

The Barnabas Letter

This month we are journeying through the Holy Season of Easter and awaiting the glorious day of Pentecost and the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Church. As we await this wonderful feast let us reflect on just what it means to be indwelt by the Holy Spirit. Yes; we have all seen the "Faith Healers" on the television and we have heard of those few who make prophecies that seem to come true but most of us never have those kinds of experiences, so then, what does being indwelt by the Holy Spirit or as some call it; being Spirit filled actually entail? Well, the first thing to remember is that being filled with the Holy Spirit does not necessarily mean speaking in tongues or performing miracles. While it is true that some Christians do speak in tongues and it is true that our Lord does use some evangelists to heal, miraculously; most believers do not experience the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in this manner. But, because they are Christians, every single disciple of our Lord Jesus Christ is, in fact, filled with the Holy Spirit! The Holy Spirit manifests Himself differently in each believer's life and, since no two Christians are alike, their experiences are not the same. But the Holy Spirit leads each of us in many ways. For example: it is the action of the Holy Spirit upon our hearts that enables us to believe and it is the Holy Spirit that guides us to the church that will feed our spiritual hunger and give us the nourishment that we need to grow in our faith. It is the guidance of the Holy Spirit that guards us from wrong decisions and leads us in the way that our Lord wishes for us to go. Now then, we must be open to the leading of the Holy

Spirit in order to benefit from His guidance and in order to be open to Him we must be listening very closely with our spiritual ears. It is very necessary, therefore, to always be aware of the leading of the Spirit in our lives. In order to do this we must be steadfast in prayer and we must remember that as we pray we must also listen. We cannot get direction if we are doing all of the talking! Secondly it is important to read our Bibles with open hearts, the Holy Scriptures will speak directly to us if we will only be attentive and open to the passage that we are reading. Finally, we must worship daily, now that doesn't mean that you have to be in church; it does mean that as you pray and as you read Holy Writ that you give our Lord thanks and praise for all of the many undeserved benefits that we receive each day. As your life becomes more and more surrendered to the Lord you will find that you are more and more led by the Holy Spirit; this is simply because the more we grow in our faith the more we rely upon the Lord and the less we rely upon ourselves. This is what being truly Spirit filled is all about. It isn't about the spectacular it is about the day- by- day growth in holiness and righteousness that is given only by the Holy Spirit. Until next month: may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all!

Your brother in Christ;

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Pastor W.W.", written in black ink.