



“WHAT’S IN IT FOR ME?”

by Pastor Kevin McBride

James 4:1-3

INTRODUCTION:

We talk a lot about what we love. “I love my spouse, my kids, my family.” “I love sports.” “I love pizza.” How much do we talk about how much we love the church?

BACKGROUND

As we continue in our study of the Holy Spirit, there comes a point when we address the question, “Why do I want the Holy Spirit in my life?” For many people the answer can be very self-serving. They might say, “I want the Holy Spirit to get better.” “I want the Holy Spirit in order to show how gifted I am.” Our answers can show how self-serving our desire is.

I NEED TO WANT THE HOLY SPIRIT.....

FOR THE RIGHT _____:

“Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good” (1 Corinthians 12:7).

Peter answered: *“May your money perish with you, because you thought you could buy the gift of God with money! You have no part or share in this ministry, because your heart is not right before God” (Acts 8:20-21).*

- Do I love the Church?

SO _____ IS NOTICED AND NOT _____:

“He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you” (John 16:13-14).

“In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:16).

- Do I need to be the center of attention?

NOT TO _____ GOD:

“Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test’ (Matthew 4:7).

- Is my faith based upon God’s performance?

TO LET GOD _____:

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith —and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do” (Ephesians 2:8-10).

- Does God lead me, or do I lead God?

TO BECOME _____:

‘For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want” (Galatians 5:17).

“Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires” (Galatians 5:24).

- Do I want to be holy?

TO BE ABLE TO _____ LIKE CHRIST:

“If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing” (1 Corinthians 13:1-3).

- Do I want to love people like Jesus?

THIS WEEK:

Will I pray that God will help me love Him more than any gift He gives, and then begin to ask how He would have me serve?