

Empowered

At Cornerstone Church we believe in the leadership and empowerment of the Holy Spirit. There seems to be two extremes concerning the Holy Spirit: neglect or hysteria. Some seem to ignore the Holy Spirit all together. Others have an unhealthy mania. Truth is often found more in the middle of the road, rather than in ditches. We believe that the Holy Spirit leads us in all truth and empowers us to be effective witnesses of Christ.

Cornerstone Church was founded on the leadership of the Holy Spirit by my parents, a high school guidance counselor and a stay-at-home mom. Time and accomplishment have validated that the Holy Spirit guided them. This week I reviewed my prayer journals going back to 1999. On July 15, 2006 I believe the Lord awakened me early on Sunday morning, 2:56 a.m., and said, "Stan, if you feed my sheep, I will build the church." Out of that one sentence "word" came the Life Center Food Pantry. We started bussing in youth to our youth group. Disciple One Youth went from about 40 to 150. Our church doubled in weekly attendance. Our church attendance remained at 250-275 for the previous decade.

In August of 2013 I received the strangest thought yet, "perhaps the Assemblies of God will allow us to plant new churches in some of their existing locations?" In June of 2014 we launched Cornerstone Church in Milan in the former Assemblies of God building. We are averaging over 100 in weekly attendance!

In September Julie Kline approached me with the idea of going back to one Sunday morning service. When she first spoke to me, I was completely opposed to the idea. When I shared the idea with the staff, they were completely opposed as well. I believe that it was impossible for the staff to hear what the Spirit was saying to our church. So, he sent Julie. Thank you for your obedience to the voice of the Holy Spirit. Earlier this week David Shriver sent me a text: You guys are on my heart this morning, PRAYING FOR YOU. Leadership of the Holy Spirit is always supernatural, but not always spectacular!

A few years ago the Lord showed me that He was calling Aaron Douglas into ministry, and that he would work at Cornerstone Church. At the same time the Holy Spirit was prompting Aaron as well. He is doing a fabulous job for us. For the last 14 weeks, he has been working to establish a new church location in Cameron. Last Sunday night he had 47 adults in his Bible study. On Easter we will begin Sunday morning services. Our Cameron location will explode in growth and cause a great stir in that community.

In the 30+ years of Cornerstone Church's existence we've seen barren women give birth, predicted-to-be abnormal babies born healthy and quite normal. We've seen curved spines made straight, cancers disappear and addictions broken. In our travels around the world the teams went around town praying for people, while I taught the pastor and leaders. They saw blind eyes and deaf ears opened, and tormented people set free. In Pakistan I saw and heard a mute 12-year-old girl speak for the first time. In Honduras our team prayed people and watched people leaving the meeting carrying out wheel chairs and crutches over their heads.

At Cornerstone Church we believe in the leadership and empowerment of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will lead and empower you. God loves you, and He loves the people He will minister to through you.

2 Timothy 3:15

- ▲ Like Jesus we must learn to seek after and to follow the Father's will.
- ▲ We must be filled with and empower by the Holy Spirit—**Acts 10:38**

Holy Spirit baptism

- **Luke 3:15-17**
- **Acts 1:4-5, 8**
- Baptism
 - When a person is baptized in the Holy Spirit she has power bestowed upon her. This power is to testify of Jesus, live a purer life, and have a deeper devotion to God.
 - Perhaps there is more than one experience of the Holy Spirit for believers, just as there is more than one experience we have with water. It is one thing to drink water, and another thing to be baptized in water.
 - **Just as one drink of water or one bath is insufficient, one drink or one filling of the Holy Spirit is insufficient.** "Be (constantly) filled with the Holy Spirit."
Ephesian 5:18
 - Instead of debating the semantics and hermeneutics of Scriptural interpretation, lets admit that we need more Holy Spirit in our lives.
- **Acts 4:33**
- **Acts 5:12-16**
- **Acts 6:8**
- **1 Thessalonians 1:5**

Minister to people

Discussion Guide

Primary Text: John 14:15-18

In John chapters 14 to 16, we find Jesus, shortly before his arrest by the Jews, giving last minute instructions and comfort to his disciples. He was no longer going to be with them. They will indeed see him again after his resurrection but only temporarily, till the ascension to his Father. The fact that Jesus would go to the Father would mean that they would be left alone ... except if he sent a replacement, another one to fill in for him. Except if He was coming to them in "another form" so to speak. And as we will see that's exactly what happened! Jesus, though is no longer physically present, he is much more present than before! How? Through the Comforter, the Holy Spirit; this comforter truly fills in for Jesus, doing what he would be doing if he were physically present with each one of his disciples. None of us have met Jesus in person, flesh and blood, as the disciples had met him. Yet, because of the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, we are not left without him.

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