

How is the Holy Spirit Applicable? By Thailer Jimerson

By the end of the day Josh and I will have preached around 11 lessons on the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers today – and we're not done. This is all in keeping with our annual theme centered on the progression found in Ezekiel's New Covenant prophecy in Ezekiel 36.25-28, with each verse summarizing each of the four quarters of 2017, respectively. So after leaving the teaching of idolatry behind in quarter one, we've been free to focus on the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

The promise of the Holy Spirit is no small thing. We're talking about God here; specifically, the member of the Godhead Jesus promised to be most active and present with the church in this age. I would dare say that right next to the giving of the Son of God on the cross for our sins, the Holy Spirit is one of the most important differences between the Old and New Covenants. This universal promise of the Spirit explains so much of the difference between those living under the Law and Christians living under Christ our Lord.

Other than the implicit application of having the Holy Spirit more present in our prayers, words, sermons, songs, and minds – we wanted to summarize the application we should have gleaned from the sermons so far, just for convenience in case you've missed a lesson or have fallen behind.

Here are 7 applications since the beginning of this quarter (with still more to come!).
The Holy Spirit:

- 1) **Raises us from the dead and kills sin in our lives – Romans 8.1-17.** Paul speaking about the Christian life details our new resurrected life in the Spirit, a life where we walk by the Spirit, pray in the Spirit, and slay sin with the Spirit's power.
- 2) **Causes us to be born again through baptism by faith – John 3.1-8.** The promise of the Spirit is initially received through baptism (Ac.2.38) and by this baptism we're placed in Christ Jesus. This means Jesus' life runs through us now.
- 3) **Empowers the church – Acts 2.** On the day of Pentecost the Spirit was poured out on the church in fulfillment of prophecies promising God's own divine enablement and empowerment towards holiness and evangelism.
- 4) **Fills our hearts through worship – Ephesians 5.18-21.** Other than the initial filling of the Spirit through baptism in each believer (Ac.5.32), we're able to access continual filling of the Spirit through acts of ordinary Christian worship – such as singing, thanksgiving and service.
- 5) **Changes our hearts for faith – Deuteronomy 10.16; Romans 2.29.** The problem with us is that our hearts are hard and insensitive to God. When appropriated, the Holy

Spirit changes our hearts, rebukes unbelief and empowers us to walk in the way of God.

- 6) **Preserved the words of Christ – Hebrews 3.7-11.** We can trust our bibles and read them thoroughly assured that we're hearing the voice of God because the Holy Spirit entrusted the words to the apostles and preserved Scripture to us through the ages.
- 7) **Supplies us with a conquering joy – 1 Thessalonians 2.13.** Our greatest need to overcome the suffering coming to every Christian is a supernatural joy. This comes to us when we receive the word of God as divine. The Holy Spirit then makes the word effectual in our lives, his word to work in us this supernatural joy (1Th.1.6).