

## SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

### “The Invisible Man Initiation: Baptism in the Holy Spirit”

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By Danah Davis

### MINISTRY PRAYER REQUESTS

- Volunteers: Please pray that God would raise up more volunteers within the Small Group Ministry to serve.
- Pastor Mark Collins: Please pray for Pastor Mark Collins and his family as they transition to San Jose.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Small Group Leaders! We have some detailed announcements coming out this week. Please check your email frequently and be sure to read all correspondence so you can stay informed of what God is doing in Small Groups. =)
- Not sure we have your current email address? Please email our awesome intern, Tawny at [tawny.paavola@therocksandiego.org](mailto:tawny.paavola@therocksandiego.org), to have your inform updated.

### MEMORY VERSE

*“For we were all baptized in one Spirit into body – whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free – and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.”*

1 Corin 12:13

### *Getting Started:*

The church, the spiritual body of Christ, is formed as believers are immersed by Christ with the Holy Spirit. Christ is the baptizer (Matt 3:11) who immerses each believer with the Spirit into unity with all other believers. As Miles’ mentioned in Sunday’s service, Paul is not talking about water baptism, a public declaration of your decision for Christ, by being immersed in water to symbolize a union with Christ in His death and Resurrection, by being immersed completely under water (His death) and then immediately raised out of the water (Resurrection). All believers are, however, immersed into the body of Christ by means of the Holy Spirit. This is not an experience to seek but a reality to acknowledge.

Let’s recap Sunday’s sermon and dig a little deeper by reading the following scriptures:

In the first four verses, John the Baptist is speaking of Jesus and predicting that he will baptize people in (or with) the Holy Spirit.

- Matthew 3:11: “I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.”
- Mark 1:8: “I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”
- Luke 3:16: “I baptize you with water; but he who is mightier than I is coming, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.”
- John 1:33: “He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’”

The next two passages refer directly to Pentecost. (Pentecost define as a Jewish feast during which, following the ascension of Jesus, the Holy Spirit was poured out in new covenant fullness

and power on the disciples. This day marked the point of transition between old covenant work and ministry of the Holy Spirit and the new covenant work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.)

- Acts 1:5: [Here Jesus says,] “John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”
- Acts 11:16: [Here Peter refers back to the same words of Jesus that were quoted in the previous verse . He says,] “I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, ‘John baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’”

1. Before Sunday’s sermon and reviewing the scriptures above, what was your understanding of “baptism in the Holy Spirit”? How has your understanding changed, if at all?

### ***Digging Deeper:***

2. What is sanctification? How does sanctification differ from salvation, or does it?
3. Has your own Christian life included one or more events that you could call “a large step of growth” in some area or another in the Christian walk? Or has it been one of small but continuing steps in sanctification, in fellowship with God and in use of spiritual gifts and power in ministry?
4. Read Ephesians 5:18 -21. What does it mean to “*filled with the Spirit*”? Do you think this is a one-time occurrence or something that can happen repeatedly? What do the scriptures tell us are some of the results of being filled with the Spirit? Do you think it is would be right to seek an experience of filling with the Holy Spirit in your own life now? How might someone go about doing this?
5. If we think of the various ways in which we can grow in our walk with God (knowledge of the Word and sound doctrine, prayer, love for God, love for other Christians and for non-Christians, trust in God each day, worship, holiness of life, use of spiritual gifts, effective power of the Holy Spirit in our witness and ministry, daily fellowship with God, etc), in what areas do you think you need to ask God for more growth in your own life?

### ***Bringing It Home***

Often, Christians try to use their own power and authority to persuade others to follow Christ. But sharing God’s message should not involve slick debate or manipulation. Instead, we should share what God has done for us through the power of the Holy Spirit. Then we should depend on the Spirit for the results.

- Take a few minutes to think back on what God has done in your life and how He has been continually sanctifying you.
- Make a list of the pivotal changes God has made in your life that demonstrate his transforming love, grace, holiness, power, healing, forgiveness, peace, etc.
- Then practice sharing with one another what God has done for you through the power of the Holy Spirit. (Use the list that you just created to help guide you if you get stuck.)

After a few of you have shared, take some time to pray and praise the Lord for the amazing transformation He has done and continues to do in you, ask the Holy Spirit to help you be more bold in sharing what He has done in your life and to use your witness and testimony to bring others to Christ.