

Consumed, Deuteronomy 4:24.

There are three different definitions of the word consume in the English dictionary. One is to eat, drink, or ingest food or drink. Another is to completely destroy in the context of fire. And the last is to absorb all of the attention and energy of something or someone.

God asks all of us to be consumed by the Holy Spirit everyday of our lives. But what does that actually mean? I'm guessing it doesn't mean getting eaten or ingested by the Holy Spirit, and it most likely doesn't mean being destroyed by the flame of the Spirit. So that only leaves the last definition of absorbing the energy of the Holy Spirit. But that is a very difficult objective to accomplish. Sure it is easy to say "I give my life fully to you Lord," but how many of us actually do? I know for me it is a very hard pill to swallow when giving your life over to the Lord. I have a very hard time giving things in my life over to God. This year at Steubenville I was reacquainted with that fact about myself.

Two years ago when I went to the LEAD retreat the week before the Steubenville NW conference I had an experience during adoration with the Lord asking me to give my life over to Him. We were all sitting in one of our nightly adorations and I closed my eyes while I was praying. But with my eyes closed I had a vision of the Lord standing on the altar in his white, flowing robe with his arms outstretched to me. And He asked me to come to Him. But I couldn't. I couldn't move. I couldn't walk towards Him, I wasn't ready to. And He just nodded and told me that He was ready for me when I was. Then this year at the conference I experienced the same vision again. During adoration I closed my eyes and all the other people in the room vanished and it was just me kneeling at my seat and the Lord standing on the altar with His arms outstretched towards me. And He asked me again to come to Him. But again, I couldn't. I told him that I love Him but that I am not ready and able to love Him unconditionally.

One of our speakers Mary Bielski talked about how even St. Peter had a hard time giving himself over to the Lord fully. She referenced the Gospel of John verses 15-17 where Jesus asks Peter if he loves Him three different times. But she mentioned that in the Greek translation of the bible, there are three different words for love: "Agape" which is an unconditional, absolute, and selfless love for God, "Eros" which is romantic love, and "Philia" which is a brotherly or friendship love. In that Greek translation, Jesus asks Peter if he Agape loves Him all three times, and Peter responds every time saying that he Philia loves Him.

Giving the Lord an Agape love is not a one time thing that then lasts forever, it is a decision to make every morning when you wake up and that you have to stick to no matter what life throws at you throughout the day. I know that I am still working towards finding that Agape love for the Lord and I hope one day I will get there. But I know that Jesus is ready for me whenever I am ready because he already loves me unconditionally and is just patiently waiting for me to return the favor to Him.