

“If anyone should say it is more important to know about Jesus than to know about the Holy Spirit, we would hasten to agree and to add that we could not know Jesus at all, apart from the Holy Spirit. He [the Holy Spirit] is here now to lift up our Lord. And our Lord cannot be truly known, magnified, or worshipped apart from the Spirit. We would not make more of Pentecost than Calvary, nor would we make more of the Holy Spirit than Jesus, but surely it is safe and needful to study the Scriptural revelation of Him, and particularly so since we live in the dispensation of the Holy Spirit.”

Don Van Hoozier, High Point Church

LESSON ELEVEN

THREE KINDS OF PEOPLE

The Natural Man

Romans 2:23: *For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God* & Ephesians 2:2-3: *In which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of the flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.*

The Natural Man represents every unsaved man who has never encountered Jesus Christ and accepted Jesus and He ONLY for salvation. SELF is on the throne of his life. Jesus is outside of his life experience. He makes all decisions based on SELF and not on a relationship with Christ and obedience to the Word of God.

The Carnal Christian

1st Corinthians 3:2-3: *I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able; for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men?*

The Carnal Christian has Jesus in his life, but SELF is still on the throne calling all the shots.

The Spirit-Baptized Christian

Acts 7:55: *But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, looked up steadfastly into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing up at the right hand of God* & Ephesians 5:18: *And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit.*

The Spirit-Baptized Christian has Jesus, not only in his life, but also on the throne of his life, calling the shots and directing that Christian's actions. Only Jesus had the Holy Spirit without measure. He did not need another experience with the Holy Spirit. John the Baptist said of Jesus, "For He is sent by God. He speaks God's words, for God's Spirit is upon Him without measure or limit". (John 3:34 NLT). We on the other hand can be filled only to our capacity to receive and do not have the Spirit without measure. Acts 4:31 refers to being filled with the Spirit: *And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.* But again, I do not believe this means they had the Spirit without measure, but only were filled to their capacity to receive.

We know if someone is a Spirit-Baptized Christian if they are speaking the word of God with boldness and if they are exhibiting in their own lives the fruit of the Spirit, which is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control, found in Galatians 5:22-23.