



Focus God wants us to allow Him to fill us with His life, and to walk with an awareness and availability to what His Spirit would do through us.

Open Would you say that you are a goal-oriented person? Why or why not?

Read Luke 8:22 (NKJV) says, “Now it happened on a *certain day* ...” The passage goes on to describe five miraculous acts of Jesus, performed all in one day. In the original language, the word *certain* means *extraordinary* or *one like no other*.

Earlier that day, Jesus had taught His disciples the Parable of the Sower in which scattered seed fell on various types of soil, causing different kinds of growth. Jesus was actually teaching that the secret to the Word of God working in our lives is how we *hear* and respond to what the Spirit is saying.

The Lord is seeking people who will not be analysts of circumstances, but catalysts within them by being uniquely available to His Spirit. Life in the Spirit is like the flowing of a river. In each of our lives there are rivers that He wants to flow through us—a unique stream for every day.

The lesson in Luke 8:22–35 is that there are *certain* days, days like no other, in which God wants to pour the life of His Son through us to make an extraordinary mark on our world. He wants to use us to replicate the expression of His Son on the earth, bringing life where there is death, strength where there is weakness, and healing where there is sickness.

At the launch of this new year, we have the opportunity to symbolically “get into the boat” with Jesus and set out for the other side, living with an awareness of His Spirit, listening to His Spirit and growing in the effectiveness of being people in the moment who usher in His life on the earth.

Talk

1. The wording of Luke 8:22 suggests that there are days that the Holy Spirit is ready to do something unique and extraordinary through you. Have you experienced a day when you sensed that God was up to something? What was it like?
2. The Parable of the Sower (found in Luke 8:4–15) illustrates that we can hear the same thing in different ways, impacting its effectiveness in our lives. What are some different ways we might respond to a message from God, whether through a teaching, book or impression?
3. Practically, what does it mean to live with an awareness of what the Spirit is doing or would like to do?
4. “Nothing is more catalytic than the people of God in prayer.” (Dr. Jack Hayford) Why?
5. A catalyst can be defined as “a person or thing that precipitates an event or change.” What is the difference between living as an analyst or as a catalyst? Which do you tend to be?

Live

“God is saying that this is your moment to decide if you will let Him do *certain* things in you, things that are unique to the moment because you are uniquely available to Him, hearing His Spirit at work in your life.” (Dr. Jack Hayford)
When you think about the possibilities of what God wants to do through your life, how do you feel?

Pray

Thank God that He uses His people to express His Spirit on earth. Commit to live with a connectedness to, and awareness of, His Spirit. Ask Him to help you be uniquely available to Him to do His work. Invite the Holy Spirit to flow through your life in catalytic ways.