

Living the Spirit Life: Week 2 Does Not Wisdom Call?

Scriptures: Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31; John 16:12-15

Starting last week, Pastor Rob began a new sermon series, "Living the Spirit Life". We celebrated Pentecost, the birthday of the church, when the Holy Spirit came to the disciples. They were able to proclaim to everyone listening, in their own language, the good news of Jesus Christ's sacrifice for the sins of all people so they could be reconciled with God. As Rob pointed out in his message, this was not necessarily the first time that the Holy Spirit was at work throughout the scriptures. Today, is Trinity Sunday, when we celebrate that God is present as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We are going to explore that in a little more depth. As we heard in the lesson from Proverbs, wisdom has been present since before creation and one of the attributes of the Holy Spirit is wisdom/truth. Jesus spoke more about this in our lesson today. If you have your Bibles or a Bible app, turn to John 16:12-15 and read with me.

Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would come to reveal to the disciples the truth and that truth would be coming from the Father and the Son. We hear a lot today about people seeking truth about and trying to find the meaning of life and that is nothing new. Some people try to find it by participating in different groups and rituals to "get in touch" with their spiritual side. As Christians, we don't have to try crazy things, we only have to be open to hearing the call of wisdom and truth by welcoming the Holy Spirit in our lives. One of the things that was prayed for more than once at Annual Conference was for the presence and guidance of the Holy Spirit. The opening worship for Friday morning, the meditation was given by Rev. Fred Shaw. Rev. Shaw is a retired elder of the conference and he is also a member of the Shawnee tribe and one of the tribal story tellers. He spoke on "Becoming Spirit Filled" and Pastor Rob and I both agreed that it was a message that everyone, not just those attending Annual Conference needed to hear. Please listen closely to what this very gifted pastor has to share. (Video clip may be found on the West Ohio Conference website).

Did you hear what he had to say about the difference between being spiritual and being spirit-filled? As Rob and I were discussing the message, we both recalled the names of famous spiritual people like the Dali Lama, but being spiritual personally is definitely not the same as being spirit-filled and sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ to a hurting world. As we leave to go out into the world, keep listening for the call of wisdom, and pray that the Holy Spirit will be revealing God's truth to you so that you may become truly be spirit-filled and showing God's grace, peace, and hope to a hurting world.