

**DISCIPLESHIP 3
GOD'S PLAN
SERIES**

**UNIT III - LESSON 1, 2
BEING LED BY THE SPIRIT
BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT**

for

**CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE
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LIVING ACCORDING TO GOD'S PLAN (WAYS)**UNIT III - SPIRITUAL MATURITY****LESSON 1 - GOD'S WAY TO SPIRITUAL MATURITY - GILGAL -
BEING LED BY THE SPIRIT****INTRODUCTION - GOD'S WAY TO SPIRITUAL MATURITY**

In this lesson we want to see from 2 Kings 2:1-15, **GOD'S WAY (PLAN) FOR OUR SPIRITUAL MATURITY.**

You see, Father God has a goal in mind for your life.

- Romans 8:29 describes this goal as you being conformed into the image of His son.
- Ephesians 4:12 speaks of you being perfected (lit. Gk., prepared, restored, mended).
- Ephesians 4:13 and Colossians 1:28 says that God's goal for you, is that you be made "perfect" (lit. Gk., complete, fully mature, grow up).

Not only, does He, Father God, have a goal for your life, which He will bring to completion as Philippians 1:6 says in the "the Day of Jesus Christ". He also, has a plan where-by His goal can in a measure be accomplished in you, now, in this life. WHY? So that, you will be useful to Him in every good work. 2 Timothy 2:21.

This plan for our spiritual maturity is revealed in 2 Kings 2:1-15, in the meanings of the four places which Elijah and Elisha visited the day in which Elijah was taken up by God.

- **GILGAL**
- **BETHEL**
- **JERICHO**
- **THE JORDAN**

As we consider these four places and their meanings in relationship to our spiritual maturity we need to keep in mind the progression from Gilgal to the Jordan is important. **You cannot in your spiritual growth cross the Jordan until you have come from Gilgal, to Bethel, to Jericho and then to the Jordan.**

2 Kings 2:1-15

- Gilgal means whirlwind - the moving of the Holy Spirit
- Bethel means the House of God - Local church
- Jericho means a delightful fragrance - being seasoned

- Jordan means the descender - submission to spiritual father

GILGAL - "BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT" (Ephesians 5:18)

In this lesson we begin our journey to the Jordan at Gilgal. As stated Gilgal means a whirlwind, a moving wheel and represents the moving of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer.

God's plan according to which we His children are to live is a plan of living, being moved, of being motivated by the Holy Spirit.

The operation of the Holy Spirit in your life is of utmost importance to your Father God.

Do you understand and see this?

Our life is to constantly to be led, guided, directed by the Holy Spirit.

This active leading and directing of the Holy Spirit has its beginning in being filled with the Spirit (being Baptized with the Holy Spirit of promise) and in the continual filling of the Spirit.

For emphasis, to help us see the need to be filled with the Spirit, being moved, led and motivated by the Spirit, we want to look at the operation of the Holy Spirit in the life and activities of Jesus.

THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE LIFE OF JESUS

1. Conceived by the Spirit - Luke 1:35
2. Baptized by the Spirit - Matthew 3:16
3. Led by the Spirit - Matthew 3:1, Mark 1:12, Luke 4:1
4. Empowered by the Spirit - Luke 4:14
5. Healed by the Spirit - Luke 4:18
6. Cast out devils by the Spirit - Matthew 12:28
7. Justified by the Spirit - 1 Timothy 3:16
8. Offered up by the Spirit - Hebrews 9:14
9. Resurrected by the Spirit - 1 Peter 3:18

Thus we see that Jesus from His conception to His death and resurrection was led, moved, directed and motivated by the Holy Spirit.

John 3:34 -

LESSON 2 - GOD'S WAY TO SPIRITUAL MATURITY - GILGAL - EPHESIANS 5:18, "BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT"

INTRODUCTION

In last lesson we began talking about *God's plan for our Spiritual Maturity*. This plan of God is revealed in 2 Kings 2:1-15 in the meaning of the four places mentioned, Gilgal, Bethel, Jericho and the Jordan.

We noted that the progression of the journey was and is from Gilgal, to Bethel, to Jericho, and then to the Jordan.

Gilgal - lit. Hebrew means a whirlwind which represents to us the filling and moving of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer.

Bethel - lit. Hebrew means House of God, representing to us the local church which is the place where healing begins, where restoration takes place (where the believer is unwrapped from his death wrapping) and is a training center for ministries.

Jericho - lit. Hebrew means a delightful fragrance. Here we see the maturing process in operation; the believer is taking on a delightful fragrance as he is being grounded, seasoned in the foundation truths of the Christian faith and is letting these truths direct his life and conduct. Jesus is growing up in him.

Jordan - lit. Hebrew means the descender. In God's plan for spiritual maturity the Jordan speaks of the disciple submitting to his spiritual father, in order that, he might receive the double portion of his spiritual father's anointing.

THE BAPTISM WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

Our journey to spiritual maturity; that is, moving from being little children spiritually to becoming young men and women spiritually to becoming spiritual fathers and mothers [1 John 2:12-14] has its beginning at Gilgal with BEING FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT. This initial filling of the Holy Spirit is know as the Baptism with the Holy Spirit.

Let us note that Gilgal which is a whirlwind, a moving wind speaks of more than just being baptized with the Holy Spirit, it speaks of being moved, led, directed, motivated by the Holy Spirit.

Therefore, Gilgal represents the active leading and directing of the Holy Spirit, having its beginning in the Baptism with the Holy Spirit and in the continual filling of the Spirit.

Let us understand that without the power dimension [Luke 24:49, Acts 1:8] which the Baptism with the Holy Spirit brings to the Christian Walk, the child of God will remain a child or baby spiritually. He will not GROW UP in Christ and be the overcomer that his Father God would have him to be.

The reason so many of God's children are having such a difficult, frustrating Christian walk is that they do not recognize and understand the need of the Holy Spirit.

Paul in Galatians 5:16 says that if we walk in the Spirit we will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh.

In this statement of the Apostle Paul, in capsule form, is the way to overcome our negative attitudes, criticism of others, hatreds, anger, frustrations, strife, jealousies, bitterness or any other of the sins that so EASILY BESET US [Hebrews 12:1]. Walk in the Spirit.

Do you desire, BUT find it most difficult to show LOVE? I mean, self-denying, self-sacrificing, selfless acts of love to your brothers and sisters in Christ. Do you desire to be continually full of the joy of the Lord; always at peace even in the midst of chaos; to be patient and tolerant of the faults and weaknesses of others; to be gentle, kind, full of faith; to have self-control (the self under control)?

Do you desire these things? You can have them by WALKING IN THE SPIRIT.

Do we understand that if we do **not walk in the Spirit**, our lives are being directed by lusts of our flesh and not by the Spirit and we will find ourselves doing all the things which we know we should not be doing. And we will not be doing the things we know that we as children of God should be doing.

Galatians 3:3, "Are you so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are you now made perfect by the flesh (your own efforts).

The solution to a Christ centered walk is walking in the Spirit.

Now walking in the Spirit has its beginning in the Baptism with the Holy Spirit. If a person has not been baptized with the Holy Spirit, there is no way he can walk in the Spirit.

Likewise, let us understand that being baptized with the Holy Spirit will not automatically guarantee that you will walk in the Spirit.

To walk in the Spirit you must know (be consciously aware of) that you NEED the Holy Spirit and the power dimension which he brings to your life and then be continually filled with the Spirit.

You see, when we are filled with the Holy Spirit, then the Spirit will have His way in our Life. If we are filled with self, then the self will have its way in our life.

Thus as we realize the need to be continually filled with the Holy Spirit our lives will be led, directed, motivated and moved by the Holy Spirit and we will be walking by the Spirit and will not be fulfilling the lusts of the flesh. Amen?

THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

To further cement this truth in our hearts, let us look at what the Word of God has to say about the ministry of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer.

Galatians 3:3 -

John 3:3-5 -

John 14:17 -

1 Corinthians 6:19 -

John 14:26 -

John 15:26 -

John 16:7-14 (13,14)

Ephesians 1:13; 4:30 -

Romans 8:16 -

1 Corinthians 2:10 -

Romans 15:13 -

Romans 15:19 (Acts 13:2) -

Mark 16:20 -

Remember, Gilgal speaks of more than just being baptized with the Holy Spirit. It speaks of walking in the Spirit. Ephesians 5:18, "... **BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT.**'

END of Series

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