

Journey CHURCH

Pastor James Greer

James@jcpineville.com

www.jcpineville.com



Remembering the Forgotten God Leader Guide Session 4: Why Do You Want Him?

Group Discussion:

1. Take a minute or two to write down a few possible motivations for desiring the Holy Spirit – both good and bad.
2. Can you detect hints of any of these motivations in your heart? If so, what do you think causes you to be motivated in that way?

Read Acts 8:9-24. Simon the magician was accustomed to incredible displays of power. He used his magic arts to amaze people and convince them that he was someone great. But when he saw the miracles performed through Philip, he himself was amazed. Clearly Simon knew that something out of the ordinary was happening. When someone who spends his life conjuring up powerful displays is left in awe, something special is going on. He was intrigued by the Holy Spirit; drawn by the incredible power he was witnessing.

3. Think about Simon's response in verses 18-19. Why do you think he wanted the Spirit?
4. Try to transfer this situation to our modern day. What would Simon's motivation look like if it were played out in American church today?
5. Have you seen any examples of this, whether in church in general, something you've experienced in the past, or (most importantly) in your own heart? If so, describe those examples.
6. Have you seen a person accomplish something amazing, yet receive all the glory for himself? What does that look like?
7. Have you seen a person accomplish something amazing, yet all the glory goes to God? What does that look like?

Our focus in all of this needs to be on God – not on ourselves, not even on the things we can accomplish with His power. Instead of deciding in advance what sort of supernatural displays God should provide, we should simply ask God to work powerfully in our life situations and allow Him to work in the way He wants. Sometimes we fixate on the really flashy manifestations of the Spirit, but when a proud person exhibits

Journey CHURCH

Pastor James Greer

James@jcpineville.com

www.jcpineville.com



humility, is this any less supernatural? When a person patiently loves and prays for a grouchy neighbor or coworker for years with no results, does this not show the Spirit's power?

8. List a few of these "Less glamorous" ways that the Spirit's power can be manifested in a person's life.
9. Why should these things be seen as powerful manifestations of the Spirit?

Another trap we could easily fall into is trying to lead the Spirit rather than being led by Him. The distinction is sometimes subtle, because in both cases we're seeking the Spirit. But when we go down this path, we start with our own dreams and desires, and we ask for the Spirit to work so that we can accomplish our plans. In this case, we're really following in the footsteps of Simon the magician – he earnestly desired the Spirit, but he wasn't seeking to be led by Him.

10. Practically, what does it look like to be led by the Spirit rather than trying to lead the Spirit for your purposes?

We have to prayerfully seek where the Holy Spirit may be leading. I am convinced that the Spirit communicates with us. Sometimes He lays a person or place on our hearts and call us to action or prayer. Other times He convicts us of our sin and calls us to repent. He works in many different ways, but the point is, many times we don't hear because we're not listening. Sometimes we hear, but we write it off as nothing because we don't agree with where He's leading.

11. Being completely honest – do you really want to follow the Spirit, regardless of where He may lead you? Why, or why not?
12. Describe the difference between someone who pursues the Spirit for their own sake and someone who does so out of love for other people.

If we're going to be open for the Holy Spirit to work in our lives, we must first let go of the things that keep us from close fellowship with Him. The Spirit works through each of us so that we can build up the people around us in love. Having the Holy Spirit is not about you being everything you want to be. It's about God working through you to help the people around you grow. If the proper motivation for desiring the Spirit is love, ask yourself how much you love the people around you. Sometimes the most loving thing you can do is speak gently and honestly into another person's life.

Journey CHURCH

Pastor James Greer

James@jcpineville.com

www.jcpineville.com



13. Spend some time in prayer. Ask God for the humility and love to speak honestly into the lives of the people around you. And as other people are honestly with you, ask the Spirit to work in your heart, removing the sinful thoughts and motivations and allowing you to grow and follow the Spirit for the benefit of those around you.