

Chapter 4: Why Do You Want Him?

Forgotten God, Session 4

“Just as the Son obtains dominion by purchasing us through his birth, death, and resurrection, etc., so the Holy Spirit effects our being made holy through the following: the community of saints or Christian church, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting” (Large Catechism II, 37).

Who’s on First, What’s on Second, I Don’t Know Is on Third

What’s our why? Why do we want to experience the Holy Spirit?

Bad reasons....

Good reasons...

“The Holy Spirit is not a commodity to be brought or traded according to our individual wants, whims, or even our felt needs” (84).

Read Acts 8:9-25. What was Simon the Sorcerer’s mistake? Do people repeat this today?

Forgotten God: Week 4 Video (notes)

What’s My Motivation?

Read 1 Cor 12:7-11. Spiritual gifts are meant to edify the church. But remember, the church is meant to bless the world!

“The Spirit desires to use us when our hearts are aligned with this vision, when we are filled with genuine love for the church, and when we desire to see the church grow in love for God and others” (85).

“A sure sign of the Holy Spirit’s working is that Christ is _____, not people....Let’s prayer that God would empower us so radically that we would get no glory. That people would see our works and glorify God” (87).

Miracle Worker

“Miracles are never an end in themselves; they are always a means to point to and accomplish something greater....” What’s greater?

“But when we make miracles the focus of our energy and pursuit, we ignore the priorities God tells us to pursue and we impose our own desires upon God. Sometimes we even resemble Satan, who told Jesus to jump off of the temple and perform a miracle” (88).

“The point in all this is simply calling us to pursue Christ and grow in our obedience to Him, rather than pursuing the supernatural for its own sake” (89).

Putting the Flesh to Death

We know the works of the flesh and the works of the Spirit are constantly opposed.

“The phrase ‘crucifying the flesh’ is not exactly a friendly, appealing group of words. I think this is because God wants us to be clear on what we are getting into. He wants us to know that His gift of the Holy Spirit is really not for our own pleasure or purposes. The Spirit is meant to lead us toward _____. The Spirit is here to accomplish God’s purposes, not ours” (93).

Evaluate this statement: “When you decide to put to death—to crucify—your flesh, you are by default choosing the way of the Spirit....Each of us has to decide whether we are going to crucify the flesh, whether we will truly walk with the Spirit. It is a choice. And it is crucial.”

How is this true?

How is this false?

How exactly is our flesh crucified? Has that already happened? (Gal 5:24)

Discussion Questions:

What does it mean to you that each follower of Christ is given a “manifestation of the Spirit for the common good”?

Have you ever witnessed a true miracle of God? What was the ultimate purpose of the miracle?

What do you believe is your purpose? Does that purpose align with the Holy Spirit?