

When all hope is gone
and Your word is all I've got
I have to believe
You still bring water from the rock
To satisfy my thirst
to love me at my worst
And even when I don't remember
You remind me of my worth

I don't trust my ways
I'm trading in my thoughts
I lay down everything
'Cause You're all that I want
I've landed on my knees
This is the cup You have for me
And even when it don't make sense
I'm gonna let Your Spirit lead

Spirit lead me

Message in Music: Spirit Lead Me, by Michael Ketterer

<https://youtu.be/ABWnLjXer10>

I love music. I really do. Especially when it has been written and composed from a place I have been. Like the place we heard described in last Sunday's message.

We've all been there - broken, exhausted, and staring into space with that dark, blank, far away look on our face. It is the moment when all hope is gone. The moment when God's word is all we've got. The moment when God reminds us He can still bring water from the rocks of the desert we're crawling through that satisfies our thirst for love and relief from our brokenness (Exodus 6:7).

Jesus beckons us to come and be filled with God's life giving water. He offers to pour his Holy Spirit into us that satisfies our craving for renewal like a river of water flowing onto a parched and barren land. This Spirit fills us to overflowing and then bursts out from our innermost being into a world that is desperate and thirsty for God's love (John 7:37-39, Isaiah 44:3-4).

Jesus offers us an abundance of the things we need to survive and thrive in this world (John 10:10). His water is life. Yet we continue to do things our way. We rely only on our own thoughts and our own strength to get by and are satisfied with where we are in life.

Until we hit rock bottom.

And then we are forced to face the reality that we can't trust our ways. In that moment of truth, we decide to trade in our thoughts for a spirit led life. We lay down everything we've been striving for and turn to Jesus to be filled with the Spirit.

And that Spirit provides **everything** we will ever want or need (John 4:14).

But there's another truth we need to deal with: There is a cost to living a spirit led life.

We must thirst for God's presence in our life daily, until our longing for more of Him overwhelms us (Psalm 42:1-2).

We must ponder the awe and wonder of His creation and lift our eyes heavenward in moments when we are depressed and downcast (Psalm 42:6).

Our deep need for relationship must call out to His deep and overwhelming love until His love pours out over us (Psalm 42:7-8).

We must be lovesick for Him as we trudge through the wilderness of our life and be energized by His presence (Psalm 63:1-2).

We must worship Him passionately every day and overflow with praise and thanksgiving for His presence in our life (Psalm 63:4-5).

We must land on our knees, drink from the cup of living water and be led by the Spirit, even when it doesn't make sense or is unpopular.

And afterward, we will put the cup down, look heavenward, and realize we'll never be thirsty again.

Key Verse: Jesus stood and shouted out to the crowds "All you thirsty ones, come to me! Come to me and drink!"
John 7:37

Key Message: And afterward, we will put the cup down, look heavenward, and realize we'll never be thirsty again.

Questions for Understanding:

Recent surveys have shown that only twenty five per cent of Christians and very few of those identifying as non Christian understand what it means to be spirit filled. Most do, however, have some idea about what it means to live and love like Jesus.

How would you expand the message about Jesus to help someone understand what it means to be spirit filled?

Being spirit filled means, quite simply, that the Holy Spirit is living in us and shaping us to become more like Jesus every day. We are transformed from the inside out. This happens primarily through prayer and meditation on the scriptures and is reinforced in all of the different ways discussed in last Sunday's message. It leaves us with a heightened awareness of, and a willingness to respond to, the small voice the Spirit uses to communicate with us and help guide us through life.

Thought Provoking Questions:

When our life produces the fruits of the spirit, we are never lonely. How does each fruit of the spirit - love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control - draw people into a relationship with us?

Our love draws people to us because they know we will accept them as they are.

Our joy offers relief to those worn down by people who are negative and constantly complaining.

Our ability to bring peace to any situation by seeking common ground and respecting and working through differences makes us a hot commodity in a world that is increasingly divisive.

Our patience allows us the time it takes to understand and bond with difficult people.

Our kindness draws in those who have endured suffering in a cruel world and are seeking refuge and protection.

Our goodness attracts people who are weary of being around those with no moral compass.

Our faithfulness offers those who have lost hope a shoulder to lean on.

Our gentleness is like a warm hug to people who have grown weary of the abrasive ways of so many.

And our self-control offers stability to those living with people who are unpredictable and in situations that are just plain crazy.

Questions for Sharing:

We are only as mature as our most immature fruit. When we observe an area where we are fruitless, this is where we have yet to believe and apply the gospel to our life.

What is your most immature fruit?

Growing in the Spirit:

Next week, please bring a verse, a parable or a bible story that has convinced you that there is an area of your life where you are producing immature fruit. Be prepared to talk about how these scriptures apply to your life and how you will commit to using prayer, meditation, devotionals or specific actions to help you grow.