

Waiting For *WHAT?*

OPENING CREDITS

AUTHOR:

DIRECTOR:

SETTING:

OUTLINE:

THE PURPOSE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- You can't serve God without Him.
Acts 1:4-8, John 15:4-6, John 8:27-30
- The Spirit is not an experience, He's a new way of life.
Acts 1:8, Romans 5:10, Galatians 2:20, Romans 8:5-9, 1 John 2:27
- His primary purpose is to make God look good...not us.
Acts 1:8, 2 Timothy 1:7-9, Matthew 5:13-16

TWO QUESTIONS TO ASK

- ▶ How do we practice God's presence in our life?
- ▶ How do we wait well?

Food for Thought

For the week of August 10, 2008

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. One of the responsibilities of the Holy Spirit is to produce the fruit of the Spirit in our lives (see Galatians 5:22-23).

Galatians 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, [23] gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. [NIV]

When we see a list like this we can often focus too much on what our part is in producing this fruit instead of on God's part. What insights into your role in fruit bearing do you see in this quote?

"I believe there is a reason Paul listed these virtues and moved on. They aren't given to us as goals to pursue. Why? Because you and I cannot produce fruit... That's not our responsibility. The Holy Spirit is the producer. We are merely the bearers. The fruit of the Spirit was never intended to be a demonstration of our dedication and resolve. It is the evidence of our dependency on and sensitivity to the promptings of the Spirit."

Charles Stanley in The Wonderful Spirit-Filled Life

How does John 15:1-6 help you better understand what your role, God's role, and Jesus' role are in fruit-bearing?

John 15:1-6

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. [2] He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. [3] You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. [4] Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

[5] "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. [6] If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. [NIV]

Are there any steps you could take that would help you in your role of remaining/abiding?

2. Jesus' last conversation with his disciples before his death was at the Last Supper. Several times during that discussion Jesus talked about the ministry of the Holy Spirit. After reading the following

verses, write down what the Holy Spirit does for believers and how he facilitates the spread of the Gospel?

John 14:16-17

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever-- [17] the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. [NIV]

John 14:25-26

"All this I have spoken while still with you. [26] But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. [NIV]

John 15:26-27

"When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me. [27] And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning. [NIV]

John 16:5-15

"Now I am going to him who sent me, yet none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' [6] Because I have said these things, you are filled with grief. [7] But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. [8] When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: [9] in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; [10] in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; [11] and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

[12] "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. [13] But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. [14] He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. [15] All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you. [NIV]

3. Acts 1:8 was not the first time Jesus had spelled out the mission he was giving his disciples. What do the following two passages add to your understanding of the mission God desires all Christians to be involved in?

Matthew 9:35-38

Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. [36] When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. [37] Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. [38] Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." [NIV]

Matthew 28:18-20

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. [19] Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, [20] and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And

surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." [NIV]What role do you see yourself playing in this mission?