

Discovery Group - Gospel Foundations

(5) *Missionaries of the Spirit*

Accountability

Share how your obedience commitment from last week went, and who you shared with.

Bible: Acts 1:1-11

Read *passage* aloud & someone retell in their own words

- What do we learn from this passage about God?
- What do we learn from this passage about people?

Read the *article* on the next page.

- What do we learn about our identity as missionaries?

Commit

What is Jesus calling you to do in *obedience* this week?

Who can you *share* this with? Who can you reach out to in order to make disciples?

Abide: Read and meditate on the following passages this week:

Matthew 28:18-20

Acts 2:1-41

Acts 4:18-31

Philippians 1:3-29

Missionaries of the Spirit

Just as we are baptized into the Father, giving us the identity of sons & daughters, and into the Son, giving us the identity of redeemed servants, so we are baptized in the Name of the Spirit, giving us the identity of missionaries.

Jesus has included us in His great mission of bringing salvation to the world. “Again Jesus said, ‘Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.’ And with that he breathed on them and said, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit.’” (John 20:21-22). Later He says, “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.” (Acts 1:8).

Because the Holy Spirit dwells in you, you are an ambassador of Christ. You are a missionary of the Spirit. You have received the Spirit’s power for a reason - so that you can represent Him to others. This is the great purpose of your life. Your work - whatever your vocation or location or giftings or resources - is to help others to know Christ. This is what it means to be filled with the Spirit.

The Spirit helps us to witness for Jesus in two ways. He helps us to live lives that reflect the nature and character of Christ. Through His Spirit, we are pure, loving, full of mercy and compassion and kindness, truthful, courageous, etc. We become more and more like Christ so that we can draw others to Him. We also are witnesses through our Spirit-empowered proclamation of the good news. We tell people about Jesus! We live the gospel and we proclaim the gospel. Both are essential in our missionary identity, and both require the empowering of the Spirit.

This has many implications for our lives. It impacts our priorities, our decisions, our lifestyle, choice of friends, etc. We are called to be both organic in our mission - being witnesses where we are, and intentional in our mission - going on purpose to where Christ is not known.

How would it impact the entirety of your life if you were fully walking in this identity? What hinders you from living as a person on mission? How might you overcome these obstacles?