

Being Filled With The Holy Spirit

- As it pertains to being filled with the Spirit, here's the questions that we should be asking:
 - 1. What does it mean to be filled with the Holy Spirit?
 - 2. Is it necessary to be filled with the Holy Spirit?
 - 3. What happens as a result of being filled with the Holy Spirit?
 - 4. How (if at all) do we participate in being filled with the Holy Spirit?
- **Let's start by looking at the life of Jesus.**
- In Luke 3, we see Jesus come to the river Jordan to be water baptized by John the Baptist, and after He is baptized, it says in Luke 3:22 that
 - **"The Spirit descended upon Him like a dove" Luke 3:22**
 - **Jesus, under the approval, love, and blessing of the Father then goes out and it tells us immediately after this, that:**
 - **"Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led about by the Spirit into the wilderness..." (Luke 4:1)**
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 - **"Jesus returned to the Galilee in the power of the Spirit..." (Luke 4:14)**
 - **And it was at this time that Jesus began to teach with authority and perform many miracles.**
- Now, we are told regarding Jesus and the Spirit in **John 3:34** that **Jesus was given the Spirit without measure**, and in **John 1:32** that when the Spirit descended upon Jesus that it **remained upon** him.
- We are **given the same Spirit** that Jesus was filled with—but it does not appear that the Spirit is given **without measure**, nor does the Spirit seem to remain upon us in the same way that the Spirit remained upon Jesus.
- And that's why we're spending a whole Sunday talking about this topic.
- Because we are told expressly in Scripture (as we'll see in a moment) that we need to be **repeatedly filled** with the Holy Spirit.
- The filling of the Spirit is not a one-time event, but an on going event that happens over and over in the life of the believer.

"Do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit." (NASB) (Ephesians 5:18:)

- Do not get drunk with wine, **“BUT BE FILLED”** with the Spirit.
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- To full grasp what is being said here, we need to know the mechanics behind this verse “be filled” which is just one word in the greek. Specifically, we need to know the tense, voice, and mood of this verb.
- The verb **“be filled”** is the:
- **Imperative Mood** = It is a command (we are commanded to be filled with the Holy Spirit)
- **Passive Voice** = It is something that is done TO us (the filling comes from an outside source)
- **Present Tense** = It is ongoing (we are to “continually be being” filled with the Holy Spirit)
- Literally translated this passages says **“Do not be drunk with wine, but be being continually filled with the Holy Spirit, which happens to you by an outside source.**
- In other words, this is something that should repeatedly be being done **to** the Christian (it is done “to” us by God)
 - **And yet, we are commanded to pursue it, and to continually pursue it.**
- **Every Christian is called to be being continually filled with the Spirit, by God.**
- You cannot, should not attempt to live and follow Jesus without the power of the Holy Spirit that comes from being full of the Holy Spirit.
- **1. What does it mean to be filled with the Holy Spirit?**
 - TBA
- **2. Is it necessary to be filled with the Holy Spirit?**
 - Yes, if you want to walk in all that God has you and your life.
- I want to KNOW and be known by God, and much of my spiritual life is consumed with - Intimacy with God. But if that was MY ONLY purpose, then God would just take me home.
- I can experience more intimacy and relationship in Heaven. But the reason I’m still here, is to, from that place of intimacy and relationship, make HIM known. I want people to know God and be known by God AS I know God and am known by God.
- It is the Spirit’s “indwelling” us that causes us to become Christians and initially come into relationship with Him. But it is his coming by the filling of the Spirit that He enables us to be make Him known. I want ALL that God has for me. I want TO KNOW Him fully, and MAKE Him known Fully.
- And the filling of the HS is necessary for this to take place.
- **God gives us His Spirit that His purpose might be fulfilled in and through us.**

Let’s see this illustrated, now, in the Book of Acts 4.

- Pentecost has already happened back in Acts 2.

- Peter and the rest had already been filled with the Holy Spirit as the Spirit was poured out UPON, as we saw last week (2:4), but what we will see in a minute is Peter being filled again — **a subsequent filling of the Holy Spirit.**
- So... Peter preached 3k were saved. (Acts 2:41)
- And then, Peter and John heal the man who had been lame his whole life in the name of Jesus (3:6)
- The people are all amazed after they see this dude be healed, and they're gathering around, and Peter preaches again... and then some trouble starts coming. Acts 4:1

“As they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to them, being greatly disturbed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. And they laid hands on them and put them in jail until the next day, for it was already evening. But many of those who had heard the message believed; and the number of the men came to be about five thousand. On the next day, their rulers and elders and scribes were gathered together in Jerusalem; and Annas the high priest was there, and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of high-priestly descent. When they had placed them in the center, they began to inquire, “By what power, or in what name, have you done this?” **Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit,** said to them, “Rulers and elders of the people, if we are on trial today for a benefit done to a sick man, as to how this man has been made well, let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by this name this man stands here before you in good health. He is the stone which was rejected by you, the builders, but which became the chief corner stone. And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.” Now as they observed the confidence of Peter and John and understood that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were amazed, and began to recognize them as having been with Jesus.” (Acts 4:1-13)

What we see here is Peter, being filled with the Holy Spirit. Now Peter had already been initially filled with the Holy Spirit when the Spirit fell upon him and the crew at Pentecost. But here, it literally says, in the Greek, Peter HAVING JUST BEEN FILLED (ie. “right then) with the Holy Spirit.

This is a subsequent filling of the Holy Spirit.

- God doesn't give us his spirit just for kick's. There is always a purpose. In this case Peter had a need:

Need: To be faithful to Christ in the midst of trouble (Acts 4:1-13)

Results: Power, boldness, and Christ-likeness .

- “Now as they observed the confidence of Peter and John and understood that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were amazed, and began to recognize them as having been with Jesus.”
 - The Holy Spirit manifests a Christ-like atmosphere in His people.
 - This is part of what the Spirit does.

Lets’ see another example of someone being subsequently filled with the Spirit a few verses later in Acts 4...

Here, they are with a bunch of **believers**, (it’s a prayer meeting), and they continue praying (Act 4:29)...

“And now, Lord, take note of their threats, and grant that Your bond-servants may speak Your word with all confidence, while You extend Your hand to heal, and signs and wonders take place through the name of Your holy servant Jesus.” And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and **they were all filled with the Holy Spirit** and began to speak the word of God with boldness.” (Acts 4:29-31)

- This now, is a subsequent, **corporate filling** of the Holy Spirit.
- And why did they filled? Once again, there was a NEED in their life and in the Kingdom. In this case:
- **Need:** Perseverance in the midst of persecution (Acts 4:29-31)
 - “And the congregation of those who believed were of one heart and soul; and not one of them claimed that anything belonging to him was his own, but all things were common property to them. And with great power the apostles were giving testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and abundant grace was upon them all. For there was not a needy person among them, for all who were owners of land or houses would sell them and bring the proceeds of the sales and lay them at the apostles’ feet, and they would be distributed to each as any had need.” (Acts 4:32-35)
- **Results:** Boldness, faithful witness, unity, power, grace, selflessness, generosity.

Acts 13...

In Acts 13 Paul is confronted with a man who is being used as a tool of Satan - a man who may be even demonized (or what is commonly knows and being demon-possessed). He is confronted with **demonic opposition** and it says it Acts 13:9

“Then Saul, who also is called Paul, **filled with the Holy Spirit**, looked intently at him and said, “O full of all deceit and all fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease perverting the straight ways of the Lord? And now, indeed, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you shall be blind, not seeing the sun for a time.” And immediately a dark mist fell on him, and he went around seeking someone to lead him by the hand. Then

the proconsul believed, when he saw what had been done, being astonished at the teaching of the Lord. **(Acts 13:9-12)**

- **Need:** Authority and victory in spiritual opposition/warfare
- **Results:** The enemy is exposed, confronted and his plans were thwarted/people were saved
- What we're seeing here in Acts is, as a result of being filled with the Holy Spirit Power, there is Boldness, Christ-likeness, faithful witness, unity, grace, generosity, selflessness, and authority and victory in Spiritual warfare.
- One last example from Acts in Act 7 with Stephen.
- In Acts 6-7 we see Stephen, **who is a man full of the Holy Spirit**, and He is performing great wonders and signs among the people, and some religious leaders get angry **decide to kill him**.
 - This martyrdom. And this is "bad things happening to good people".
 - Stephen is about to be murdered.... Stephen is in need. His need
- **Need:** Supernatural peace in the midst of suffering **(Acts 7:54-60)**
 - "But he, **being full of the Holy Spirit**, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, and said, "Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" Then they cried out with a loud voice, stopped their ears, and ran at him with one accord; and they cast him out of the city and stoned him... And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not charge them with this sin." And when he had said this, he fell asleep." **(Acts 7:54-60)**
- **Results:** Supernatural peace, strength, grace for those who deserve judgment.
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In all of these examples from Acts, though the **immediate need varied** the **end result is actually the same**. In every case we see the exaltation of Jesus, a deeper level of sanctification of the church, and faithful engagement in mission.

- **If we are actively pursuing Jesus and looking to engage in what He is doing around us, then we are going to face stuff like this, which mean that we are going to NEED the power of the Spirit in our lives.**
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- What we see in all of these stories, is that when the Christian is filled with Holy Spirit, they begin to see, think, act, and live, like God does, and He starts moving through them. They get more of Him and so does the world around them. I love what Wayne Grudem says:

"To be filled with the Holy Spirit is to be filled with the immediate presence of God Himself, and it therefore will result in feeling what God feels, desiring what God desires, doing what

God wants, speaking by God's power, praying and ministering in God's strength, and knowing with the knowledge which God Himself gives." –Wayne Grudem

But the work of the Spirit doesn't stop there. Titus 3:5 says that we are RENEWED by the Spirit.

- Renewed by the Spirit / Power of Sin broken (**Titus 3:5**)
- Transformed into the likeness of Christ by the Spirit (**2 Cor. 3:18**)
- Sanctification comes **by the power of** the Holy Spirit (**2 Thessalonians 2:13; 1 Peter 1:2**)
- The Spirit produces in us lasting Character. (**Acts 6:3,5; Acts 11:24**)
- Being filled with the Holy Spirit produces in us worship, gratitude, humility, healthy relationships, and good work (**Eph. 5:18-29**)
- Godly fruit (ie. love, patience, gentleness, etc.) come by the Spirit (**Gal 5:22-23**)

So back to our list of questions:

- 1. What does it mean to be filled with the Holy Spirit?**
 - TBA
- 2. Is it necessary to be filled with the Holy Spirit?**
 - Yes, if you want to walk in all that God has you and your life.
- 3. What happens as a result of being filled with the Holy Spirit?**
 - Power, boldness, Christ-likeness, unity, grace, generosity, selflessness, authority and victory in spiritual opposition/warfare, supernatural peace strength and grace in suffering, intimacy with God, fruitful mission, breaking of sin's power, growth in holiness, transformation to be made more like Jesus, lasting character, healthy relationships, hearts worship, gratitude, and humility.

Or more succinctly said:

- 1. What does it mean to be filled with the Holy Spirit?**
 - TBA
- 2. Is it necessary to be filled with the Holy Spirit?**
 - Yes, if you want to be a faithful and fruitful follower of Jesus.
- 3. What happens as a result of being filled with the Holy Spirit?**
 - We experience Christ being more exalted in and through our lives
 - We experience sanctification to God and intimacy with God
 - We experience everything that we need to engage in the mission of Christ.

To know God and to make Him known, in the way that he intended us to, we MUST be continually be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Adding the 4th question...

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 - **4. How (if at all) do we participate in being filled with the Holy Spirit?**
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- Well in Eph 5:18, Paul COMMANDS us to BE filled with the Spirit. He doesn't just say, "The Holy Spirit will fill you." He says, in the imperative mood, "YOU, BE filled." — which means that **yes** we have some participation in this being continually filled with the Holy Spirit.
 - **It is** done TO us BY God, for sure, and yet we are **somehow** participants in it being done to us.
 - The way we participate is by:
 - **Humbling ourselves, surrendering, and asking.**
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 - We participate by **humbling ourselves, surrendering, and asking.**
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- We humble ourselves.
 - We surrender
 - Experiencing the fullness of God's power in and through our lives, comes when we humble ourselves and surrender.
 - When we recognize our need for God, surrender to his plan and purpose, and allow our desires to fall in line with God's THEN we should EXPECT to see the fullness of God's power resting upon, and working through us.
 - Until then though, we shouldn't expect anything more than a very natural and average human experience.

- And lastly, the way that we participate is that we ASK.
 - One of the most regular prayers I pray in my life. “Lord fill me”
- **1. What does it mean to be filled with the Holy Spirit?**
 - To be filled with the Holy Spirit means that we are full of God Himself - however much and whenever He sees fit.
- **2. Is it necessary to be filled with the Holy Spirit?**
 - Yes, if you want to be a faithful and fruitful follower of Jesus.
- **3. What happens as a result of being filled with the Holy Spirit?**
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 - We participate by **humbling** ourselves, **surrendering**, **asking**.
- **How do we participate in being filled with the Holy Spirit?**
 - We participate by **humbling** ourselves, **surrendering**, and **asking**.
- And so then, to be **continually filled** with the Holy Spirit means that God is giving us **more** of Himself.
 - More of everything that He is. That’s His power, authority, grace, love, strength, creativity, rest, generosity, all of who He is.
 - All of this goodness flows from who God is. And to be continually filled God’s Spirit is to get MORE OF GOD in and through us.
 - And when we get more of God, then our hearts, minds, lives, wills, start to align with his, our identities are brought into alignment, we are brought into more intimacy with Him, we are made more like Him.