

Going Deeper

Your weekly guide to understanding God with others

Plugged In - Part 4

DALE STEPHENSON

Introduction

In the New Testament, we read the Day of Pentecost as the moment when the Holy Spirit appears as tongues of fire, enabling the disciples to speak in tongues. Nowadays, there are different views on when the baptism of the Holy Spirit occurs in the life of a believer. Some believe that the baptism of the Holy Spirit happens after a person has put their trust in Jesus and it is evident through the spiritual gifts. Others hold that the baptism of the Holy Spirit happens at the time of conversion. Pastor Dale explains that regardless of which view we favour, both groups agree that believers should continue to be filled with the Holy Spirit and become witnesses of Jesus.

Read

Acts 2:1-11

Discuss

1. Have you ever been in a foreign country and randomly heard strangers speaking in your native language? How did you feel? Why?
2. What does it mean to be perpetually filled by the Holy Spirit? What does the Holy Spirit enable us to do (read Acts 1:8)? What stops us from doing this?
3. Pastor Dale teaches the parallels between what happened in Mount Sinai (Old Covenant - read Exodus 24:17 and 31:18) and on the day of Pentecost (New Covenant - read Jeremiah 31:31-33). Why are these parallels significant and important for us to know? What do these parallels say about God?
4. Read Romans 2:12-15. Based on what the Apostle Paul writes, Pastor Dale teaches that conscience is innate - that is, our sense of good and evil, right and wrong, is present regardless of whether or not we believe in Jesus. This being so, what is the difference between believers and non-believers when it comes to obeying God's law?

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5. Followers of Jesus believe that the Word of God is the truth, while conscience or heart can often be deceitful. How has this statement been true in your faith journey?
6. Jesus always had global redemption in mind. When we are filled with the Spirit, we become witnesses of Jesus for the people around us. Spend some time together with the group to brainstorm how the group can bear witness to the good news together. Plan your next steps!

Respond

As we read in Acts 1:8, regardless of what power or gifts we receive from the Holy Spirit, the big deal is that we are called to be His witnesses. Is there anyone in your close circle right now that has not heard about Jesus? Pray together for each member of the group to receive a name, and for everyone to become prompt-able and perpetually filled by the Holy Spirit.