

Self-Empowered or Spirit-Filled?

It is the author's belief that most Christians are not comfortable with the Holy Spirit. "They tend to be comfortable talking about God and Jesus, but the third member is kind of like the Cousin Eddie of the Trinity; you just don't know what to do with him."

The author is not Pentecostal – but how Pentecostal (Spirit-empowered) are we?

Let's talk about this observation as it refers to:

- the Church – to Meridian Assembly
- to Christians
- to fans
- to followers
- to you

Of course, a person without the Holy Spirit is not a Christian at all. Some of the fans who followed Jesus Christ (then and today) are simply fans, and not Christian at all)

Some of the fans who follow Jesus are Christians. Fans who try to follow Jesus without His being filled with the power of the Spirit will soon show "signs". What are some of the signs?

Illustration of the moving walkway in the airport.

Quick review of "Diagnosing Fandom Questions" →

"For the disciples this defining moment had to come when Jesus ascended into heaven leaving them here to advance his kingdom to the ends of the earth. If they were only fans of Jesus, one of two things would happen. They would go back to their old lives and resume their former careers. Show's over, it's time to go home. Or they would try to carry out this mission God gave them, but because they would depend on their own strength and efforts, it would end in utter and complete failure and Jesus would disappear into human history."

However...

Acts 1:8-9 NIV *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (9) After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.*

Diagnosing Fandom Questions

Have you made a decision for Jesus or have you committed to Jesus?

Do you just know about Jesus or do you really know him?

Is Jesus your one of many or is he your one and only?

Are you more focused on the outside than on the inside?

Are you a self-empowered fan or a Spirit-filled follower?

“As they watched him disappear into the clouds, they must have wondered how they could continue to follow him here on earth. They had no idea what to do next. They are uneducated. They are under resourced. They had no strategic plan. They had no special power or authority. They had no political influence. How can they follow him if he isn’t there to lead?”

John 16:7 NIV *But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.*

When we get to heaven and ask David, Elijah & Moses what it was like to know God in the powerful way they did, they will be far more fascinated to ask us what it’s like to literally have God, by means of the Holy Spirit, actually living in us!

Romans 8:11 NIV *And if **the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you**, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.*

One thing we know for certain: there is a massive difference between

- Not receiving the Spirit at all
- Receiving the Spirit
- Being Filled with the Spirit
- A Spirit-filled Follower Who Walks in the Spirit

Galatians 3:3 NIV *Are you so foolish? After beginning by means of the Spirit, are you now trying to finish by means of the flesh?*

Walk in the Spirit - by acknowledging your weakness and inability to be a follower in and of yourself

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 NIV (9) *But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. (10) That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*

Walk in the Spirit – by learning “Spiritual Breathing”

Exhale – When I empty me of me, it provides space for the Holy Spirit to fill me. Spiritual exhalation is when you spiritually breathe out the clutter and darkness of you to make room to be filled with the Spirit.

Inhale – When you inhale you breathe in and pray to be filled with the Spirit and you surrender control over to him. As you practice this spiritual breathing it teaches you to keep in step with the Spirit.

Is it a bad thing or a good thing that Jesus is going away? Why?
If this is true for the original “followers” how true is it for his “followers” today?

Note: all three persons of the Trinity are here mentioned.
Consider well the message in bold print

“... after beginning what?”
What does God call this attempt to live a self-empowered spiritual life?

Where do you fall on this continuum?
←----- Self-empowered Spirit-filled ----->