



## OPEN

This is the second week of The Core series where we are reexamining the four core values of Wellspring. Core values are the underlying principals that influence who we are and what we do as a church. We want to pursue the fruit of ministry but like real fruit, healthy fruitfulness requires a health tree which begins with the very core of that tree. Last week we examined the Core of Transformation through the life of Peter. This week we are looking at the Core of being Spirit-Led also through the lens of Peter as he continues the ministry of Jesus through the presence and power of the promised Holy Spirit at the birth of the early church.

## READ

- Read Acts 4:1-22.
  - In your own words summarize this story. Who are the characters and what is the context?
  - What parts of this story stand out to you? Why?
  - Read Luke 22:54-61. Contrast Peter's character in Luke 22 and Acts 4. How does he respond before the religious leaders in both accounts? Describe how the Holy Spirit has changed him.
- Read again Acts 4:12-13.
  - What do you think of the gospel summary that Peter gives?
  - Although the religious leaders rejected Jesus, how does Peter explain the necessity of the person of Jesus?
- Read Acts 4:23-31.
  - Look at v. 29-31. What were the believers praying for the Holy Spirit to do through them? What was the result (v. 31)?

## REFLECT

Through faith in Jesus we receive the *presence* of the Holy Spirit as a seal of salvation (Eph 1:13-14; Eph 4:30, 2 For 1:21-22). We also see the Holy Spirit coming in *power* to equip those who were *already saved* for ministry (Pentecost (Acts 2:1-13), the Samaritans (Acts 8:14-17), Cornelius's household (Acts 10:44-48), and in the Ephesian twelve (Acts 19:2).

- The New Testament shows the filling of the Holy Spirit as empowerment for ministry.
  - Can you think of a time when the Holy Spirit empowered you to share Jesus with someone? What was the result in the other person? What was the result in you?
- Living a Spirit-led life means discerning and following the prompting of the Holy Spirit in our lives.
  - What are some ways you have grown in learning to discern the leading of the Holy Spirit in your own life?
  - How has this helped you participate in what Jesus is doing in the lives of others?
- Ephesians 5:18 tells us to continue to be filled with the Holy Spirit. D.L. Moody said, **"I need to be filled with the power of the Holy Spirit because I leak."**
  - What do you think of this quote? How can you continue to regularly seek after the the filling of the Holy Spirit?

## APPLY/PRAY

Pray the disciples prayer in Acts 4 over one another.

- Pray for each other that you would learn to discern the leading of the Holy Spirit in your lives.
- Pray for boldness and courage to follow where the Holy Spirit is leading you.
- Pray that the Holy Spirit would equip and empower your connect group to find ways to participate in missional opportunities this year.
- Pray that the Holy Spirit would lead our elders and church leaders.