

(1) When you hear that Jesus is your example for how to live, minister, and pray for people, does it create fear, anxiety, despair, and a feeling of helplessness in your heart? Are you intimidated or made to feel inadequate when you think of the Great Commission (Matt. 28:18-20)? If so, why?

(2) Read Philippians 2:5-11. What does Paul mean when he says that the Son of God “emptied” himself? What does it *not* mean? How does this passage help us in understanding Jesus as our role model for life and ministry?

(3) How does Luke 4:1 influence your approach to life and ministry? When Luke describes Jesus as being “full of the Holy Spirit”, what does he mean? Was Jesus full of the Spirit in a way that is so significantly different from how we are full of the Spirit that we should ignore how he lived and how he ministered to those in need?

(4) What precisely was Jesus doing when he breathed and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit” (John 20:22)? How does this event described in John relate to Acts 2 and what happened on the Day of Pentecost?

(5) Are we as Christians permitted to tell someone when their sins are forgiven and when they remain under the judgment of God? If not, why not? If we can, and should make such declarations, on what is this based?