

**"BEING FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT"**

The great preacher, Charles Haddon Spurgeon, once made this observation: "If there were only one prayer which I might pray before I died it would be this: 'Lord, send your church men and women filled with the Holy Spirit and with fire.'"

**I. THE NEED OF THE SPIRIT**

## A. We have to understand the problem of human limitations

1. We are not able to do God's work or God's will in human power: strength/intellect/program

a. *Fished all night – no fish* b. *Rowing ship – going nowhere* c. *Why couldn't we cast it out?*

1. *2 Kings 4:31 Now Gehazi went on ahead of them, and laid the staff on the face of the child; but there was neither voice nor hearing. Therefore he went back to meet him, and told him, saying, "The child has not awakened."*

2. This should not be shocking: We're not meant to be able to do a supernatural work in human power

## B. God's answer is the Holy Spirit

1. **God gives us the promise of the Holy Spirit:** Called 'the promise of the father'

a. *John 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.*

b. *John 16:7-8 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. 8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:*

2. **God gives us the command of the Holy Spirit:** Be filled! Get filled!

a. *Luke 24:49 Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.*

1. Don't try and perform a supernatural work with natural power

b. *Ephesians 5:18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,*

1. Continuous: We leak – we will have to be re-filled

**II. THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT**

## A. It's obvious that being filled with the spirit is a powerful thing

1. Day of Pentecost: place shaken/tongues of fire sat on – transformed them & made them effective

a. History records the power of those truly filled with the spirit

2. More than just speaking in tongues

## B. Our scripture shows us that it is observable – something will happen (not trying to formulize)

1. **We become time-effective:** *V16 redeeming the time...*

a. God can do more in a few spirit-filled minutes than we can do in years (3,000 on Day of Pentecost)

2. **We become led by the spirit:** 'Filled' – wind filling a sail and carrying a ship; Guided

a. God speaks to us and gives supernatural direction

3. **We become taught by the spirit:** *V17 understand what the will of the Lord is*

a. Supernatural insight: Solutions/revelation

4. **We become controlled by the spirit:** *V18 contrast with being drunk...influence*

a. Transforming power in every area of life

**III. SEEKING THE SPIRIT**A. **We must develop faith in the Holy Spirit**

1. Search the scriptures: Study what God's will is and what the spirit will do

a. Read books on the Holy Spirit

B. **We must surrender to the Holy Spirit**

1. Why tongues? Affront to pride – we're not in control

a. *I open myself to You – I surrender to you*

C. **We must seek the Holy Spirit**

1. **Luke 24:49** tarry...more than wait; Priority!

a. The church began with a 10 day prayer meeting waiting on/seeking the power of the Holy Spirit

b. *Jer 29:13 And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.*

c. *Isa 41:17 When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue faileth for thirst, I the LORD will hear them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them. 18 I will open rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of the valleys: I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water.*