

How the Spirit Leads Us - Part 5

by Zac Poonen

The Holy Spirit is more valuable than any material possession, and we must value and ask for it in order to receive it.

Duration: 9:15

Scripture: Luke 11:9, John 3:5, John 13:8, Ephesians 5:25

Topics: "Holy Spirit", "Spiritual Growth"

Description

This sermon emphasizes the importance of asking, seeking, and knocking for the Holy Spirit, highlighting the principle that God gives to those who ask. It delves into the value we place on receiving the Holy Spirit, drawing parallels to seeking material possessions versus seeking the Spirit. The sermon also explores the cleansing and sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit, using the analogy of being born of water and the Spirit, and the continual need for spiritual cleansing in our daily lives.

Transcript

Holy Spirit to all his children? No. How much more will the Heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to all his children? No. How much more will the Heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to all who need the Holy Spirit? No.

All those who ask Him. That's a law. So I say to you, verse 9, ask and it'll be given to you.

What if you don't ask? Won't be given to you. Seek and you'll find. What if you don't seek? You won't find.

Knock and it'll be open to you. What if you don't knock? It will not be open. For everyone who asks, receives.

This is a principle in the Christian life. God says there it is, but you have to ask and say, Lord, I want it. Why is that? I'll tell you why.

Because I have observed even in human relationship, I mean human nature, you never value anything that you get free. Have you noticed that in your life? Anything that you get free, supposing we give you a free book, may cost 25 rupees. We sometimes give books out like that to visitors.

I don't know what they do with it. You give out tracts. You stand out here and give out free tracts to everybody who comes here along the road.

You go hundred yards down the road, you'll see most of them thrown on the wayside. That's why I don't give it out like that. They don't value something free.

But if a man goes to a shop and buys a diamond or something expensive, you won't find him throwing it on the wayside. We value what we have paid a price for. And that is why God wants to see how much value you place on the Holy Spirit.

Look at these people who, when they try to get a plot of land from the BDA or something like that, what a lot of pains they go through. They go here, they go there, they consult a lawyer, they get the document, they get the document verified, they go running to the office back and forth and back and forth and back and forth and they get all the... What a lot of pains to get a plot of land. You wouldn't do that to buy a newspaper.

I'll tell you this, if you had sought the Holy Spirit like you sought for a plot of property, you'd have been filled with the Holy Spirit long, long ago. But God sees you value some plot of land more than you value the Holy Spirit. He'll say, okay, you'll get the land, you won't get the Spirit.

Do you know that the Holy Spirit is more valuable than any plot of property you can ever get? Even prime property in M.G. Road or anywhere. And when you value the Holy Spirit as more than anything else in your life, I guarantee God will fill you with it. When you say, Lord, I don't care how long it takes, I don't care, and I'm not going to get satisfied with somebody saying, just take it by faith.

I'm not going to be satisfied with somebody who says, yeah, yeah, yeah, you're okay. No. I say, God, you must fill me and give me victory in my life.

You must sanctify me, spirit, soul, and body. And I've got to ask you for it. And, you know, Jesus used examples of the Holy Spirit to be, you saw that once in the Gospel of John.

In John, Jesus is a master at using pictures to illustrate truths. In John chapter 3, chapter 4, and chapter 7, these three chapters, he used the picture of water. In John chapter 3, he said, you've got to be born of water and the Holy Spirit.

John 3 verse 5. Water was just a symbol or a picture of the Holy Spirit. It's like the water that washes us. That's the first thing that the water does.

It cleanses us. And that's what he was speaking about here. The first function of water is to cleanse us thoroughly.

Now, we need it once to be born of water, and then we need to constantly be cleansed all the time, every day. And that's why Jesus said in John 13, you know, when he was washing the disciples' feet, he said, you know, he came to Peter and Peter said in John 13 verse 8, you're never gonna wash me. And he said, Jesus replied, if I don't wash you, you have no part with me.

You see the importance of water? It's the first function of water to be born of the Holy Spirit. Jesus called it being born of water and the Holy Spirit. He illustrated it here when he was washing the disciples' feet.

He said, if you don't let me clean you with water, you're not a part of me. You're not my child. You've got to allow me to clean you first.

You don't have to clean yourself. You can't. I'll cleanse you.

The blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin. He will cleanse us. But, he said, you got, and then when Peter heard that, he said, oh, in that case, don't just wash my feet.

Wash my hands and my head and everything. No, no, no, Jesus said, no. You need to be bathed that is born again just once.

That means the whole, here he's using bathing as a picture of being born again. No, he says, he was bathed, he's already bathed, then he needs just to wash his feet. You know, a person who's had a bath in a day may have to wash his feet many times in a day.

And if you think of our entire life as a day, in that day, we need to be born again once. But then, we get dirty frequently, even after we are born again. And that, Jesus said, then you need to wash your feet frequently.

You don't need to be bathed again. You don't need to be born again all over again. You don't need to be born again 25 times in your life.

In that one day of your life, you're born bathed once, you're born again, but your feet get dirty frequently during the day. Because those days, they didn't wear shoes. They wore sandals.

And it would get dirty frequently, and they'd come every time. They'd come out, go for a walk in the dusty roads, come back, then wash their feet. They'd go out somewhere, come back, wash their feet.

That can happen many times during our life. So, he says, he who is bathed needs only to wash his feet. And the Lord has to do that for us.

That means, you know, it's not total filth, a little bit of dust. And what we learn from that is, that no matter how hard you try, listen to this, no matter how hard you try, if you walk on a dusty road with sandals, you will get some dust on your feet. You cannot avoid it.

The meaning is, no matter how eager you are to keep yourself from the spirit of the world, if you live one day in the world, some of that dust has got onto you. And we experience that. We sit in an office where everybody's talking filth and rubbish, and you get a little, you feel a little polluted when you come back home.

Now, you didn't say anything, but it's the dust that came off the feet, onto your, off the road, onto your feet. You cannot avoid it. There's filth.

You walk down the roads, there are billboards, there's a little bit of filth there. Everywhere you go. And Jesus said, you just gotta wash your feet.

You don't need to be born again all over again, but you need to cleanse your feet. You might see there's a little dust there and say, Lord, just cleanse it away. And he'll cleanse it away.

And in Ephesians 5, the same picture is used of washing with water, saying that's how Jesus makes us holy. It says here, Christ, in the middle of verse 25, Christ loved the church. That's you.

And he gave himself up for you. Why? Here's the answer, what I've been telling you from the beginning. He gave himself not to make you wealthy, not to make you healthy, not to give you this, that, and the other in the world, but to sanctify you.

To make you holy. To make you...

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