

Emmanuel: God With Us **Isaiah 11 – The Spirit Anointed Messiah**

The Bible tells us that Jesus emptied Himself or set aside the right to use His divine attributes. This means that Jesus relied not upon His own power but the power of the Holy Spirit to live the life that God had called Him to. Consider the following Scriptures:

Philippians 2:5-7 (HCSB)

Make your own attitude that of Christ Jesus, who, existing in the form of God, did not consider equality with God as something to be used for His own advantage. Instead ***He emptied Himself*** by assuming the form of a slave, taking on the likeness of men.

Luke 1:35

The angel answered, "***The Holy Spirit will come upon you***, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God."

Luke 3:21-22

When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. As he was praying, heaven was opened, and ***the Holy Spirit descended on him*** in bodily form like a dove.

Luke 4:1

Jesus, ***full of the Holy Spirit***, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert.

Luke 4:14

Jesus returned to Galilee ***in the power of the Spirit***, and news about him spread through the whole countryside.

Luke 4:18

The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed,

The Bible teaches us that Jesus IS our example because He relied on the same power for life and godliness that you and I have as Christians – the Holy Spirit.

In the Old Testament era, the Holy Spirit came upon particular people for a period of time to enable them to do what God called them to do. You see this temporary indwelling in the prayer request of David:

Do not cast me from your presence *or take your Holy Spirit from me*. Ps 51:11

In the New Testament era, the Holy Spirit comes upon all Christians at the moment of salvation and takes up permanent residence in their lives. Notice the language of **permanency**:

Ephesians 1:13-14 (HCSB)

When you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and when you believed in Him, you were also **sealed** with the promised Holy Spirit. He is the **down payment** of our inheritance, for the redemption of the possession, to the praise of His glory.

From the EFCA on the Holy Spirit: *We believe that the Holy Spirit, in all that He does, glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ. He convicts the world of its guilt. He regenerates sinners, and in Him they are baptized into union with Christ and adopted as heirs in the family of God. He also indwells, illuminates, guides, equips and empowers believers for Christ-like living and service.*

Home Group Discussion Questions:

1. Have you thought much about the Holy Spirit's ministry in connection with Jesus' earthly ministry?
2. Have you thought much about the Holy Spirit in connection with Christmas?
3. Have you thought much about the Holy Spirit in connection with your own life?
4. Is there anything that draws you to or pushes you from the ministry of the Holy Spirit?
5. Do you see any area of your life that needs the Holy Spirit's power?