

Theme: Windwalkers

Topic: Intro: Don't You Want More?

Date:

Opening: Show the clip from movie, *Unbreakable*, where Bruce Willis' character, David Dunne, finds out he's got this superhuman power he didn't know about before. He's just an average person with an average family and an average job. If you painted his life, it would be in gray. Show the clip where David and his son, Joseph, are downstairs lifting weights, and David finds that he can lift whatever is put on the bar. They end up having to hang paint cans from the end of the bar because they run out of weights. He also finds that just by coming into physical contact with people he can foresee events in their life before they happen. It's an entire new part of his life he hadn't experienced up until then. It changes his attitude, his behavior, his lifestyle and purpose. (chapter 12, 0:43:20 to 0:49:56)

Today we start a series called "Windwalkers". We'll be talking during the series about living our life empowered by the Holy Spirit, or "walking by the Spirit": what that means, how that life happens, and what it looks like.

Small Groups: Split up into small groups and answer these questions:

1. Share your name and answer this question: If you could have any superhuman trait of the following, which would you pick (swim under water indefinitely, incredible speed, superhuman strength, stretchability, walk through walls)?
2. If the apostles came and lived in our culture and went to your school and your church, how do you think they would feel about how Christians are doing? What do you think they would say?
3. What do you think are the largest reasons Christians don't live with more power in their walk with Jesus?

Get some feedback on these questions.

What if there were a dimension of living with Jesus that was available to you, but you just hadn't tapped into yet. Wouldn't you want it?

Over the next weeks we're going to dig into a series, "Windwalkers: A Study on Walking by the Spirit." We're calling it "walking by the Spirit", based on Galatians 5:25.

"If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.." Galatians 5:25

For anyone who has accepted Christ as their personal Savior, they are "indwelt" with the Holy Spirit, meaning He lives within you.

"However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in

you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. ¹⁰And if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness. "But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you." Romans 8:9-11

"Guard through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, the treasure which has been entrusted to you." 2 Timothy 1:14

This is a very important point to start with, that the Holy Spirit dwells within EVERY believer. When I ask Jesus into my life, the Holy Spirit enters in. That's not at question.

But what IS at question is this: Are you "walking in the spirit", or better put, are you "filled with the Spirit"? Scripture never commands us to be "baptized in the Spirit" or to be "indwelt with the Spirit", because that happens as soon as we ask Jesus into our life. But the Bible DOES command us to be "filled with the Spirit" (see Eph. 5:18). The issue here is being CONTROLLED by the Holy Spirit. Something is different. Let's look at what's different about a person "filled with the Spirit":

(NOTE: You will find in this lesson that there are many Scriptures and "points". Don't get lost in lots of material. The real focus is that God has so much more for so many Christians, yet we often simply have as much of God as we want...and no more. Today's goal is to get us to look at this "different level of living".)

1. There are 3 types of Man...which one are you? (Remember you ARE one of these!)

A. Natural Man (1 Cor. 2:14) One who does not trust in Christ. This is a self driven life, controlled by one who sees no need for a Savior. This person does not, and CANNOT, understand the truths of God.

- We KNOW we're not supposed to be here, but our WORLD is full of people who fit right here.

B. Carnal Man (1 Cor. 3:1-3) One who has accepted Jesus but still looks to themselves for lifestyle choices. This is a defeated life because they will fall when they depend on their own efforts. Because God's Spirit lives in them, they no longer can receive satisfaction from worldly living, but they also aren't obeying God and receiving true satisfaction from Him. (Note that these definitely ARE Christians, or "babes in Christ" v. 1.)

- The CHURCH is full of people who fit right here.

- This is the most frustrating of all three people, because they've tasted and smelled what is better, but they live at this *lesser* level.

- It's like not having a craving for something until you've smelled it, or tasted it once. Now you know what you're missing! You know it's out there, AND that you're not experiencing it.

C. Spiritual Man (Romans 8:4-8) One who is controlled by the Spirit. They realize their own efforts will make them fall into sin. As God shines light on issues of life, all

choices of lifestyle reflect seeking God's will.

- This is clearly where real power and joy is at, but so few people live here. It's another level of living that even many Christians have never experienced.

2. What does “walking by the Spirit”, or being “filled with the Spirit”, look like?

A. Your life will show the fruits of the spirit (Gal 5:22-23)

- You don't have to TRY to grow fruit, it just happens. The fruit of the Spirit is the natural by-product of living in a way that we'll talk about over the next several weeks.

B. You will conform more to the image of Christ (Rom 12:2)

- Not lose temper, not worry, showing compassion, etc.

C. Your prayer life and study of the Bible will become important to you.

- If/When you miss it, you MISS IT.

D. You will experience His power when witnessing.

E. You will be prepared for spiritual conflict - against what the world (non believers) and the flesh (your will not God's) and against Satan (1 Pet 5:8-9)

F. You will experience His power to *resist* temptation and sin (1 Cor 10:13, Phil 4:13, Eph 1:19-23)

3. How do I know which person I am?

Here's a list of statements that each type person might say. The point is not that we say EXACTLY these things, but that these are indicators of attitudes which fit each type of person. Where do we find ourselves?

A. The NATURAL MAN says:

ABOUT PRAYER: “Why should I pray?” “Why should you pray for me? My life is so crazy I would be embarrassed to share it with anyone, they would just talk about me...no one would believe it!”

ABOUT BIBLE STUDY: “Read the Bible?! I can't even get my homework done, plus it doesn't relate to today.”

ABOUT FRIENDSHIPS: “I don't need or want any more relationships... I am busy enough.” OR “I've GOT to have a lot of friendships, so I'll do whatever it takes, act in whatever way I need, to have friendships.”

ABOUT FAITH AND LIFESTYLE: “If Christianity is so great why are those people so fake?”

ABOUT CHURCH: “I have all I need, why would I need God? I can take care of myself.”

B. The CARNAL MAN says:

ABOUT PRAYER: “I hear quiet times are a good thing.” “We should pray together, but I just don't want to right now.”

ABOUT BIBLE STUDY: “I know I'm suppose to read the Bible, but I just don't have the time.”

ABOUT FRIENDSHIPS: “I know my friends are not doing the right thing, but if I don't hang with them I won't have ANY friends.”

ABOUT FAITH AND LIFESTYLE: “I have accepted Christ, I am going to heaven. Why can't I keep living the way I want to?”

ABOUT CHURCH: “I feel guilty when I don't go to church, but God doesn't care where I go as long as I pray.” “I don't feel as close to Christ as I used to.”

C. The SPIRITUAL MAN says:

ABOUT PRAYER: "I set aside time regularly to pray, and I find myself talking with God several times during the day." "Even when it's hard to focus, I seek God's guidance and am trying to learn to hear His voice."

ABOUT BIBLE STUDY: "I am finding it easier to hear God's voice in His word. I am challenged and encouraged as I spend time in it. I truly miss reading God's word if I'm not in it regularly."

ABOUT FRIENDSHIPS: "My relationship with Christ comes first. My relationships with my old friends have changed. Some have grown closer to Christ, some are interested in my relationship with Christ, and some have grown apart from me. I am trying to let God truly lead me in how to be a better friend."

ABOUT FAITH AND LIFESTYLE: "I feel so free, as if a weight has been lifted off my back. I trust the plan God has for me."

ABOUT CHURCH: "I have found a church I call home and I am being taught by an older mature Christian. It is exciting to go to church."

"Some people say I have given up things for Christ; but I don't feel like it's a sacrifice at all."

"Even when I don't FEEL excited about my relationship with Christ, I find myself being more obedient to Him than I was before."

4. So how can I have this kind of a Spirit-filled life? (How you ask God for a spirit filled life:)

A. DESIRE to be controlled by the Holy Spirit now! (Mat 5:6, Jer. 29:13 and John 7:37)

B. CONFESS your sins and believe that He has forgiven you, because of what HE did, not because of anything you did. (Col 2:13, 1 John 2:1-3, Heb 10:1-7)
- Specifically confess the sin of *spiritual contentedness* which is at the heart of the carnal Christian - "I've got all of God that I want or need."

C. BY FAITH ask for the fullness and filling of the Holy Spirit. This is done by His command (Eph. 5:18 - God wants this) and by His promise (1 John 5:14 - He will answer if we ask for what He wants)

Most of us, at Christmas, are a little disappointed when we get to the end of the "unwrapping", and we realize that we have no more gift under the tree with our name on it. This time together, we want to communicate, "You have another gift under the tree!" Walking by the Spirit is a whole new level of living, a wonderful gift God has for us, that is available for the asking...TODAY!

Lead them by praying for the filling of the Holy Spirit.

Encourage them to return as we talk more over the next weeks about what it means to walk by the Holy Spirit.