

"BEING FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT"

Eph 5:18

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.