

Session 10

**How**  
**can I be filled**  
**with the**  
**Holy Spirit**

What the Holy Spirit does and brings to our lives is all about love.

Every Christian has the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:9) but not every Christian is filled with the Spirit.

**Five categories of people:**

- 1. Longing** (Pentecost—Acts 2:2–4)
- 2. Receptive** (Samaria—Acts 8:14–23)
- 3. Hostile** (Paul—Acts 8:1, 3; 9:1–2)
- 4. Uninformed** (Ephesus—Acts 19:1–6)
- 5. Unlikely** (Gentiles—Acts 10:44–47)

What happened to Cornelius and his household when the Spirit came upon them? (Acts 10:44–46)

**1. THEY EXPERIENCED THE LOVE OF GOD**

“... the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message.... Then Peter said ... ‘they have received the Holy Spirit just as we have.’” (Acts 10:44–47)

- There were physical manifestations.
- Everyone’s experience is different.
- What matters is God’s love being poured out into your heart. (Romans 5:5)
- Pursue the Person, not the experience. (Ephesians 3:14–19)

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## 2. THEY EXPRESSED THEIR LOVE FOR GOD

“For they heard them ... praising God.” (Acts 10:46)

- Fear of emotion: emotion versus emotionalism
  - Emotion is an important part of faith and love for God.
  - Express with our whole bodies: raised hands; a traditional form of prayer.

## 3. THEY RECEIVED A NEW LOVE LANGUAGE

“For they heard them speaking in tongues.” (Acts 10:46)

- Not all Christians speak in tongues
  - Not the mark of being a Christian.
  - Not necessarily a mark of being filled with the Spirit.
  - There are no first- or second-class Christians.
  - It is not the most important gift.
- What is the gift of tongues?
  - Human or angelic language (1 Corinthians 13:1)
  - A form of prayer (1 Corinthians 14:2)
  - Builds up the individual
  - Transcends the language barrier (1 Corinthians 14:14)
  - The speaker is in full control.
  - Public use requires an interpretation.
- Why is it helpful?
  - Worship (1 Corinthians 14:15)
  - Praying for oneself (1 Corinthians 14:2,4)
  - Praying for others
- Why ask for the gift of tongues?
  - Paul encourages its use (1 Corinthians 14:5,18,39)

**What are the barriers to being filled with the Holy Spirit?**

- Doubt: “I don’t think I will receive.”
- Fear: “What will happen to me?”
- Inadequacy: “I’m not good enough.”

**But Jesus says:**

**“... how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”**

**(LUKE 11:13)**

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**RECOMMENDED READING**

*The Mystery of Pentecost*  
Raniero Cantalamessa

*Sober Intoxication of the Spirit: Filled with the Fullness of God*  
Raniero Cantalamessa

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