

ELI BONILLA

NextGen Pastor, Author and Leader.

Eli Bonilla Jr. is an emerging leader in the NextGen space. He serves several national networks in various roles, including the NextGen regional cochair for North America with Empowered21 and the national millennial director for the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference (NHCLC). His full-time responsibilities are with Bethany Church in Baton Rouge, LA, as Global NextGen Pastor, and he has recently added the title of author, having released a book on identity titled "Mixed." Eli is the father to two beautiful children, Novalee Grace and Ezekiel Eliezer Rafat, and husband to Alexis Gabriella Bonilla.



"Jesus empowers the church with the Holy Spirit, who is God with us, so that they can expand the mission to the ends of the earth."

REACT

Before you can fulfill Jesus' command to tell all the earth about his kingdom, you must receive the power of the helper, the Holy Spirit.

It is this same Spirit that connects believers to serve as the body of Jesus on earth. The Spirit convicts you of your sin, guides you into truth, and gives you the power to follow Jesus.

In 1 Corinthians 12:12-13, Paul explains,

"The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body.

So it is with the body of Christ. Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free.

But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit."





THINK ABOUT HOW YOU LIVE YOUR LIFE. DO YOUR WORDS AND ACTIONS CAUSE PEOPLE TO WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT GOD?

REFLECT

The same Holy Spirit who transformed the disciples from huddling in fear for their lives into men willing to endure martyrdom for his name is available to you as a follower of Jesus. It was the Spirit who empowered Jesus' followers to share God's kingdom to the ends of the earth.

So how do you know it is the Holy Spirit and not your own thoughts or desires?

There is a simple test- are you becoming a clearer and purer reflection of God as displayed in his Word, the Bible?

"All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right."
—2 Timothy 3:16

As you live in community with other believers, are you experiencing a deeper sense of unity as you are each led closer to God?

RESPOND

As you spend more time in God's Word, talking to God in prayer, and with his people, you will begin to recognize the voice of God's Spirit more easily and obey him more wholeheartedly. As with any relationship, time spent with God will allow you to learn his voice, understand his instruction, and share his truth.

You will discover that you are speaking not from your own understanding but in the power of the Holy Spirit.

"Above all, you must realize that no prophecy in Scripture ever came from the prophet's own understanding, or from human initiative. No, those prophets were moved by the Holy Spirit, and they spoke from God." —2 Peter 1:20-21

REVIEW

- Jesus gave us the gift of the helper, the Holy Spirit, to live within us.
- The Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit speak with one voice.
- Prayer, reading the Bible, and spending time with other believers equip us to reflect God's kingdom every day.

MEMORIZE

"PEACE BE WITH YOU. AS THE FATHER HAS SENT ME, SO I AM SENDING YOU." —JOHN 20:21

ACTION STEPS

- Pray and ask God to fill you with the Holy Spirit.
- Write down and respond to what God is saying to you through his Word, his people, and his Spirit.
- Ask God to give you the strength, boldness, and opportunity to share his love.