



UNDER PRESSURE

UNDER PRESSURE, PART 3: THE WEIGHT OF PRESSURE

Today, we want us to recognize the weight that comes when the vessel that He has formed gets poured into. After all, what good is our empty vessel? He has created us so He can fill us. And not just filled a little bit. Not just a few drops or a couple of ounces. When He fills us, we are filled to the brim with a life that has been formed by the pressure of His hands, and now holds the pressure of the weight of being filled to live life faithfully for Him.

THE BIG IDEA: We are called to bear the weight of being fruitful.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. [With your Bible or Bible App, read Isaiah 64:8.](#)

Yet you, Lord, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand.

[Isaiah 64:8 \(NLT\)](#)

This verse in Isaiah presents us with a powerful picture of God as the potter and our lives as the clay. Gods reaches His hands out to touch our lives and we feel the pressure of him shaping us. The weight of His hands applies the pressure needed to form us into a vessel He can use. A vessel that can fulfill its purpose.

2. In reviewing the sermon from week one of this series what stands out to you about the image of God as the Potter and our lives as the clay?
3. Are you allowing God the Potter to shape your life into a vessel He can use and fill? What are some of the ways He is doing that in your life?
4. What good is an empty vessel? Are you allowing God to fill the vessel of your life with his plan and purpose for you?
5. What is that filling? What are we filled with? Actually, the question is WHO are filled with? And the answer is, We are filled with the Holy Spirit.

Let the Spirit fill your life and be controlled by Him.

Ephesians 5:18

6. The Greek word for fill is the word *plerusthe*, a command that can only be accomplished by letting something happen to you. The Greek word for *filled* is used when a wind fills the sails of the boat, and moves the ship along. But the only way a sail can be filled is if the sailor unfurls the sail.
7. What are some ways where you are giving up control and letting the Spirit to fill and move your life?
8. Based on today's message, what is one of His roles in our life?
9. Reviewing the list below would you say these statements are true of your life as a Christ follower?
 - You believe in God and have a relationship with His Son Jesus, who dies on the cross to free us from our sin.
 - You have the Holy Spirit living in you.
 - You have some knowledge of the Bible.
 - You have been given a Spiritual Gift to use for His purpose.
 - You have a home in heaven and will live there eternally when you die.

10. With your Bible or Bible App, read the following verses in Colossians:

Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.

[Colossians 2:7 \(NLT\)](#)

Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better.

[Colossians 1:10 \(NLT\)](#)

11. How do these verses from Colossians relate to your faith?
12. Is your life planted in Him? Are your roots growing deep in Him? Is there evidence of fruit in your life as you live for Jesus?
13. Kim said, “*Believing in God and living for Him are not the same thing.*” What is the difference between believing in God and living for Him?
14. With your Bible or Bible App, [read Galatians 5:16-23.](#)

¹⁶ So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves.

¹⁷ The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions. ¹⁸ But when you are directed by the Spirit, you are not under obligation to the law of Moses. ¹⁹ When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God. ²² But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

[Galatians 5:16-23 \(NLT\)](#)

15. What does Paul mean by saying, “Let the Holy Spirit guide your lives?” How does that make you think of the ‘being filled’ found in Ephesians 5:18?
16. How do we grow spiritual fruit? Which of the fruits of the Spirit come easily for you? Which of these are a challenge?

THINK ABOUT IT

It's essential to remember that the [fruit of the Spirit](#) is not simply a group of moral commands—nine different ways to live a better life. (although they certainly do result in a better life when they're present) It's not just a call to live an upright, good, moral life. It is so much more than this. The fruit of the spirit is evidence to world around us that we are different.

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

How can you commit to living in the Spirit? In what areas do you need to surrender and let Him lead your life?

CHANGING YOUR MIND

But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things! *Galatians 5:22-23*