

Zion's River—Discipleship

Course: Spiritual DNA

Session 5—The Path of Spirit, Part 2

June 6th, 2023

1 Our Focus

➤ The Importance of Spiritual DNA

- **1 Corinthians 4:15–16 (ESV)** — ¹⁵ For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. ¹⁶ I urge you, then, be imitators of me.

➤ The Core DNA of Zion's River

- The "Gospel of the Kingdom" is always the message.
- God's love is always the answer.
- God's Spirit is always the path.
- Heaven is always a *now* reality.

2 A Reality Shift

- ##### ➤ **Colossians 1:13 (ESV)** — **13** He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son...

3 The Baptism with the Holy Spirit

➤ *Baptism of Repentance and Baptism into Jesus*

- **Mark 1:4–5 (ESV)** — ⁴ John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.
 - The Baptism of John prepared the way for Christ.
- **Matthew 28:18–20 (ESV)** — ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."
 - Baptism is a command and sign.
- **Romans 6:1–7**
 - Baptism into Jesus is the line of demarcation from one life into another.

➤ **Baptism with the Holy Spirit**

- Baptism with the Holy Spirit is a work of Jesus.
 - **Luke 3:16–17 (ESV)** — ¹⁶ John answered them all, saying, “I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”
 - It is a work that sets you apart for a higher purpose.

- The Baptism with the Holy Spirit is a work of empowerment for a higher purpose.
 - **Luke 24:46–49 (ESV)** — ⁴⁶ and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷ and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

- The Baptism of the Holy Spirit empowers for the work of evangelism.
 - **Acts 1:6–8 (ESV)** — ⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷ He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

- The Baptism of the Holy Spirit introduces a whole new way of relating to God and to life!
 - **Acts 2:1-4**
 - Here, the “speaking in tongues” is not the same as what we hear in church or in prayer.
 - ◆ See **Genesis 11:1-9** for prophetic understanding.

- The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is not a work of *validation*, but a work of *empowerment*.

4 **Translating heaven through “Praying in the Holy Spirit”**

- See **Acts 8:14-19; 10:44-48**.

- **Romans 8:26–28 (ESV)** — ²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.
 - The Holy Spirit knows your story; He knows the story of humanity!

- **Ephesians 6:16–18 (ESV)** — ¹⁶ In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; ¹⁷ and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, ¹⁸ praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,
 - The sword of the Spirit = the *rhema* of God
 - We get to come in agreement with the Holy Spirit! (See **Matthew 18:18-20**)

- **1 Corinthians 14:1–4 (ESV)** — ¹ Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy. ² For one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men but to God; for no one understands him, but he utters mysteries in the Spirit. ³ On the other hand, the one who prophesies speaks to people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation. ⁴ The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but the one who prophesies builds up the church.
 - God has given us a precious gift to “build up” ourselves.

- 5 **Walking in an “Immersion of the Spirit’s Leading and Power”**
 - There is no greater promise than the presence of God within.
 - **John 7:37–38 (ESV)** — ³⁷ On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. ³⁸ Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’”

 - Back to **Acts 2:1-4**; we know that this was the initiating moment of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, but notice how Luke describes the activity, “...and they were *filled with the Spirit and began to speak in tongues as the Holy Spirit gave them utterance.*”
 - The Bible doesn’t make great distinctions between baptism, filling, and the “spirit coming upon/falling upon” (or, the power of God coming upon...) an individual or group.
 - See **Acts 8:14-17; 10:44-48**.
 - The initiating encounter with God brought a dramatic shift in how the believer walked with God.

 - The Mission of the Holy Spirit
 - **PARTNER: Acts 9:17 (ESV)** — ¹⁷ So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”
 - Notice how imperative it was for Ananias to get to Paul to introduce Him to the Holy Spirit before beginning His ministry.

- **ANOINT: Acts 10:38 (ESV)** — ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.
 - The anointing of Christ heals and releases all into their divine story!
 - See also Jesus' commissioning of the 72: **Luke 10:1-2, 9, 17-19**.

- **ORDAIN: Ephesians 5:18 (ESV)** — ¹⁸ And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit...
 - The contrast here is between a "filling" that leads to loss of control v. "filling" that leads to an ordained life! See **Acts 13:1-3**.

- **LEAD: Romans 8:14-15 (ESV)** — ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. **15** For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"
 - At the end of all things, it's about a led life rather than a random life.