2 – SPIRIT-FILLED



**The church we see is SPIRIT-FILLED:** Passionate in worship, where His presence is tangible, where the gifts of the Holy Spirit are in operation, where those in need receive personal ministry, and where services are not religious rituals but encounters with God.  
 → *Are we attracted to this statement? What particularly appeals to you? How are we doing in these areas? What could it look like?*  
 → *Tell us about a church you've been in that was clearly Spirit-filled.*

### WHY SPIRIT-FILLED?

Zechariah 4:6 → *This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: 'Not by MIGHT nor by POWER, but by my SPIRIT' says the Lord Almighty.*

- \* We tend to default to SELF-SUFFICIENCY rather than GOD-SUFFICIENCY.
- \* MIGHT & POWER = STRENGTH, EFFICIENCY, WEALTH OF RESOURCES, MIGHT OF ARMY
- \* SPIRIT (Ruach) = WIND, BREATH, SPIRIT
- \* Have we really embraced what it means to be CITIZENS of HEAVEN, FOLLOWERS of Jesus, SPIRIT-FILLED? Luke 24:49, John 14:12, Mark 16:17
- \* Premise: We're supposed to be a SUPERNATURAL church ... The Spirit of God is our PLAN A.
- \* MAN-MADE church isn't going to CHANGE the WORLD.  
 → *What does self-sufficiency look like? What does God-sufficiency look like? Why is it such a strong temptation to do church in our own strength? What traps do we fall into?*

### WHAT WOULD QUALIFY AS 'MIGHT & POWER?'

1. DEFAULTING to our NATURAL ABILITY → Skills, strengths, plans, programs
2. PROFESSIONALISM → Slick, smart, techy, well-rehearsed, entertaining
3. ROUTINE → Onto autopilot, the same way every time
4. HYPE → Natural enthusiasm, whipping it up
5. EXAGGERATION → Calling natural things supernatural
6. CALLING NICE THOUGHTS PROPHETIC → Is it really Holy Spirit inspired?
7. Using CONDEMNATION to produce guilt rather than CONVICTION to produce repentance  
 → *Why do we tend to resort to these? Which do you see too much of? Why are they negative? Where are the fine lines?*  
 → *How do our own natural abilities, professionalism and high standards, routines and enthusiasm help or hinder the work of the Spirit in our services?*

### WHAT DOES SPIRIT-FILLED LOOK LIKE?

- a) MANIFEST, TANGIBLE PRESENCE (Acts 2:43, 2 Chronicles 7:1-3)
- b) CONVICTION (1 Thessalonians 1:5)
- c) JOY & FREEDOM (2 Corinthians 3:17, Romans 14:17, Isaiah 61:1-3)
- d) DEMONSTRATED POWER
- e) GIFTS of the SPIRIT in OPERATION (1 Corinthians 12:4-11)  
 → *How often do you see evidence of these? How would our church be different if they were experienced more? What could God achieve in His church if they were?*

### WHAT DO I SEE ON SUNDAY MORNINGS?

- \* In PRAISE we lay ourselves DOWN and LIFT Him UP → There is liberty, joy, boldness
- \* In WORSHIP we lay ourselves OPEN and He STEPS IN → There's a sweetness, freshness, fragrance.
- \* In the WORD He speaks CLEARLY, STRONGLY, INCISIVELY → He's the Spirit of truth, revelation, transformation.
- \* In MINISTRY we are OPEN, RESPONSIVE, OBEDIENT ... and He SHOW UP, STEPS IN, SPEAKS OUT ... imparts powerfully, transforms liberally.
- \* There's EVIDENCE of His LEADING in the words of the preacher, service host, worship leader, congregational input.
- \* Our services are a JOURNEY → Intentionally planned, but Holy Spirit led.
- \* By the end, we know we've had an ENCOUNTER → Meeting with God, experiencing His love and power, with a residue of freedom, grace, life, purpose.  
 → *Which of these catches your attention? Where might there be room for you to grow?*  
 → *What do we mean when we say that we want our services to be a 'journey?' Where does it take you and how?*  
 → *What is an encounter? How is it different to a religious ritual? When you've had an encounter, what are the consequential results?*

### HOW DO WE GET THERE?

- a) COME spiritually OPEN → Expectant, ready, set to press in ... be a sponge not a brick wall ... You can be a spokesperson, catalyst, first responder, open vessel, prayer minister, practical back-up, psalmist
- b) Strip off the FLESH in PRAISE (Psalm 100:4, 22:3)
- c) WORSHIP till He COMES
- d) OPEN the DOOR as wide as we can
- e) LISTEN
- f) Move into the realm of FAITH
- g) PREACH the WORD (Mark 16:20, Jeremiah 1:12)
- h) Use given MINISTRY GIFTS (Ephesians 4:7-16)
- i) Encourage 1 Cor 12 GIFTS
- j) CULTIVATE a RESPONSIVE atmosphere
- k) Choose SUPERNATURAL over NATURAL  
 → *What does it mean to be spiritually open? How might that change the way you come*  
 → *Why is praise so important? What does it mean to strip off the flesh? What are the things that stand between you and your encounter and how do we strip them away?*  
 → *How do we open the door as wide as possible? How does the Word open the door to the Holy Spirit? How do faith and boldness contribute? How do the 1 Cor 12 gifts of the Holy Spirit help?*  
 → *Do we have a responsive atmosphere? Are you responsive? How might we work that culture in more strongly?*

What's the DIFFERENCE? Outcome? Dream? → It will be divine not merely human, inspired not just well-intentioned, fruitful not futile, specific not general, fresh not stale, alive not dry, deep not shallow, liberating not frustrating, convicting not condemning, replenishing not depleting, God will get the glory not man, His will done, Kingdom come, purposes fulfilled.  
 → *How does that sound? Which is it? Why not pray into all of that?*