

Discipleship Mosaic

Table Three {God's Spirit}

Describe a time you thought you could do something but later found out you were not able.

What is the danger of thinking you can do something you can't?

Read the following excerpt of a conversation between a student and his discipler.

"If Jesus were here physically and were your discipler instead of me, do you think you would have a better shot at growing spiritually than you do now with me as your discipler and His Spirit living inside you?"

Casey smirked and asked, "What do you mean 'here physically'?"

"I mean here, physically. He could be right by your side as much as you wanted him to be."

"Well, then I'd take that," said Casey. "Why?"

"Because he would be straight with me, you know. He could see into my heart and just tell it like it is. There wouldn't be any question about what I'm supposed to do."

"So this seems like a no-brainer to you?" I asked.

"I guess," responded Casey, confident but suspicious. I turned to Michael, "What about you?"

“Well, I know the right answer is the Holy Spirit but since that is what I have had all along, and that hasn’t worked out so well, I would honestly say Jesus just to try something new.”

“If you would be better off having Jesus with you instead of in you, why didn’t God establish life that way?” “I mean, the disciples wanted Jesus to stay and He told them at least twice that it was better for them if He left.”

“Okay, Casey, you said you would like it because Jesus would shoot straight with you. Then what would you do about it?”

“What do you mean?” Casey asked.

“Think about it this way. If LeBron James was your personal coach in basketball, could you play in the NBA?”

“No.”

“Why not? You would have one of the best players in the world teaching you.”

“But that doesn’t mean I could play like him.”

“What if somehow LeBron could live inside you and play through you? Then could you play in the NBA?”

Casey gets an epiphany, “I get it. If I didn’t have His Spirit in me, I couldn’t do what he tells me I need to do. It wouldn’t matter that Jesus was here telling me to do it.”

“Okay. We’re saying that God has given us everything we need to walk with Him,”

I said. “Everything you need to be courageous, kind, humble, unselfish, etc., is in you. So why isn’t your life characterized by those things?”

Michael spoke up, “To use your analogy, I think it’s because we don’t let God play through us.”

“So what keeps us from letting God play in our lives?”

“For me, like even if Lebron lived in me, and even though I am not as good, I might not let him play because I want to be the one playing. It’s like I’d rather play badly than let someone else play for me.”

What stands out to you about this conversation?

Watch the video of this at www.tinyURL.com/SpiritFilledLife

How did you move from the left circle to the center circle?

How do you move from the right circle back to the center circle?

How does someone move from the center circle to the right circle?

Pour some milk into a cup on the table. The cup represents a follower of Christ and the milk represents their life. Squirt some chocolate syrup in the milk but do not stir. The chocolate syrup represents the Holy Spirit. Once the syrup went into the cup of milk it is not possible to get the syrup out. The syrup is in the milk but from a distance you might not be able to tell the difference between a glass of milk with syrup and a glass of milk without syrup. Now stir up the syrup in the milk.

How does this illustration relate to the Spirit-filled life?

We cannot experience intimacy with God and enjoy all He has for us if we fail to depend on His Spirit. People who trust their own efforts and strength to live the Christian life will experience failure and frustration. By walking in the Spirit, we increasingly experience intimacy with God and enjoy all He has for us.

What does Galatians 3:3 and 5:16-17 say about living the Christian's life in our own strength?

Read Galatians 5:16-23

How can you tell what circle you're in?

What if you don't feel like Christ is on the throne of your heart?

Getting Christ on the throne is a very simple concept, confess and surrender. You don't earn Christ on the throne by having a quiet time or doing other Christian things. It's simply a heart condition of saying no to our flesh and yielding to the Lord. It's much like a little kid asking his dad to tie his shoe, "I can't, will you". Confess and Surrender.

How does yielding or surrender relate to the Spirit-filled life?

What would this yielding/surrender look like practically in your life?

How often do believers need to yield to the Holy Spirit? Why?

How can we develop a lifestyle of depending on the Spirit?