

SYNOPSIS

When you are loaded and listening as a Grace Bomber, you are prepared to be a blessing and aware of your neighbors. Some neighbor or opportunity may stand out more distinctly than others. You may feel a clear burden or urge to step out and surprise someone with a no-strings-attached gift. When this happens, it is likely a prompting of the Holy Spirit. These promptings typically have four things in common: they elevate Jesus, are likely counter-cultural, usually require self denial or risk, and are always biblical. This process doesn't need to be shrouded in mystery, but can become more clear with a right understanding of how God the Holy Spirit normally operates in the lives of believers. This sermon walks through the role of the Holy Spirit in the *inspiration* of the Scriptures, the *indwelling* of the believer, and the *illumination* of His words that we have learned or are learning. We aim for a Spirit-filled life: one that is surrendered to His influence and control.

BIG IDEA

The Holy Spirit illuminates the truth He inspired in the lives of those He indwells so that we would respond in steps of faith.

KEY TEXTS

2 Peter 1: 19-21
John 14:15-17
2 Timothy 3:16-17;
Ephesians 5: 15-18

SERMON OUTLINE

INTRODUCTION

Share a time/story that you felt like you were being Spirit-led. What did that look like, how did that go?

Grace Bomb example story

"Last weekend I got up way too early with a craving for an Egg McMuffin from McDonald's. Turns out the Severna Park store did not open until 6 a.m., but the store in Glen Burnie opened at 5 a.m. When I arrived at the store I was greeted through the drive thru, by a normal looking teenage girl. I placed my order and then realized I had left my wallet at home. However, I did have cash, as I needed to make my car payment today. As she came back with my order I handed her a \$20 bill and went to put the rest of the money back in the glove box. Then I heard two words in my head... 'Grace Bomb.' When the young girl came back with my change, I handed her a folded up \$20 and said, 'this is for you.' She was immediately taken aback and probably a little confused. Then she said to me, 'Are you sure?' And tried to give the money back. I said, 'Absolutely... it did not come from me, it came from the Lord.' I was about two miles away when I was abruptly reminded of her three words... 'are you sure?' I felt the Holy Spirit pulling on my heart. The next thing I knew I was driving back to McDonald's. When the young girl opened the drive thru window I said, 'Hello again, can I please ask you a question?' She said yes and I asked her, 'Why did you say "are you sure?" I know it is only \$20, but could you

use it for your family for something?’ She looked at me without emotion and said, ‘I do not have a family. My mom died and I now live with my friend’s family.’ I told her I was very sorry. I then reached back into the glove box, neatly arranged the remaining cash, handed it to her, and said, ‘Here is \$500.’ She started to cry and tried to give the money back three times. I told her that the blessing was all mine, and that she is loved and God is always with her. Now I was starting to get emotional. She thanked me several times as I drove away.” - Rob

Transition: Many Grace Bomb stories include language like “pulled my heart,” “placed on my heart,” “nudged,” “burdened,” “tugged,” “heard,” or even “said.” These are all descriptions of a shared spiritual experience of being Spirit-led.

- But how can we know if it’s really God, or something else?



FOUR WAYS TO HELP DISCERN A PROMPTING FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT.

SLIDE 1

Your action would elevate Jesus

- The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth, and points people to Christ

SLIDE 2

Your action would be counter-cultural

- Putting the Kingdom first typically cuts against the grain of our neighbors

SLIDE 3

Your action requires self-denial and risk

- Being prompted to Christ-likeness may not gratify our flesh, and the outcomes may be unseen or unknown.

SLIDE 4

Your action is Biblical

- The Holy Spirit always works in conjunction with God’s word
- So if your action is not justified in Scripture, it might be the pizza...

So how are we Spirit-led? How does the Holy Spirit become our key influencer?

- This is the LISTEN, of the Grace Bomb instructions of LOAD, LISTEN, LET'ER GO
- *The Holy Spirit Graphic*

SLIDE 5



SLIDE 6

INSPIRATION - GRAPHIC 1

The Holy Spirit was active in the inspiration of our marching orders, the Bible.

Peter makes this explicitly clear here:

And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. 2 Peter 1:19-21

SLIDE 7

- The Holy Spirit was superintending the human authors, working through their personalities and experiences, to bring about God's truth - revelation of the Bible.



SLIDE 8

INDWELLING - GRAPHIC 2

In the Old Testament you'd find the Holy Spirit's presence coming and going, but after Acts 2, He is sent to permanently indwell the soul of each believer.

This moment is called **regeneration** - when a soul is restored and made alive in Christ. Jesus himself said:

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you." John 14:15-17

SLIDE 9

- When you trust Jesus for the forgiveness of your sins, you have all of the Holy Spirit.
 - This is known as being baptized with the Holy Spirit



SLIDE 10

ILLUMINATION - GRAPHIC 3

God the Holy Spirit, who inspired the Scriptures, now acts to bring them to life, in the lives of those He indwells.

Our job in illumination is not to passively sit by and wait for the Holy Spirit to fill our minds, but rather to work hard in learning the revelation He already inspired that is altogether complete and sufficient.

SLIDE 11

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

- Breathed out - inspired and sufficient.

This takes work:

SLIDE 12

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth. 2 Timothy 2:15

- Regular and unhurried time to learn and meditate on God's word.

What then does it mean to be Spirit-Led?

SLIDE 13

- **The Step of Faith - Graphic**
- Making a decision of the will to act in faith, obeying the Biblical prompting.

This is also a picture of a **Spirit-filled** life.

SLIDE 14

Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit." Ephesians 5:15-18

- Each believer already has all of the Holy Spirit (as we have been sealed with Him -Ephesians 1), therefore to be filled is to be fully surrendered to His ***influence and control***.
- Paul's comparison here is being under the influence of alcohol; it's that same kind of ***out of our control*** that is good for us.
 - This is a supernatural life, because it leads us to become more like Jesus.
 - Spirit-led decisions are those that Jesus would make.

Grace Bombing Implication: A central command from Jesus is to love our neighbors – this is one of the great nuggets to unearth in the work of learning the Bible.

- This command can be quickened in your heart and mind when opportunities arise in everyday life - it's those moments to be looking and listening for.

Closing charge:

Where is the Spirit leading you today? How has He been prompting you to love a neighbor?

- Leave space to Identify an opportunity of a neighbor to Grace Bomb
 - This was the exercise from when we launched GB – perhaps someone was on your heart then, and is still awaiting your step of faith?
- Make a decision to act upon what you have heard this week.