

We are in need of a greater infilling of the Holy Spirit



11If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? 12Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? 13If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask (and keep on asking) Him!" Luke 11:11-13

We Need the Holy Spirit

As we continue the run-up to Shavuot, I'm reminded that we need a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In the passage above Yeshua promises to give the Holy Spirit to those who ask and keep on asking Him for that gift. He called the Holy Spirit a good gift from the Father.

In Acts 4:31 the disciples prayed and after they did, the place where they were was shaken, they were filled with the Holy Spirit, and the result was that they spoke the Word of God with boldness. This was another filling of the Holy Spirit

that came again to the disciples in addition to the more famous Holy Spirit baptism in Acts 2:1-4. This means that it's biblical for us to be filled with the Spirit over and over again. Did you also notice that there was a corporate expression of this infilling in these instances? I believe God wants to give a greater expression of this good gift to us as a collective body of Believers.

This also came on the heels of Peter and John having been arrested and threatened not to speak in the name of Yeshua (Acts 4:1-22). They were in the midst of significant conflict. A personal extrapolation is that if we're in the midst of significant conflict that doesn't disqualify us from being a recipient of the Father's good gift.

These guys who were filled with the Spirit (twice!) had fled and denied Yeshua after the crucifixion. They had just weeks before experienced their greatest failure. This means that we are not disqualified from a divine infilling if we have messed up...even recently. These were also the guys who amazingly even doubted in the midst of the resurrected Yeshua being right in front of them (see Matthew 28:17). Yeshua didn't disqualify them for their doubts. In fact, He gave the greatest gift to them (the Holy Spirit) as they waited and asked for that gift...even in the midst of their doubts.

It's interesting to note that the end result of the Holy Spirit's empowerment is boldness to be an effective witness to those who didn't yet know about Yeshua's salvation. Certainly there was personal benefit but the primary outcome was to be a blessing to others.

One of the areas of personal responsibility related to this gift is that Yeshua instructs us that we are to ask and keep on asking for the Holy Spirit. Yeshua promises that the Father will give us this gift if we do.

So in closing dear saints you have not disqualified yourself from God's needed intervention of the good gift of the Holy Spirit. You may have failed and doubted. You may be in some non-desired crisis. You may be a mess. But, you're in good company for the disciples were all of these things and yet God still desired to give them His good gift and to use them in their brokenness. So

wherever we find ourselves, let's lift our voices up collectively to Him and ask Him for the good gift of the Holy Spirit to fill us fresh and to bring boldness and renewal.