

## We Aspire To Be A Spirit-Led Church

The Spirit of God is the one who breathed God's Word into being. The Spirit of God is also the one that reveals to us the meaning of scripture, bringing the words of the Bible to life for us. At ChristCentral Church we see the Word and Spirit as One, without the Spirit we have no Bible and without the Bible we can't know the Spirit. In this sermon we looked at 3 consequences of being a Spirit-led church; The Spirit leads us into Assurance; Fruitfulness and to be Witnesses.

### I) Assurance

Read Ephesians 1:13-14

The Father has given the Spirit to all people who follow Christ, as prophesied by Joel (Joel 2:28). What a wonderful gift this is! Paul in Ephesians 1 says that the Spirit 'seals' us, guaranteeing what has been promised. When a person receives a letter from the Queen it has a wax seal that bears the marks of the monarch thus conferring royal authority to the letter's contents. For us to have been 'sealed' by the Spirit means our hearts have been stamped by God, we belong to Him, we bear His mark and are entitled to receive all that is found in the 'letter', the Word of God and the promises it contains. There are so many promises spoken over God's people and the Spirit has been given to us that we might know deep in our hearts that every one is true for us!

**Q.** What are some of the promises made in God's Word that we need the Spirit to assure us of? (Forgiveness/Love of God/Eternal Life/His Presence with us/His power to save)

**Q.** Why is Assurance so crucial for the Christian? (Satan would tempt us to doubt/the world urges us to find our purpose outside of God, the Spirit assures us that our identity is In Christ)

### II) Fruitfulness

Read Galatians 22-23

We are led by the Spirit to produce fruit that others would observe in us confirming that we truly are disciple of Christ (John 13:25).

Look though the list in Galatians 5 and discuss how these fruits on display in us bear witness to saving work of Christ in us.

**Love** – conquering hate/division/between people and groups of people

**Joy** – Not a whinging/moaning and negative people but positive and joyful

**Peace** – Not aggressive envying others but content in God's provision

**Patience** – Not hotheaded and rash but in control of our emotions and trusting God

**Kindness** – Not self-centred/generous with our money and time/concerned for the needs of others

**Goodness** – Live honestly and honourably/e.g. not downloading illegal music – cheating or deceiving others

**Faithfulness** – A person who does what they say – reliable – committed – someone others can depend on

**Self Control** – able to say 'no' to sin – not drinking excessively – not using profane language – conducting pure relationships

### III) Be Witnesses

Read Acts 1:8

The Spirit of God has been poured out that we may be Christ's witnesses. Our lives as Christians are under scrutiny, if we lack the fruit described in Galatians 5 then we are unlikely to appear any different to those around us.

**Q.** How does the Spirit empower us to be Christ's witnesses?

**Q.** Why is fruitfulness the primary evidence Jesus identifies for proof of being His disciples?

**Q.** What's the culture like where you work/study? What does it mean for you to live radically for Christ in that environment?