

I. Encountering unexpected truth on the lips of Jesus

A. Salvation more than conversion

1. **Matthew 24:13 - "The one who endures to the end will be saved."**
 - a. In a spiritual/theological context, isn't salvation all about faith, about what we believe Jesus did for us and not what we do for ourselves?
 - b. What does endurance - what does how we live out faith in our everyday lives-have to do with salvation?
 - c. What does faithfulness have to do with being saved from the consequences of sin and living in a sinful world?
2. **Full (complete, ultimate) salvation is the result of both believing faith and enduring faithfulness**
 - a. Ultimate salvation, final rescue from both the power of sin and the consequences of sin is a matter of both conversion (turning to the Lord Jesus in faith) and Spirit-filled conduct
 - b. Salvation = faith + faithfulness

B. What does enduring faithfulness, this life lived in the power and presence of the Holy Spirit look like?

1. Paul repeats Jesus to the Corinthians
 - a. They think they are "spiritual" (filled with the Spirit and conducting themselves in faithfulness), but their actions are more like the world
 - b. They claim faith but behave not like the faithful but the faithless
2. **Spirit-filled believers conduct themselves in accord with the presence of the Spirit in their lives.**
3. What does enduring faithfulness, this life lived in the power and presence of the Holy Spirit look like?
 - a. Truly Christian conduct, life that is lived by faith in Jesus Christ, enabled and empowered by the Holy Spirit, life that endures in faith and is saved, has identifiable characteristics
 - b. True Christians, people filled with the Holy Spirit and living by faith, should be identified by certain consistent types of conduct that distinguish them from unbelieving, "natural" people
 - c. What are some of these characteristics that should be present and identifiable in the life of a true, Spirit-filled Christian?

II. Six Ways of the Spirit-Filled Believer

A. v. 2 Spirit-filled believers hunger for hard truth

1. **1 Corinthians 3:2 (ESV) ² I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready,**
2. Fresh carrots vs. baby food carrots
 - a. ABC carrots (already been chewed)
 - b. NBC carrots (not been chewed)
3. Examples of the difference:
 - a. Love on another
 - (1) Love does not mean giving someone everything they want when and how they want it
 - (2) Love sometimes means giving someone what they don't want when and how they don't want it because you know they will most

benefit by not getting what they want but what they don't want.

- b. Doctrine of election
 - (1) Some get rescued from the down escalator
 - (2) People think of this as "unjust" and they are right because justice requires that NO ONE be rescued from the down escalator
 - (3) Election is the "hard truth," the grown up message of God's glory active in saving grace that NO ONE deserves but God gives to some nonetheless.
- 4. We hunger for the hard stuff because in it we see more clearly the glory of God's character.
 - a. Spirit-filled believers don't settle for teaching that makes human beings look good
 - b. Spirit-filled believers hunger for teaching that reveals God's glory.

B. v. 4 Spirit-filled believers live on a different level

- 1. **1 Corinthians 3:4 (ESV) ⁴ For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not being merely human?**
 - a. Paul is not suggesting that salvation makes people superhuman
 - b. Paul is not suggesting these people have lost their salvation
 - c. **Paul is suggesting that they are behaving just like the world and their lives should be different because of the new life they have through faith in Jesus Christ.**
- 2. Woman gets arrested for "Stealing car"
 - a. A man was being tailgated by a stressed out woman on a busy boulevard. Suddenly, the light turned yellow, just in front of him. He did the right thing, stopping at the crosswalk, even though he could have beaten The red light by accelerating through the intersection.
 - b. The tailgating woman was furious and honked her horn, screaming in frustration as she missed her chance to get through the intersection, dropping her cell phone and makeup.
 - c. As she was still in mid-rant, she heard a tap on her window and looked up into the face of a very serious police officer. The officer ordered her to exit her car with her hands up. He took her to the police station where she was searched, finger printed, photographed, and placed in a holding cell. After a couple of hours, a policeman approached the cell and opened the door. She was escorted back to the booking desk where the arresting officer was waiting with her personal effects.
 - d. He said, "I'm very sorry for this mistake. You see, I pulled up behind your car while you were blowing your horn, flipping off the guy in front of you, and cussing a blue streak at him. I noticed the 'What Would Jesus Do' bumper sticker, the 'Choose Life' license plate holder, the 'Follow Me to Sunday-School' bumper sticker, and the chrome-plated Christian fish emblem on the trunk,
 - e. Naturally... I assumed you had stolen the car."
- 3. **Spirit-filled believers live on a different level than the rest of humanity; they live on the level of personal holiness that pleases God and brings glory and honor to Christ.**

C. v. 9 Spirit-filled believers exist as a direct result of God's efforts

- 1. **1 Corinthians 3:9 (ESV) ⁹ For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building.**

2. Spirit-filled believers recognize and appreciate the fact that the grace they have come to know and love is not their's because they invited Jesus into their heart.
3. It is their's because Jesus invited Himself into their hearts and God is continually working to draw them ever closer to Himself despite their tendency to maintain their distance.
 - a. "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing" is a Christian hymn written by the 18th century pastor and hymnist Robert Robinson. Robert Robinson penned the words at age 22 in the year 1757.
 - b. 3rd Verse:
 - (1) Personal testimony of Robinson's spiritual journey
 - (2) "Prone to wander, Lord I feel it, prone to leave the God I love. Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for Thy courts above."
4. Jesus said, "NO man comes to me unless the Father draws Him,"
 - a. God, today, is actively involved in your life through the Holy Spirit drawing you deeper and deeper into a faithful, glorious relationship with Jesus Christ.
 - b. Don't be like Lucy the Yorkshire terrier who, sometimes in mid step, decides to resist and stop walking.

D. v. 11 Spirit-filled believers are established on the foundation of Christ, not human personalities

1. **1 Corinthians 3:11 (ESV) ¹¹ For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.**
2. Ol Buddha
 - a. 1979 by the Imperials
 - b. No, it won't be old Buddha that's sitting on the throne; And it won't be old Mohammed that's calling us Home; And it won't be Hare Krishna that plays that trumpet tune; And we're going to see The Son not Reverend Moon!
3. There is only One on whom true salvation rests and His name is Jesus.
 - a. Only Jesus Christ is God in human flesh
 - b. Only Jesus Christ is God come to live and die on our behalf
 - c. Only Jesus Christ fulfilled every expectation of God for human beings and then offered Himself the innocent sacrifice in our place, taking upon himself the just punishment of our sins.
4. The messenger doesn't matter! Only the Savior matters!
 - a. Spirit-filled people do not exalt messengers and fight over the presentation of the message
 - b. **Spirit-filled people exalt Christ with their words, their actions, and their lives.**

E. v. 17 Spirit-filled believers are the dwelling place of God on earth

1. **1 Corinthians 3:17 (ESV) ¹⁷ If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.**
2. The glory fills the temple
 - a. **2 Chronicles 7:1 (ESV) ¹ As soon as Solomon finished his prayer, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the LORD filled the temple.**
 - b. **Ezekiel 44:4 (ESV) ⁴ Then he brought me by way of the north gate to the front of the temple, and I looked, and behold, the glory of the LORD filled the temple of the LORD. And I fell on my face.**

3. **If we, as the church, and we, as Christians, are the temple of God and the dwelling place of the Spirit, then our lives ought to be filled with the glory of God and not selfishness and sin.**

F. v. 23 Spirit-filled believers have it all in Christ

1. *1 Corinthians 3:21-23 (ESV) ²¹ So let no one boast in men. For all things are yours, ²² whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all are yours, ²³ and you are Christ's, and Christ is God's.*
2. We usually fight for what we don't have and think that we need
 - a. Physical essentials and comforts
 - b. Social credit
 - (1) Fame
 - (2) Admiration
 - (3) Privilege
3. There is nothing that a Christian needs in this world or the next that he does not already possess in Jesus Christ, so why fight others for what you already possess?
 - a. Any spiritual blessing someone else seems to exhibit is already yours, if you need it
 - b. Love will grant what you need when you need it

III. How to Walk in the Ways of the Spirit-filled

A. Come to the cross and embrace Christ as your Savior and Christianity as your lifestyle

1. Acknowledge sin
2. Embrace Christ
3. Embrace the cross

B. Attend to the strategies revealed in God's word for Spirit-filled, Spirit-led living

1. Worship
2. Devotion
3. Obedience

C. Obey, in faith, the word of the Lord, relying on the Spirit for success