

## Holy Spirit in the Church (Part Four): Filled with the Spirit

**Relevant Bible Verses:** Acts 1:8, 2:4,37-39 ; Romans 8:23 ; Luke 29:23-24

**Main Points:** The Holy Spirit gives us power in the giftings he's given us and the power to lay down our lives daily. Before becoming bogged down with theological differences, know that being *filled with* the Holy Spirit is an incredible thing.

### Message Notes:

- If the Holy Spirit hadn't come, would we even have any desire to reach the world? Through the Holy Spirit, we have the power to be *witnesses*. The Greek word for power, *Dunamis*, is where we draw the word dynamite from, and the Greek word for witnesses is where we get the word martyr from. The Spirit blows up the planes of the enemy, and through him, we have that same power. In other words, the Holy Spirit gives us dynamite to be his martyrs; daily laying down our lives.
- It can be hard to daily lay down our lives when not at church, surrounded by Christians, but in the world. The Holy Spirit gives us power to deal with that. The Holy Spirit also reminds us that we belong to a large family (the Church), the promise of heaven and a future when life gets us down and makes us want to be better. He reveals something to strive for, namely, the righteousness of Christ.
- The Holy Spirit is constantly turning our heads towards Jesus; when our heads are low, he raises it to see the glory of Jesus, when they're high and prideful he lowers them to see that Jesus is far greater. No matter the wrong direction we are looking, the Holy Spirit redirects us to the promise and the right path. We also have to keep in mind that those who do not know Jesus do not have this direction and guidance.
- This promise of the Holy Spirit is available to *all*, and when we receive him we are *completely filled*. Not just Emmanuel, God *with* us, but God *in* us. There are theological differences in what that means, but don't fail to miss the *wonder* of what that means. The Pharisees were bogged down by theology when looking at what Jesus taught. Though it is important, as it reveals truth, it can also distract from the wonder of God. Jesus could be doing incredible things in our lives, but if our head is always down in the Bible, looking for ways to prove ourselves right, we will miss him.
- Sometimes, if we're being honest, we aren't always seeking *truth* when studying theology, but that we're correct.
- We know we are born again in the Spirit; God resides in us by the Holy Spirit. We are therefore a new creation, revealing how Jesus sees us, not how we see ourselves. Part of the Holy Spirit's role is to reveal that we are on the wrong path when we work outside of him; he reveals to non-Christians the emptiness of life.

- Scripture indicates (In Acts) that Christians, already saved, can then be filled by the Holy Spirit. We are born again, new creations, when the Holy Spirit enters us. He *fills* us. In other words, when we are saved, The Spirit enters and fills us. When we are baptized by the Spirit, being already saved, we are filled to overflowing, like taking a full vessel and dunking it in the Spirit. When this occurs, the work of the Spirit becomes external, working around you and outside of you, not just within you.
- We need to work towards a hunger for the Holy Spirit. Stephen, the first martyr/*witness*, declared the word of God, filled with the Spirit to overflowing, to those around him who wanted to kill him. He had a clear site of Jesus, and who he is, and chose to lay down his own life so that others would hear.
- Tongues are a way the Spirit reveals his presence. There is controversy over what tongues are, but don't get bogged down and miss the miracle that is declaring the wonder of God. Tongues are intended to edify, to 'build a house', for the speaker and the Church. You may not know what you're saying, but don't let that distract you from that wonder of building yourself (the temple of the Holy Spirit) or the Church.

**Summary:** The Holy Spirit presents itself in many ways. Through violent wind, he fills the whole house, leaving nothing untouched including doors we may be trying to keep shut. Through tongues of refining fire, splitting from a single source, he increases and spreads, speaking in languages of men for all people to hear and, in doing so, edifying the Lord's house. We are called, in our actions and speech, to build and edify the Lord's house, daily lay down our lives, and to wait in obedience to the Lord. What better way to engage in missions than to have the Holy Spirit in us.