OCTOBER 12, 2025

THANKSGIVING BAPTISM CELEBRATION

SERMON: Be Filled with the Spirit... Giving Thanks
(WATCH SERMON) (SERMON NOTES)
SPEAKER: Pastor Steve
CORE SCRIPTURE: Eph. 5:18-20

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

SUMMARY

Pastor Steve Shaw's sermon focused on the importance of being filled with the Holy Spirit, especially in the context of Thanksgiving and baptism. He highlighted how a Spirit-filled life is characterized by singing and giving thanks, contrasting it with the debauchery associated with drunkenness. The sermon emphasized the role of the Holy Spirit in empowering believers to live like Christ and the importance of gratitude as a spiritual discipline. Pastor Steve also shared personal experiences and the church's vision to focus more on the Holy Spirit's work in their community.

SHARE

As an icebreaker, share a song or hymn that has been meaningful to you in your spiritual journey. How has it impacted your faith or understanding of God?

READ

Read **Ephesians 5:18-20** together as a group.

DISCUSS

Feel free to pick/choose what is most helpful for you. Remember the goal is to have rich, relational, authentic, Jesus-centered discussions.

1. What most stood out to you about the sermon?

2. In Ephesians 5:18-20, Paul contrasts being filled with the Spirit with drunkenness. What do you think this contrast reveals about the nature of the Holy Spirit's influence in our lives?

3. Pastor Steve mentioned that singing is both an expression of the Spirit's fullness and a means to be filled again. How does this perspective change the way you view worship through music?

4. Reflect on the theological significance of the Holy Spirit as the third person of the Trinity

How does understanding the Holy Spirit as a personal presence rather than a force impact your relationship with God?

5. Pastor Steve shared personal promptings about focusing on the Holy Spirit. Have you ever experienced a similar prompting or sense of direction from God? How did you respond?

6. How can gratitude be a transformative practice in your daily life, as suggested by Pastor Steve? What are some practical ways you can cultivate a thankful heart?

7. Considering the upcoming focus on the Holy Spirit at Cornerstone, what are you most looking forward to learning or experiencing in this new era of ministry?

NEXT STEPS:

- Consider starting a gratitude log as Pastor Steve suggested. Write down three things each day for which you are thankful, and reflect on them in prayer.
- Make a commitment to engage more deeply in worship, whether through singing, prayer, or other forms of expression, as a way to open yourself to the Holy Spirit's filling.

PRAY:

Spend time in prayer as a group, thanking God for His presence and work in your lives. Ask for a fresh filling of the Holy Spirit and guidance as you seek to live out His will. Pray for the baptism candidates and the church's upcoming focus on the Holy Spirit.

CLOSING:

Encourage each other to remain open to the Holy Spirit's work in your lives and to continue cultivating a heart of gratitude. Remind the group of the importance of community in supporting one another in this journey.