

SOIL & SPIRIT

(N) A1:8 MISSIONS

Soil & Spirit: The Story of the Presence of God

November 6-7, 2021

Speaker: Pastor Zeb Mengistu

Scripture: Acts 1:8

Series Overview:

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” - Acts 1:8.

From the creation of Adam to the creation of the church, humanity has been formed from both soil and spirit. We are called to live empowered by God’s spirit, sent out into the earth. It is God who has a mission to set things right in a broken world, to redeem and restore it back to what he intended. This series will take us from a missional God to a missional church to living on mission every day.

This three-week series will help us lean into the reality that living on mission every day is in fact a state of being. Through deep dives into missiology and through the stories of everyday NCCers we'll see that it simply requires asking whether what we do, how we think and speak and act, is open to Christ and Christ’s Spirit in bringing about shalom, wherever we are.

Series Discussion Questions:

What is God’s heart and mission for the world? What is God’s heart and mission for the church?
What is God’s heart and mission for each one of us, as we step into His purposes for our lives?

Message Overview:

“Staying with the theme of Acts 1:8, Pastor Mengistu focuses on the role of the Holy Spirit and the importance of the Presence of God in fulfilling the Missio Dei. He shares some of his personal testimony of what he/we have been experiencing as a church the last few months since we started meeting in person again and the lessons he has learned about the presence of God.”

Message-Specific Discussion Questions:

The transformative power of God’s Spirit is something that we need to fulfill our purpose in life and service to each other. How can I be available for ‘more of God’ and ‘less of me’?

We need the Holy Spirit more than we realize

- The Holy Spirit has to be driving! We need the Holy Spirit more than we realize.
- Read John 14:16-17.

- Read Matthew 11: 28-30
- In what area/s of your life do you need a constant Advocate? Where do you need God's guidance beyond your own?
- Write it down & put it in prayer: Holy Spirit thank you for advocating for me in/with/for _____. I believe that you work all things together.

“God takes the biggest problems we have and makes them the victim of a small stone”

- Zeb Mengistu

God's presence has a transformative power:

- Read Ephesians 5:18. When you keep recognizing the work of the Holy Spirit in your life, after a while you switch gears. The association changes how we operate and how we respond.
- Read Acts 4:13. Look at the transformation of the Apostle Peter. Even his enemies “took note that he had been with Jesus.” The things that should hurt us do not create the same pain. A boldness comes out. What is an area of life where you may need to step out in the boldness of the Spirit?
- Write it down & put it in prayer: Lord help me see where you are working in/with/for _____. Help me focus on your Holy Spirit and all that you desire to do!

The Mission of God “Missio Dei”

- There's a difference between RECOGNIZING the presence of God and PRIORITIZING the presence of God. Prioritize the constant presence of God!
- Read Exodus 33:15-16. Moses knew from experience the priority of God's presence. When is a time where you felt closest to or felt the presence of God most?
- Pray: God help me to prioritize you in my everyday activities and remember you are by my side always.

God prioritizes presence with us!

- Read Matthew 6:8 God already knows what we need before we ask. We can't think our way out of situations, negative thinking or circumstances, we need the presence of God.
- Pray: God I lift my requests to you, help me to be in your presence and to learn from you.

“It is easy to get busy doing godly work without receiving from the Lord. We have to find that place at His feet.”

- Zeb Mengistu

Prayer: Lord help me grow in this journey of recognizing Your presence with me. Help me prioritize the quiet moments to hear Your voice through Your Word, and to believe what you placed in me. Help me keep my eyes on You.

Practical Application

- Develop a daily rhythm of connecting with God this week through a short daily devotional. Download the [NCC app](#) or go to ncc.re/daily.
- Take a moment to see how you can get involved. Check out some opportunities to serve at ncc.re/missions.
- Plug into a small group. ncc.re/groups. Connect with others that are growing and activating their faith. Develop relationships where accountability to trusting God is a mutual journey. If you need guidance and support on a more personal level, look into some of the available resources at national.cc/care-prayer/care
- Start the day with positive encouragement, in a prayerful virtual gathering by joining the [Upper Zoom](#) each Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at 7:14am. **Register at** ncc.re/UpperZoom