

BIBLE STUDY - FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT

Objective

Today's bible study is aimed at bringing some understanding about the necessity and power of being filled with the Holy Spirit.

Introduction

In our last bible study, we talked about intimacy with the Holy Spirit. Jesus' desire for us is oneness. It is not the will of God that we have a platonic relationship with the Holy Spirit. It is not His will that we have an academic knowledge of Him. It is His will that we are intimately acquainted with Him.

John 17:20-21 "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.

The best of who we are is only revealed through our intimacy with the Holy Spirit. And Intimacy with the Holy Spirit is what happens when we live life in the Holy Spirit. That's when we rejoice, make decisions, pray, love, all in the Holy Spirit. Download the previous study notes for more details on that.

But the other side of building intimacy with the Holy Spirit has to do with being filled with the Holy Spirit. Because intimacy is a flow. As you talk to the Holy Spirit, He will talk to you. As you give yourself to Him, He will fill you with Himself. That's what we want to look at tonight, I want us to understand how profound it is the Holy Spirit fills us with Himself!

I heard someone describe the Holy Spirit as Jesus unlimited! When Jesus was here, He was limited by His flesh. But the Holy Spirit in you is Jesus unlimited! When we talk about being filled with the Holy Spirit, we are talking about the third person of the Godhead! Let that sink in!

Why do we need to be filled with the Holy Spirit?

Your calling is immense

Mark 16:15 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He who believes and is baptised will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

There is a whole world, that is alienated from God now. That word "world" is a huge word meaning "cosmos" it certainly referring to people groups, but it is not limited to that. It is referring to all of creation, the stars in the heavens and everything in the earth. All of which are currently alienated from God through the offence of Adam.

God is on a mission to reconcile the world to Himself and He is going to use us. However, we will be absolutely useless in that mission without the Holy Spirit.

In **Acts 1:8**, when Jesus was leaving, He asked them to wait in Jerusalem before they went into the World, because they cannot do It by themselves! We cannot reach the world without being filled with the Holy Spirit.

Just like Jesus came into the world, anointed and filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 10:38) God wants us to go into the world, filled with the Holy Spirit. The bible says Jesus went about doing good, healing the sick, setting people free! That's the we will of God for our lives. That's what our daily lives should be. It should be the case that every day, in the bank, at your work place, in the supermarket, you too are doing good and setting people free!

We don't need to be filled with the Holy Spirit for church folks, we need to be filled with the Holy Spirit for when we are not at church! When we are in our worlds. If what you are calling the effects of being filled with the Spirit is only useful for impressing church folks, but does no good outside of the church walls, then you might have just been filled with drama and not the Spirit.

We have been called to go into ALL the WORLD! The entertainment world, sports world, education, politics, all of those worlds need to be reached! All of the people on the trains, at your job, on the beach with you all the people in that coffee shop, on your street, your neighbours, that's the world. And it's you and me that are called to reach them!

Can you feel how daunting the task is? That's why we need to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

God's plan for your life is too big to be accomplished by the arm of flesh, that's why we need to be filled with the holy spirit! Most people don't see the need for being filled with the Holy Spirit because they don't really see the magnitude of their calling. So many times, we turn down huge opportunities because we thought we would need to make it work by ourselves. When in reality God called you to do that thing that had never been done in your family before through the power of the Holy Spirit and not by your natural ability. But you missed that opportunity because you only factored in your ability.

All through scriptures, God used ordinary men to do extraordinary things by the power of the in dwelling Holy Spirit. God called a virgin to give birth to a baby through the Holy Spirit. God used Saul to deliver the people from their enemy the ammonites through the Spirit of God (1 Samuel 11). Prophets spoke the heart of God all through the scriptures through the power of the Holy Spirit. Demons were subject to the command of the disciples because the Spirit of God was with them. Daniel excelled phenomenally in the national political scene because of the Spirit of God.

Don't live a small life. There is an extraordinary life that awaits beyond your present capability! An extraordinary life awaits you beyond your level of education, beyond

your experience, beyond what you know, and you as you present yourselves to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

The Days are evil

Ephesians 5:15-16 See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

The days are evil. We are living in evil days. The Word evil means full of annoyances, hardships, full of peril to the Christian faith, it means diseased or blind. These are the days we live in! A time where that which is wrong is considered right and right is considered wrong! That's evil!

We live in a time where nothing is sacred anymore! The days are evil! For Christians, these are evil days, what is happening to believers around the World, a report released recently suggests that Christians are the most persecuted groups of people around the world. The days are evil!

Fake news is the order of the day in our world. That's evil! So, Paul tells us how to live in evil days!

17-21 Therefore do not be unwise but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit...

Paul says that these are days in which the Holy Spirit is our chief influence.

Don't live life filled with fear, filled with worry, filled with the cares of this World, you can be filled with the Holy Spirit! He is the river that never runs dry! He can refresh you today, tomorrow, the day after...any time! Make room to be filled with Him.

What does it mean to be filled with the Holy Spirit?

When you get born again, the Spirit of God's son is given to you. **Galatians 4:4**
4 But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.¹³ 6 Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba,¹⁴ Father."

It is the Spirit of God in the heart of a man that makes you born again. When you genuinely put your faith in Christ, the Spirit of God takes up residence in your heart. You become one spirit with the Lord. (1 Corinthians 6:17). 2 Corinthians 5:17 says we become a new creature! That's why we don't regard ourselves according to the flesh anymore, because the Spirit of God now lives fully in us.

But when we talk about being filled with the Spirit, we are talking about being in the place where that which is already in you, fills your mind. We are talking about unleashing the spirit of God in your consciousness, in your mind.

In Acts 19, Paul meets some disciples in Corinth, and He asked them in verse 2, **he said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” So, they said to him, “We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit.”**

These were disciples who already believed in Jesus, but they had not heard of the Holy Spirit. They had no consciousness of the Holy Spirit. So, they were disciples who were living ordinary lives, even though they had the Spirit of God inside them.

But as you read the rest of the story, you'll see that Paul prayed for them and the spoke in other tongues and prophesied. What was the difference, the Spirit of God who already lived in their hearts because of their faith in Jesus filled their minds. Their minds were immersed in the Spirit of God. Their mind became influenced by the spirit of God to the place where He controlled their speech and prophesied through them.

I put it to you dear believer that the difference between you and that extraordinary life you see in your mind's eye, is the in filling of the Holy Spirit. Could it be that you are thinking that you cannot start that company, but in reality, you just need to be filled with the Holy Spirit? Could it be that you are only overwhelmed, because your mind is filled with the reality of the circumstance that you are facing instead of being filled with the Holy Spirit!

You see speaking in tongues one time is great, but the will of God is that we are consistently conscious of the Holy Spirit. That we are continually filled with the Holy Spirit. That our minds are not full of earthly things, our minds are full of spiritual things! (Colossians 3:2)

In **Acts 2:4** and in **Acts 4:31** there are two examples of the where the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit. These were believers, people who believed in Jesus already. In both accounts they were filled with the Holy Spirit because they were living in the Holy Spirit. They were in a place of prayer...constant communication, and the scripture says they were filled with the Holy Spirit! They were making a decision about the next step in Acts 4 and the scripture says they were filled with the Holy Spirit.

When we pray, rejoice in the Spirit, get in the Word of God, make decisions in the Holy Spirit, we get filled with the Holy Spirit. Our minds get filled with a consciousness of the Holy Spirit. The more our minds get filled with Him, the more control He has over our thoughts our words, our actions and our world!

All the amazing ability of the God's Spirit is released into our world when our minds are filled with the Spirit in our hearts.

Conclusion

Living in the Spirit is an invitation for the Spirit to Live in you. Sometimes we reduce rejoicing in the Spirit or praying in the Spirit to just religious activities, not realising

that they are an invitation for the Spirit of God in you. They are an invitation for the Spirit of God to fill and take control of your mind, your faculties. Show me a person whose mind is heavily influenced by the Spirit of God, and I will show you a person who is poised to take over the world!

Discussion points

- What religious practices do you think limits our ability to be filled with the Holy Spirit?
- In what way do you need to get filled with the Spirit right now?
- Discuss some effects of ¹a mind under the control of the Holy Spirit.