

Dec 12th 2010

Being filled with / baptised in the Holy Spirit

Follow on from Mark last week. If you wanted to take water, would you use a jug or a sieve? What type of people does God want to pour His Spirit into?

Whole denominations based on it (just 4 mentions of Baptism in the Spirit– all the record of single statement); others deny that it is even for today; what does the Bible say

John 7:37-39 Acts 1:1-8; 2:32-39 Eph 5:17-21

A few obvious points:

- Jesus promised that we can be filled with the Holy Spirit and power (read 2, but many)
- There is a purpose in that filling – need for power, to be witnesses **to Me**
- There are conditions for the filling – Jesus being glorified, people repenting
- Men were filled – it happened and produced results – they witnessed and honoured Jesus, people repented and were converted and filled
- We are commanded to be filled (continually)

Who is the Holy Spirit?

What is the filling with, or baptism of, the Spirit?

Why do we need it?

How can we be filled?

How can we be filled continually?

Who is the Holy Spirit?

The Spirit of God – equal with Father and Son – one God, three persons

Omnipresent – where can I go from Your spirit?

Omniscient – the Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God

Eternal – Who though the eternal Spirit offered Himself

Not a formless power but He is a person – He can be grieved, which means He loves. You can't get to know a person intimately in a single encounter, nor in occasional meetings; you must cultivate His friendship and allow Him to live with you

He is the Spirit of Jesus – what Jesus was like, the Spirit is like (Father / Son)

He is **holy** – Spirit of Holiness – repelled by iniquity (Noah – dove)

What is the filling with, or baptism of, the Spirit?

Terms – “careless words cost lives” – wrong words/ideas -> wrong actions -> wrong doctrine

What it is not

Not a badge of merit for superior Christians

Not a reward for notching up a few brownie points

Not a feel-good factor or warm fuzzy feeling – although often accompanied by an emotional and/or physical response (e.g. falling down), tongues (Jesus?)

What it is

The coming of the presence of God into your body, soul and spirit

The divine afflatus – a strong creative impulse, especially as a result of divine inspiration. [Latin afflātus, from past participle of afflāre, to breathe]

An anointing for service Luke 4:14-23

The empowering presence of God to be all that He wants you to be and to do all that He wants you to do

Why do we need it?

So that we might know God as He wants to be known. He will guide us into all truth – people filled with the Spirit love the Word of God and will be submitted to it. We cannot know God without the Spirit 1 Cor. 2:12-16

He brings revelation and conviction John 16:8-12 – otherwise our words are powerless

For ministry to others – without it, we cannot do the work of God – He sets alight the gifts

Part of the normal Christian life – witnesses **to Me** (you will be a witness **to something**)

To be able to resist temptation – Jesus’ example – full of the Spirit = full of the Word and knows how to use it (Isa. 49:1-2; 50:4; Rev. 1:16) - example: apostles – persecution Acts 3; 5

To understand what the will of God is Eph: 5:17

To encourage one another Eph. 5: 19

To be able to pray and worship Eph 5:19-20; 6:18 1Cor. 14:2

To be in submission to one another and to the Lord Eph. 5:21

To bring unity in the Body 1 Cor 12:13; Eph. 4:2-3

How can we be filled?

You are now as full as you want to be Luke 11 – He **will** give – do you believe? Many want to be full, but do not want to be filled – emptied first! Total submission to Jesus as Christ and Lord – self/old man crucified – no-one wants to die.

Do we have an overpowering desire to know God better, to serve Him as we know we should, a holy dissatisfaction with our mediocrity? If not, I’ve got nothing to say to you. But for those who do ...

When Jesus is glorified, the Spirit comes John 7; 16:12-14 As the Father delights in the Son, so does the Spirit. He will keep company with others who do. Keep Jesus as your focus and the Spirit will be your companion. (Comforter – can be uncomfortable!)

First step – repentance Acts 2:38 – for not being filled – it’s a command!

Second – bring your vessel to be filled (sieve or jug?) Rom. 12:1-2 count the cost

Third – you must ask Luke 11:11-13 – it’s not by osmosis

Fourth – you must believe – have faith in God (not faith in faith, nor faith in feelings) Gal.2:20; 3:2-3 (Moody’s experience)

How can we be filled continually?

Repeat above

Read God’s Word – find out what your Father has said

Allow the Holy Spirit to apply the Word to your life, ask Him what He is saying, then obey! (Mark Twain) Obey what you know – how can two walk together except they be agreed?

You must cultivate His friendship and allow Him to live with you.

He wants to glorify Christ. Make Jesus’ glory your life’s ambition and you will enjoy the company of the Holy Spirit!

Be filled – now!

Tozer p.133

Jan 23rd 2011

Being filled with / baptised in the Holy Spirit – part 2

Since I last spoke on this 5 weeks ago, the Lord has not let me alone about my response to the teaching! My proposition (from the Bible) was that

- Jesus promised that we can filled with the Spirit
- we need to be filled with the Spirit to live the Christian life
- anyone can be (conditions), but everyone must be filled (command)

Recap

Who is the Holy Spirit?

He is God

Not a formless power, but a person – need to cultivate His friendship

The Spirit of Jesus

The Spirit of Holiness – repelled by Corruption and iniquity

What is the filling with, or baptism of, the Spirit?

Not a badge of merit for superior Christians

Not a reward for notching up a few brownie points

Not a feel-good factor or warm fuzzy feeling

But an anointing for service

The empowering presence of God to be all that He wants you to be and to do all that He wants you to do

Why do we need it?

So that we might know God as He wants to be known.

For revelation – to us and to others (witnesses)

For ministry to others

How can we be filled? And filled continually?

First step – repentance Acts 2:38 – for not being filled – it's a command!

Second – bring your vessel to be filled (sieve or jug?) Rom. 12:1-2 count the cost

Third – you must ask Luke 11:11-13 – it's not by osmosis

Fourth – you must believe – have faith in God (not faith in faith, nor faith in feelings) Gal.2:20; 3:2-3

My testimony – inconsistency! Initially, enjoyed the companionship of the Holy Spirit, but pressures, especially of work (not conscious sin), reduced that - unconsciously. Then Mark asked me to speak again on this subject and I realised that I had lost that sense. As the Lord pressed that home to me, He brought back to my mind the last 4 points, so somewhere on the M11 on the way to the Office, I repented, and was grieved how much I had grieved Him over the years. I brought my vessel, asked and believed, and what a difference it made! I normally struggle to stay focussed on the Lord in the Office with all the distractions of work, colleagues, etc., but was able to work well, relate to people much better than usual and keep the consciousness of His presence with me.

So what does being filled continually look like? Yes, Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would be with us for ever, and He is, as the seal of our salvation. But our conscious enjoyment of His presence – being filled with the Spirit – is something we can lose and we have to repent and ask

Being filled with the Spirit is not an end in itself, just another Christian experience to be ticked of on our list of things to do before we die. It is an enduing of power – power which we need for ministry, but it is much more than that! It has as much, if not more, to do with maturity and character. Power with character is dangerous – look at any number of dictatorships for a demonstration! Ministry without maturity has been the cause of much deception and many problems in the Church, especially in the last few years. (Melanie's story – abused at age 5, buried memory recovered by young missions team leader trained in 'Inner Healing' but who wasn't equipped to help her deal with the memory – nearly ship-wrecked her faith)

Example of Elijah intimate with God and obedient to His word. We want the power, but are we ready for the conditions? Our obedience is God's opportunity.

The Lord gave me three words – fullness, fellowship and fruit

Eph 5:18-21; 2 Cor. 13:14 (say together); Gal.5:16-26

Filled to overflowing – out of the overflow of the heart, the mouth speaks. What comes out of your mouth, is what is in your heart – complaining, cynicism, criticism, arguing, or gracious words, thankfulness, encouragement? (you will be witnesses!) Dealing with the CRABS with R-R-R

Look again at Eph 5 18-21 The Truth. Being filled right in the centre of the passage – key to what comes before and after.

Not our own effort, but produced in us by the Holy Spirit, resulting from fellowship with the Holy Spirit – spending time with Him, enjoying what He enjoys, sharing our lives with Him – not just Someone we call on in an emergency. Word used in 2 Cor 13 is koinonia – having things in common

What is the fellowship of the Spirit? Other side of the coin

I struggle to find the right thing to say at the right time – often think of it later when the moment has passed. How many moments have I missed! How to reach the young people of today?

I wonder how many people in church find living hard, feeling that you are on your own, that no-one knows what is going on inside you, despite having family and friends around? Even church family – we put a brave face on things. No-one knows your struggles? Insurmountable difficulties, irresolvable problems?

And you know it shouldn't be like this, that the Christian life is meant to be one of victory and joy. While you profess to believe that, inside it's a different story, and you feel like giving up. So many of us live lives of quiet desperation (or not so quiet at times!).

Oh, you need the fellowship of the Holy Spirit! Jesus promised that He would not leave us as orphans (Jn. 14:16-18):Romans 8:26-27 He wants to come alongside and help us in our weakness. Jesus knows and intercedes for us in Heaven, but the Holy Spirit intercedes within us. He witnesses in our spirits that we are God's children (v.16). He wants to be included, to share in every aspect of our lives, to fill everything about us.

A friend closer than a brother, not a casual acquaintance, just a passing nod on Sundays. It's a bit like the difference between dating and being married. You only know a person when you live with them. How well do I know the Holy Spirit? Granted that His role is specially to reveal Jesus to us, the secret of the Lord is with those that fear Him.

So we must cultivate His friendship, be interested in what He enjoys. What does the Holy Spirit enjoy? Glorifying Jesus, taking the treasures of God and revealing them to us, opening our hearts to the Word of God

Will you open up to Him? He longs to make Rom 8:28 a reality to you! Read 28 to end. Is this just theology that we nod our head to? Say Amen and go on our way depressed that it's not true in our experience? Wishful thinking? True on Sunday, but it's another thing on Monday. Let's be real with one another – if we can't do that here, we can't do it anywhere!

There are conditions – remember Rom 12:1-2 – and consequences. He will produce in us the character of Jesus, but it will be a battle Gal 5:16-17 as the Holy Spirit in us wants to eliminate the old life. The battle requires our involvement v.24-25

What is the fruit? V.22-23 The character of Jesus – Rom 8:29 God's purpose. Progression and purpose. Jesus is coming soon – we haven't got much time!

If not this, what? If not now, when?