



SERMON NOTES

US N°. 154

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Title: Be filled with and walk by the Holy Spirit

#7 in the series on the Spirit Filled Church

1. Review

- a. The greatest commandments: love God with everything and love our neighbors
- b. The Spirit is absolutely required for us to lead holy & pleasing lives for God, to lead lives of abundant life.
- c. Know who the Holy Spirit is; no matter denomination or theology, He is the presence of God.
- d. God has had a plan since the beginning and to fulfill it He has placed His Spirit within each disciple so that they (*each one*) may be equipped for every good that His Kingdom may advance.
- e. Two objects cannot occupy the same space, there we must forsake all and follow Christ. Our growth is hindered by: opinion of the others, corruption within our own hearts and souls, a vibrant self-life, bad reception of God's will and word, strong belief in self-reliance, and refusing the path of Christ-like humility in our lives.
- f. Who is in the driver's seat of our lives? Is the Spirit only a paying passenger, or is He driving?
- g. The blessing of the Spirit is not a result of being a Super Christian, just our hunger. How desperate are we really? Open the floodgates to the full life and power of God through you to the world.
- h. Beware of nibbling the "apple pies" of the table of this world that fill. Begin by expressing your desire for God, and then increase your attentiveness, capacity and sensitivity. Or put another way – plant good seed, nurture, protect and then harvest a hundred fold.

2. The purpose of the filling of the Holy Spirit

- a. The filling of the Spirit enables us to please God. Rom. 8:5-8, *"For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God."*
 - i. *"The chief end of Man is to glorify God by enjoying Him forever."* [Piper's WMC]
- b. The filling of the Spirit is an enablement for service and for witness and proclamation of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - i. Acts 1:8, *"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*
 - ii. Acts 4:31, *"And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness."*
- c. The filling of the Spirit helps us to grow spiritually; without Him there is no growth.

- i. Jn. 16:13-15, *“However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.”*
- ii. Eph. 3:14, 16-19, *“For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ... that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height – to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”*
- d. We are scripturally commanded both to be filled and to walk by the Spirit.
 - i. Eph. 5:18, *“...be filled with the Spirit...”* “Filled” is a verb in the present tense, *“be continually filled,”* and passive voice, an action done to us. We volitionally release control of our lives to the Spirit, allowing Him to take control of our lives and run it.
 - ii. Gal. 5:16, *“Walk in the Spirit...”* “Walk” is an active verb, an action done by us. Walking by the Spirit is a Spirit-dependent walk which means a conscious determination to trust or rely only on the resources of the indwelling Spirit for strength to obey God and overcome the desires of the flesh.
- e. The Bible gives us two clear paths we can walk, either by the Spirit or by the flesh. Gal. 5:16, *“Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another...”*
- 3. By fulfilling the commands to be filled and to walk by the Spirit, Christians will:
 - a. Produce Fruit (9). The 9 fruits of the Holy Spirit are much more important than the 9 gifts are, because they have to do with God imparting part of His divine nature into the core of our personalities to help make us into a much better and holy people. God’s ultimate aim for all of us is our sanctification in Him, and part of that sanctification process has to do with the Holy Spirit Himself transmitting 9 specific divine qualities and attributes into our personalities.
 - i. Gal. 5:22-25, *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.”*
 - b. Operate in the Gifts (9): The Spirit can manifest any one of these 9 gifts through any believer anytime that He will want to do so. Each one is a major power gift that is a specific, supernatural, miraculous manifestation coming directly from the Holy Spirit. Every Christian should be in a proper place to operate in these 9 gifts; we are to stir up these specific gifts with the Lord.
 - i. 1 Cor. 12:7-10, *“But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the*

same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues."

ii. Desiring the gifts

1. 1 Cor. 12:31, *"But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way."*

2. 1 Cor. 14:1, 39, *"Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy... Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak with tongues."*

3. 1 Thess. 5:19-20, *"Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies."*

c. To be clear, the fruit of the Spirit characterize the life of a disciple, seasoning them to be more Christ-like in their manners, behaviors, appetites, sentiments, etc. The gifts of the Spirit are ministry tools that God uses to further His Kingdom in an individual or community for His own glory.

d. Avoid pitfalls. 1 Jn. 1:9, *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*

i. Plain old sin.

ii. Lack of faith.

iii. Excessive pride in *"my"* ministry (i.e. mine, more important than others, uncorrectable, etc.)

iv. Resentment for being *"unappreciated."*

v. Covetousness (of others' gifts and *"owning"* gifts that are given by God to the Church)

vi. Unbalanced view of scriptures (proof texts, etc.)

vii. Sensualism (experience & feelings greater than the word)

4. Take-aways

a. Fundamentals: love God & others, let Him hold the steering wheel, get dyed in the Spirit, and be the Temple 24/7

b. The filling of the Spirit enables us to please Him and to be His witnesses.

c. Walk in the Spirit and produce the Fruit in your lives; sanctification.

d. Be filled (controlled) by the Spirit and seek to operate in the gifts; ministry.

e. Produce good & abundant Fruit

f. Be free to operate in the Gifts

g. Eagerly desire the spiritual gifts; hunger is primal.