

## The Spirit Life Session 7 – Full of the Spirit

### I. Review – Last Session

#### A. Tongues for personal use

#### B. Tongues for use in the church. *The Gift of Tongues and Interpretation.*

### II. Full of the Spirit

**A. Acts 6:1-7 (NKJV)** – <sup>1</sup>Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. <sup>2</sup>Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, “It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. <sup>3</sup>Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men **of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom**, whom we may appoint over this business; <sup>4</sup>but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” <sup>5</sup>And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, <sup>6</sup>whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them. <sup>7</sup>Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

#### 1. The first appointment of deacons and their qualifications.

- a. They must have a good reputation.
- b. They must be FULL of the Holy Spirit.
- c. They must be FULL of Wisdom.

#### 2. Full Definition

- a. Gr(Pleres) – Filled up as opposed to empty – lacking nothing, complete,
- b. Covered over.
- c. Fully furnished.

- d. Stephen was specifically listed as being full faith and the Holy Spirit.

**Acts 6:5 (NKJV)** – *And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit.*

**Acts 7:55-56 (NKJV)** – *<sup>55</sup>But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, <sup>56</sup>and said, “Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God*

- e. Barnabus was full of the Holy Spirit and faith.

**Acts 11:24 (NKJV)** – *For he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord.*

**3. The early church recognized a difference in being filled and being full.**

- a. While most early church members had been baptized in the Holy Spirit (Filled), not all were recognized as being full of the Holy Spirit.
- b. To be FULL of the Holy Spirit signifies that these men were not only filled, but they had reached a level of maturity. They were developing and growing in the power of the Holy Spirit. They had not stopped at simply being filled, but they were continuing to be filled to the full!

**4. Stages of the Christian Experience**

- a. Born of the Spirit – a one-time experience.
- b. Baptized in the Spirit – The initial filling of the Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues.
- c. Continued infilling – Believers need to continually be developing and growing in the Spirit. We need a perpetual infilling daily.

**5. Since the early church declared “Being Full of the Holy Spirit” to be a qualifier, there must be outward evidence that one is full.**

You cannot list something as a qualification unless it is detectable or measurable.

**B. How do we distinguish being filled and being full?**

*While there are limited specifics given in scripture on what qualifies as FULL, we may speculate based on basic understanding of spiritual maturity.*

**1. A person who is FULL will be bold. Boldness is a characteristic of being filled and especially being Full.**

a. Stephen was bold to stand up and speak up regardless of the threat of death.

b. **Acts 4:29-31 (NKJV)** – <sup>29</sup>*Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word,* <sup>30</sup>*by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus.”* <sup>31</sup>*And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with **boldness.***

**Note:** *All of these believers had been filled previously with the Holy Spirit. This passage proves that following our initial filling we do need ongoing experiences with the Holy Spirit.*

**2. A person who is FULL of the Holy Spirit must be able to hear and discern the things of the Spirit.**

- a. What is the Holy Spirit doing?
- b. What is He saying?
- c. What is His direction?

**3. A person who is FULL of the Holy Spirit should exemplify the Fruit of the Spirit.**

a. It would reason to say that if a person is mature in the things of God, he/she would have evidence of the fruit working in their life.

- b. **Galatians 5:22-23 (NKJV)** – <sup>22</sup>*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law*
4. **A person who is FULL of the Holy Spirit must be intentional about it. Make daily decisions that will facilitate the infilling of the Spirit.**
- a. **Ephesians 5:18 (NKJV)** – *And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,*
- b. Be FILLED is a command requiring attention and action.
- c. This command was given to believers who had already received the initial infilling.
- d. **Filled** = to make full – to fill up – *Denotes our duty to perform or execute – Being filled does not occur without our cooperation.*

**Matthew 5:6 (NKJV)** – *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.*

**C. Practical way to stay continually filled with the Holy Spirit.**

1. **Every day make decisions to walk in obedience to God.**
2. **Every day ask the Lord to refresh you with the Holy Spirit.**
3. **Every day stay hungry for God and His will for your life.**
4. **Every day spend time in God's Word.**

**John 6:63 (NKJV)** – *It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.*