

BE the CHURCH — Prayer & Holy Spirit

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When it comes to moving from house to house, we often discover things in our house that make us wonder why we kept them in the first place. And moving becomes an opportunity to get rid of things that we don't need or are holding us down.

It also gives us the opportunity to figure out what it is exactly that we need to pack, and what do we have to fill up in ourselves to get us where God is taking us.

And the first thing we need to fill up on is prayer and infilling of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 25:1-13

At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

“At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’

“Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps.

The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.’

“ ‘No,’ they replied, ‘there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’

“But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.

“Later the others also came. ‘Lord, Lord,’ they said, ‘open the door for us!’

“But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I don’t know you.’

“Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.”

The New International Version (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011), Mt 25:1–13.

- How does the kingdom of God work?
- How do we prepare for the future?



Parables are often symbolic stories with twists that hide the truth of the kingdom that don’t want to believe, but reveal the truth to those who seek to know the answer.

Breaking Down & Applying The Parable

Oil in the OT and NT typically is a symbol for the Holy Spirit — the spiritual means of prayer.

The virgins fill the role of our notion of the bridal party.

The days ahead aren't going to get easier, so what are we taking with us on this journey. What is filling our lamp?

In the above parable, 5 of the bridal party were wise, and 5 were foolish. And the wise ones filled their lamps with the oil of the holy spirit, of prayer, and taking that wherever they went.

Even though all of them were weary and fell asleep, the wise ones had prepared and invested, and when the midnight hour came, they were ready.

Midnight is the symbol and point in time where night is the darkest, but in the next minute, the daylight starts streaming through. It's not exactly the 12:00 hour, but at that point where the sun is just about to start lighting the day.

So midnight symbolizes the darkest part in life where things seem at their worst, but when new light of life is about to break through; we just have yet to wait a few minutes.



So now the question this parable invites us to ask is, what are you filling your lamps with? You will get weary and tired, and you will face the darkest parts of life, but are you prepared? Expect the darkness, but also expect hope to shine.

Save Yourself From this Corrupt Generation

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will

receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, **“Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.”** Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

The New International Version (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011), Ac 2:38–41.

The oil for the dark night of the soul is prayer and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

How do we fill up on prayer? How do we fill up on the Holy Spirit?

How to Be Filled

First we have to recognize, are we full of other things? Do we actually have room for the Holy Spirit and prayer?

Are we filling up on media binges? On news? On sin? There are a lot of ways that we fill up on things that block out the Holy Spirit and prayer.

Do we overestimate our ability for how long we can go without prayer and the Holy Spirit? (I think yes, we often do).

King David, when life got harder, started praying more. Daniel stopped 3 times a day to pray. Jesus himself would stop and pray and stay up late or wake up early to pray. These people saturated their day in prayer.

They had a rhythm of prayer, and we can learn from them. How can you build a rhythm of prayer into your life?



The lack of prayer is one of the greatest signs of a self-reliant life, where it's completely up to you.

Filled With the Holy Spirit

It is huge to see that the Holy spirit is such a key foundation of the church. The church would never had taken off without the work of the Spirit of God.

But what we must see and incorporate into our own church is that the Holy Spirit is not a midwife, but a parent that helps grow and mature us into the fullness of Christ.

Prayer and being filled with the Spirit are how we grow and mature into Christ. Without that, we won't bear the fruit of the Spirit. What are you taking in your lamp this week?



If you have been filling up on the wrong stuff, you can repent. Repentance is a change of mind that results in a change of behavior. If there is no change, there is no repentance.

Let us change our mind and change our rhythms; including prayer.

Ask the Holy Spirit to fill us. 🔥

This, then, is how you should pray:

*“ ‘Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.*

*Give us today our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.*

*And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.’ “*

The New International Version (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011), Mt 6:9–13.



Prayer is meant to happen in community. Our Father. Prayer is framed in community, with others. Get together with each other to pray! Pray for provision for all of us, not limiting it to you. Pray for help for our whole community, not limiting it to just you.