

We Value Spirit-Empowered Living

Message 4 of 4 in the series: "Values"

A. Our values matter.

Values = deeply held principles, beliefs, and commitments that motivate people and organizations to act one way or another. "Now that you know these things, **you will be blessed if you do them.**" John 13:17 (NIV)

B. We value Spirit-empowered living.

1. We value Spirit-empowered living because, without the Holy Spirit, we're all spiritually dead.

Spiritual death = separation from God because of sin.

"Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, 'Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, **for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.**' ... So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings. And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and **Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God** among the trees of the garden." Genesis 2:15-17 & 3:6-8 (NKJV)

IMPORTANT! "When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned." Romans 5:12 (NLT)

"**Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins.** You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else." Ephesians 2:1-3 (NLT)

2. We value Spirit-empowered living because the Holy Spirit regenerates us spiritually. "When God our Savior revealed his kindness and love, he saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. **He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit. He generously poured out the Spirit upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior.** Because of his grace he made us right in his sight and gave us confidence that we will inherit eternal life." Titus 3:4-7 (NLT)

IMPORTANT! We are regenerated/born again spiritually when we repent of our sins and surrender control of our lives to Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord. "But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. **They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.**" John 1:12-13 (NLT)

"You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. **Then God made you alive with Christ**, for he forgave all our sins. He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross." Colossians 2:13-14 (NLT)

3. We value Spirit-empowered living because, through the Holy Spirit, we are enabled to understand God's Word and think His thoughts. "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him.' **But it was to us that God revealed these things by his Spirit. For his Spirit searches out everything and shows us God's deep secrets.** No one can know a person's thoughts except that person's own spirit, and no one can know God's thoughts except God's own Spirit. And we have received God's Spirit (not the world's spirit), so we can know the wonderful things God has freely given us... But **people who aren't spiritual can't receive these truths from God's Spirit. It all sounds foolish to them and they can't understand it, for only those who are spiritual can understand what the Spirit means.**" 1 Corinthians 2:9b-12 & 14 (NLT) (*Isaiah 64:4*)

4. We value Spirit-empowered living because the Holy Spirit guides us. "When the Spirit of truth comes, **he will guide you into all truth.**" John 16:13a (NLT)

"Your own ears will hear him. Right behind you a voice will say, '**This is the way you should go,**' whether to the right or to the left." Isaiah 30:21 (NLT)

IMPORTANT! “So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won’t be doing what your sinful nature craves. The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires... **Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit’s leading in every part of our lives.**”

Galatians 5:16-17a & 25 (NLT)

5. We value Spirit-empowered living because the Holy Spirit gifts and empowers us to carry out the mission Jesus gave us. “But **you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you**. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8 (NLT)

“A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other. To one person the Spirit gives the ability to give wise advice; to another the same Spirit gives a message of special knowledge. The same Spirit gives great faith to another, and to someone else the one Spirit gives the gift of healing. He gives one person the power to perform miracles, and another the ability to prophesy. He gives someone else the ability to discern whether a message is from the Spirit of God or from another spirit. Still another person is given the ability to speak in unknown languages, while another is given the ability to interpret what is being said. **It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have.**” 1 Corinthians 12:7-11 (NLT)

IMPORTANT! “...apart from me you can do nothing.” John 15:5b (NLT)

6. We value Spirit-empowered living because the Holy Spirit empowers us to live transformed lives that please the Lord. “For God is working in you, **giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.**” Philippians 2:13 (NLT)

“And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord’s Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity — all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And **each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.**” Acts 2:44-47 (NLT)

7. We value Spirit-empowered living so we will not grieve the Holy Spirit by the way we act or quench the Holy Spirit by limiting what He seeks to accomplish in and through us. “And **do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God**, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.” Ephesians 4:30-32 (NIV)

“Do not quench the Spirit.” 1 Thessalonians 5:19 (NIV)

IMPORTANT! God commands us to surrender every part of our lives to His control, direction and empowerment. “Don’t act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do. Don’t be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, **be filled with the Holy Spirit...**”

Ephesians 5:17-18 (NLT)

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Connect Group Discussion Questions:

1. Read Genesis 3:1-12. How did sin immediately change the relationship between God and people? ...between Adam and Eve?
2. How does it make you feel to know that, apart from the Holy Spirit, all of us are spiritually dead? (Ephesians 2:1-3, Colossians 2:13-14) What can dead people do to remedy their situation?
3. How has your understanding of life changed since the Holy Spirit enabled you to connect to God and have a personal relationship with Him? (Titus 3:4-7, John 1:12-13)
4. Why can’t our unbelieving friends understand the Bible like we do? (1 Corinthians 2:9-14)
5. Describe a time when you’ve experienced the Holy Spirit’s guidance. (John 16:13, Isaiah 30:21, Galatians 5:16-25)
6. What do you think it looks like when we grieve the Holy Spirit? (Ephesians 4:30) ...quench the Holy Spirit? (1 Thessalonians 5:19)

7. How should our understanding of the work of the Holy Spirit impact the way we do ministry in our church?
(1 Corinthians 12:7-11, John 15:5, Acts 1:8)

8. More Bible verses about the Holy Spirit to ponder:

“But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: about sin, because people do not believe in me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.” John 16:7-11 (NIV)

“Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life.” John 3:6 (NLT)