



THE CITY
CHURCH

Small Group Notes

Sermon: 9 October 2022

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SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 5:18-21

OVERVIEW

Before we can unpack the command to be 'filled with the Spirit', we need to ensure we have a correct biblical foundation when it comes to our relationship with the Holy Spirit. We want to emphasise that to be a Christian is to have the Spirit living in us!

To understand this we explored the story of how God dwells with his people in scripture.

1. God dwelt near us

Israel was freed from slavery in Egypt to be in relationship with God. However, due to the sinfulness of the people, God dwelt near but was unapproachable. (Exodus 19:21)

2. God dwelt among us

Jesus changed everything and through him, we saw the story move to God dwelling among us. Jesus is Emmanuel (God with us). He made God accessible to those he came into contact with, bringing the kingdom, kindness & holiness of God. (John 1:14)

3. God dwells in us

Through Jesus' life, death, resurrection and ascension we now have the Spirit living in us. Jesus took our sin upon himself, so we could enter into relationship with God through the indwelling of the Spirit. (Ezekiel 36:27 & John 14:16-17)

Be Filled

It is foundational that we understand that all believers have received the Spirit at conversion.

So what did Paul mean when he said to be 'filled with the Spirit'? It's about knowing God's empowering presence in our lives.

To understand this we explored the journey of scripture around being filled.

1. Old Testament Filling

We see throughout the Old Testament that God the Holy Spirit would fill specific people at specific moments for specific reasons. (Exodus 31:3, Judges 14:6, 2 Chronicles 24:20)

2. Old Testament Promises

God's intent was that there would come a day when the filling of the Spirit and knowing God's empowering presence would be for all. (Isaiah 44:3 & Joel 2:28)

3. New Testament Fulfilment

In Christ, we saw the promises of God fulfilled. He created access to God through his death and once he ascended to heaven and was glorified he poured out his Spirit. The filling of the Spirit isn't a one-off occasion in our lives but an ongoing encounter for God's people. (Acts 2:4, Acts 4:31 & Ephesians 5:18)

QUESTIONS

1. What has your experience been of being filled with the Spirit?
2. Where do you need to know God's empowering presence in your life?

Spend some time praying for one another to be filled with the Spirit