

THE URGENCY OF BEING FILLED AND STAYING FILLED

Selected Passages

I. REVIEWING WHAT THE FILLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IS ALL ABOUT:

- A. The initial and continual filling:
 - 1. Regeneration, where the initial permanent filling begins: (*Rom. 8:9; I Cor. 3:16; 6:19*)
 - 2. Repeated filling experiences: (*See Acts 2:4; 4:8*)
- B. The purpose for the Spirit's filling:
 - 1. To equip me for service: (*See Acts 6:3,7*)
 - 2. To control every area of your life: (*See Gal. 5:16; Col. 3*)
- C. Characteristics of the Spirit's filling:
 - 1. Christ-like character: (*See Gal. 5:22-23*)
 - 2. Boldly sharing the Gospel and reaping: (*See Acts 2:4,41; 4:31;5:14; 6:3, 7; 11:24*)
 - 3. Constantly singing vibrantly to the Lord: (*See Eph. 5:18-19*)
 - 4. Continually (always) being thankful for everything (absence of worry, disappointment, guilt, doubt, irritability, resentment, inferiority, jealousy, fears, etc.) (*See Eph. 5:18, 20*)
 - 5. Being submissive to the authority figures in your life: (*See Eph. 5:18-6:9*)
- D. The goal of the Spirit's filling, spirituality: (*See I Cor. 2:15; II Pet. 3:18*) (*See chart*)
 - 1. What spirituality is: A spiritual person is a born again believer who is hungry and disciplined to study, understand and wisely implement what he is being taught from God's Word. This in turn, triggers rapid spiritual growth. (*See I Pet. 2:2*) With a sense of urgency, he eagerly addresses anything that would hinder the Spirit from daily producing Christ's character in his life or Christ's ministry through his life. By faith, he places every area of his life under Christ's complete Lordship, so that ministry occurs through him, beyond what is humanly possible. (*See Rom. 6:16; I Cor. 6:19; Mt. 10:36-38; 17:20-21; Jn. 14:12*)
 - 2. How the Holy Spirit produces spirituality in my life:
 - a. When I hunger to be taught the Word of God: (*Jn. 16:12-15; I Cor. 2:13,15*)
 - b. When I promptly obey the Word of God: (*See Rom. 8:13; Gal. 5:16-17*)
 - c. When I promptly confess and forsake known sin: (*See I Jn. 1:9-10*)
 - d. When I discipline myself to daily pray in accordance with His will: (*See Rom. 8:26; Eph. 6:18*)
 - e. When I faithfully exercise my spiritual gifts in a local church: (*I Cor. 12:7*)
 - f. When I treasure time with eternity in mind: (*See I Cor. 3:1-3*) (*See also that Jesus gets the job done regarding the spirituality of his disciples in less than 3 1/2 years- faster possible today with the completed Scriptures*)
 - 3. What spiritual growth looks like: (spiritual burnout a foreign concept in Scripture)
Devouring spiritual meals + exhaustive spiritual exercise = spiritual maturity
- E. Why additional fillings are necessary:
 - 1. Outraging the Holy Spirit - He is insulted and outraged when a professing believer walks away and treats with contempt what Christ did for him at the cross: (*See Heb. 10:27,29*)
 - 2. Resisting the Holy Spirit, the natural bent - to stubbornly pull away or continually oppose by refusing to address habits and misplaced priorities that have been embraced over a long period of time - to nurture a callous - what you do prior to salvation is the bent you have after salvation: (*See Acts 7:51; Mt. 23:37*)
 - 3. Lying to and testing the Holy Spirit - to lie is to attempt to convince yourself or tell others that something completely belongs to or has been given to God when deep in the recess of your heart, you know, you are holding back a percentage of the whole: (*See Acts 5:3,9; Ezek. 33:31-32*) (Example - the song "I Surrender All")

4. Grieving the Holy Spirit - the word to grieve here is a love word suggesting an intimate relationship with someone, someone who at one time was "filled". You injure or sadden Him, you afflict with sorrow, by slipping back into the status quo of the Christian community at the expense of the supernatural ministry He has originally designed for you - distant second best. A. Barnes writes, "Do not act towards the Holy Spirit in a manner which would produce pain in the bosom of a friend who loves you." (Eph. 4:30; Rom. 12:2) (Compare Phil. 24 with II Tim. 4:10)

5. Quenching the Holy Spirit - the word used for quenching means to smother or extinguish the flame. Don't extinguish the influence of the Holy Spirit in your heart by willfully disobeying any absolute of Scripture. Although the Holy Spirit still indwells the believer, disobedience brings His "filling" work of assuring, understanding and applying Scripture, conviction, bold witness, eternal focus, power to break habits, resisting temptation, controlling the tongue, implementing marital, parental, occupational roles, the delivery of prayers, spiritual growth, and divine guidance to a complete standstill. Disobedience empties your life of the Spirit's influence while prompt confession begins the filling process all over again - therefore the need for numerous refillings. Prompt confession that re-ignites the flame triggering the Spirit's refilling, include acknowledging the sin (going my own way) has no justifiable cause, seeing it for how it has hurt God, asking for God's help to hate the sin the way He does, begging for his forgiveness with no thought of deserving it, and promptly establishing new patterns so it won't happen again. Quenching the Holy Spirit with unconfessed sin cripples the intended powerful testimony of the individual believer as well as the local church he attends. The powerless individual and his powerless local church must now resort to a carnal (fleshly) emphasis using entertainment to excite feelings and self-serving church growth strategies that can be accomplished in the flesh. Quenched lives being empowered by the flesh, have replaced the vibrant supernatural work of the Holy Spirit which so graphically empowered the handicapped lives and churches (they were without the completed Word of God) throughout the book of Acts. (See I Thes. 5:19; I Cor. 3:1-3; I Pet. 3:7; Ps. 66:18; I Jn. 1:9; etc.)

II. THE FRAGRANCE AND APPEAL OF A SPIRIT FILLED LIFE: (See I Pet. 3:15; Gal. 5:22-25)

A. Nine fragrances that blend together into one irresistible aroma to the lost world: (Fruit of the Spirit) (Please notice the singular verb)

1. Love - "Love is above all sacrificial. It is a sacrifice of self for the sake of others, even for others who may care nothing at all for us and who may even hate us. It is not a feeling but a determined act of the will (Mt. 22:37-40; Mk. 12:35-37; Lk. 20:41-44) which always results in determined acts of self-giving. (I Jn. 3:16; Rom. 5:8; Jn. 15:13) Love is the willing, joyful desire (Heb. 12:3) to put the welfare of others above our own. (Phil. 2:5-8) Love is not an emotional attraction, but selfless, humble service (I Cor. 13) to meet another's need, no matter how lowly the service or how undeserving the person served. (Rom. 5:8; I Jn. 2:2; 4:10; 5:3; Mt. 5:44)

2. Joy - Joy is not dependent on what happens, and smiles in the face of adversity. It is not so much happiness as it is contentment. It is not a spontaneous response to some temporary pleasure. Joy is the exhilaration of the heart that focuses on one's anticipated eternal destiny. It is best grasped from Heb. 12:2 which states, "Looking unto Jesus, . . . who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." "They would have to sing more exuberantly; reflect more in their faces, the reality of their redemption, if I am to believe in their Redeemer." Friedrich Nietzsche

3. Peace - Is the inner calmness of emotions and thoughts which rests on the assurance that God is too good to be unkind and too wise to make mistakes. It referees the Spirit controlled believer's choices. (Col. 3:15) Its the opposite of dread or terror embracing complete confidence in an all sufficient God.

4. Long suffering - It is the quality that puts distance between wrath and himself on the inside. He does not have a quick temper but rather demonstrates a very long fuse toward the quirks, faults, and failures of those around him. It courageously endures without giving up.

5. Gentleness - This is grace in action. He is kind toward those who wrong him. It is what God manifests toward sinners. (Rom. 2:4; Eph. 2:7; Tit. 3:4) Whereas long suffering holds back vengeance, gentleness extends merciful kindness.

6. Goodness - goodness means to have an upright soul that hates evil and refrains from doing it. It is ready to take a stand for what is right and defend what is right.
7. Faith- Faith believes God. It takes Him at His word. When a person's faith rests in God he will be faithful to God. He will also be faithfully loyal to God and others.
8. Meekness - Meekness is not weakness, but power, under control. It is the opposite of insubordination. It is a submissive spirit toward God and others.
9. Temperance (self restraint) - Temperance has the ability to say no to any and all impulses and desires that have the ability to take behavior outside God's defined boundaries. It makes no provisions for things that could personally hurt or hurt those around him.

* The point - The longer you have been saved, the more effectively you should be in leading people to Christ due to this ever growing fragrant aroma that allures lost individuals to you. (the fruit of the Spirit is the character of Christ)

III. VIEWING THE FILLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WITH A SENSE OF URGENCY:

- A. The supernatural expectations to change your culture through by transformed hearts: (See Jn. 14:12, 16-17; Acts 4:13)
- B. The glimpse of the judgment seat designed to promptly motivate: (II Cor. 5:9-15)
- C. The dreadful reality of God's anger and our shame: (See II Cor. 5:10-11a; I Jn. 2:28)

IV. THE STORY THAT BRINGS IT ALL TOGETHER: (See Mt. 25:14-30)

- A. The Lord and Master is without question, the Lord Jesus Christ: vv. 14a, 19, 26-30
- B. The three servants all belong to the same Master (saved): vv. 14b
- C. The talents represented exceedingly abundant abilities that were beyond their reach to produce in themselves (one talent represented 20 years of wages) v. 15 (Jn. 14:12)
- D. Faithfulness day in and day out, not the amount given, being the life lesson: vv. 21-23
- E. Two who daily lived with the reality of an unannounced return (rapture, death): (See I Thes. 4:13-18; Rev. 22:20; Lk. 12:20; Eph. 5:14-17)
- F. The anger of Christ and the shame on the slothful and negligent servant who lived his life without his supernatural endowments (notice his accurate appraisal of the Lord and what it was that he lost): vv. 26-30 (See again II Cor. 5:10-11a; I Jn. 2:28)

V. PRINCIPLES TO PERSONALLY APPLY:

(Together becoming "people of the Word" in principle AND in practice)

- A. Interfacing with other people from day to day, is the most insightful clue into whether or not you have a consistently attractive aroma that is effectively drawing others to Christ. (filled with the Holy Spirit) (See Rev. 22:2; Jn. 15:4, 8, 16; Mt. 7:16, 20)

- B. As you examine the lack of aroma coming from your tree, focus on the root structure, not the fruit. (You are truly broken when you are watering the root structure with tears of repentance) (See Lk. 13:6-9; Pro. 16:1a; Ps. 1:3; Jn. 14:12: 15:5, 26-27; 16:12-15)

Our Spiritual Growth Barometer

