

The Holy Spirit Sends Us



Isaiah 61:1-4

Summary:

We will be unable to do the Great Commission through self-effort. We need the power of God through the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit has come to do many things, but His priority is to fill you with power to be a witness for Jesus.

Opening question:

- What is the purpose of the Holy Spirit in the life of a Christian?
(Note to leaders: many of the things we spoke about in our Holy Spirit series earlier in the year will be relevant!)

Let's look at what it looks like to be a Spirit-filled believer, according to Isaiah 61.

Read the following verses out loud together in your small group.

61 The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor;
he has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;
² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
³ to grant to those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;
that they may be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.
⁴ They shall build up the ancient ruins;
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.

Questions:

- What strikes you about the work of the Holy Spirit in this passage?
- This passage lists many things the Spirit wants to do through you. Do any of them surprise or excite you?

Respond:

- As we move into our series on the Great Commission over the coming weeks, we must receive power from the Holy Spirit to go and do all that Jesus has called us to do.
- Spend time laying hands on and praying for one another to receive the Holy Spirit. Expect to receive power from God to be Jesus' witness among your family, friends (and enemies!), colleagues, and people you come across in your daily life.

(Note to leaders: please leave plenty of time to do this!)