

# WALKS *with* GOD

transcript

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## 01 | Why Be Filled

Filled with the Spirit and Power

Hi, and welcome back to this Walks with God series. This week, we're going to be talking about Being Filled with the Spirit and Power. And today's teaching is Why be Filled? Today we're going to get into the scriptures and look exactly at what Jesus said about being filled with the Spirit and why it's so important. But before we start, let's pray and let's ask that the Holy Spirit would fill us right now afresh and that we could receive all that He has from these teachings. So, Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus, I ask you to bless these teachings, bless this series, prepare our heart to receive all that you have and by the power of your Holy Spirit. Minister through me, minister to anyone and everyone who is watching these videos, and may they receive all that You have for them. We thank You for Your Son, Jesus. We thank You for the Holy Spirit and for these teachings on being filled with power and the Spirit of God. We thank You. We praise You. We give You glory and honor. And in Jesus' name we pray, amen.

So, this is a big deal. Jesus spent three years on the earth training 12 disciples that He had selected from a large number of people that had begun following Him. He was training them with the intent of leaving the ministry

that He had started in their hands. Eventually, He was going to go back home to be with the Father, and He needed to know that we were going to be able, well-equipped, and empowered to carry out what has become well known as the Great Commission: to preach the gospel to every creature and make disciples of every nation. The Bible says that when this gospel of the kingdom is preached in all the world, then the end will come. We have a big task. We have the task of getting the gospel to every nation and every creature before Jesus comes back to establish His Kingdom for eternity. Talk about a big, big commission that we've been left with. And, by the way, this isn't something that Jesus said, "Hey, if you're interested, I could use some people to work in My field and harvest for Me from time to time." No, this is what He left us with. These were His parting words before going home to be with the Father. And it's on His heart to this day. Jesus, in fact, is seated at the right hand of the Father, ever making intercession for us.

So, let's look at some of the things that Jesus said about being filled with the Spirit. First of all, I think it's important to note that after Jesus rose from the dead, He spent time with His disciples. In fact, it says for 40 days He was here before He ascended to the Father, and when He gathered together the original 12, one of the first things He did, it says here in John 20:22, it says, "And when He had said this, He breathed

on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.'" Jesus Christ had died and risen again to life, and now we have the ability to become born again. We die with Him, and we rise with Him. When Jesus gathered His disciples together and He breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit," in that moment, they became born again. But there was more. Because before Jesus would depart to go with the Father, He would instruct them. He would instruct them to go into the upper room and wait for the promise of the Father. In fact, let's read the Scripture. The number one reason that we want to be filled is simply Jesus said so. And it's Acts 1:4-5, it says, "And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, 'Which,' He said, 'you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.'" So, the number one reason why we want to be filled is Jesus said so. Jesus said, you're not going to be able to do what I need you to do when I leave, unless you wait for the promise of the Father, which was the coming of the Holy Spirit." And we'll read more about that later. But I think it's important to understand some of the reasons why we need to be filled. Number one is enough. If Jesus said, that's it, that's all there is to it. If He commanded us not to depart until we receive the Holy Spirit, then we need to do

that. But there are reasons for that beyond just the Great Commission.

Number two, the reason that I have, is to build yourself up. In fact, Jude said in verse 20, "But you, beloved, building yourself up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit..." And it goes on to say, "...keeping yourself in the love of God..." One way to keep yourself in the love of God is to build yourself up, praying in the Holy Spirit. And listen, we need to build ourselves up not only for ourselves, but to help others. We're in no position to help anybody else who's down and out if we ourselves are down and out. If we're struggling, if we're in bondage or addictions or in sin and in the flesh and we're struggling, and we love Jesus and we want to walk with Him, but we're not; we're responsible to build ourselves up. We need to build ourselves up, praying in the Holy Spirit. Well, let me tell you, they didn't have the ability to pray in the Holy Spirit until the Holy Spirit came upon them. In fact, the first sign that the Holy Spirit had come was when they begin to speak in other tongues, praying in a heavenly language, praying in the Holy Spirit. So, we need to build ourselves up.

In fact, I'm going to share personal testimony with you right now. For many years, I actually did love Jesus. I loved God with all my heart, with all my soul, with all my strength, and with all my mind. But I was in bondage. I was, in some degree, in some way,

I was born into it. I was born into bondage. All of us were born in sin. But I was born into alcoholism and drugs. I came by it naturally. And I remember being a young man, loving Jesus and wanting to live for him, but not being able to overcome these things that held me down. I couldn't get free from the bondage of alcohol, and it was on my family. It was a stronghold in my family. I couldn't get free from smoking cigarettes, and I developed a very strong addiction to pain pills. And there are people, they'll spend their whole life going to self-help groups to help them manage these things. Well, I knew that the Lord wanted to set me free. I knew the Bible said that you will know the truth and the truth will make you free. Knowing the truth will make you free. And whom the Son sets free is free indeed, There is a freedom that is indeed, and when you are indeed free, you know it, and nothing can stop you. But I couldn't get there. And I remember one time hearing a minister on TV, he said that the Lord had told his wife that if she would pray one hour a day in the Spirit every day, that all would be well with her life. And I remember hearing that and thinking, I'm going to try that. And I did. Every day I set my alarm early in the morning so that I could get up and pray for one hour in the Spirit. And when I started to do that, you know what happened? I realized I was living out what Jude said in verse 20. I was building myself up. And the more I prayed and the more I built myself up, the stronger I became in my

spirit, the easier it was to overcome these addictions of the flesh and these bondages. And pretty soon, I became so strong in the power of the Spirit that I broke those chains. It was the power of God on my life. But I was able to break out of those chains forever. I would no longer walk in those bondages. So, one reason to be filled is simply to build yourself up. You need to be walking around free so that you can minister of the gospel and minister freedom to other people freely. You have received freely. Give a man.

Another reason that is important to be filled with the Holy Spirit is this. Number three, the Holy Spirit Himself will actually intercede through you. Romans 8:26-27 says this: "Likewise, the Spirit also helps us in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God." Listen, these are things you want to know, the mind of the Spirit, the will of God. You can't pray that on your own understanding. In fact, there are times where you don't know how to pray--a family member, a situation financial, a decision that has to be made. And you don't even know. You can't even begin to pray with your own understanding. You don't even have faith that what you're praying is effective. But the Holy Spirit

will make intercession through you, and it'll feel sometimes and even sound like a groaning in your spirit. And the Spirit is literally praying the perfect will of God through you in that situation. Let me tell you something else. There have been times where I've woken up and something just felt off, something. It just didn't feel right. I couldn't understand what it was. And maybe I would tell my wife, "Oh, pray for me, baby, something feels wrong, something feels off." And sometimes, it will go on for days at a time. And I remember one time the Lord said to me, "I will give you a burden to pray. I will give you a burn to pray for something that will not come to pass if you do not pray." And I realized that heaviness or just that feeling of "something's off" was a burden to pray. And you know how I know it was a burden to pray? Because once I started to pray, primarily praying in the Spirit, because at this point, I don't yet know what I'm praying for. I would feel that it would start to lift that burden that I was carrying that made me feel like something was off, would begin to lift. And I realized, oh my gosh, this is the Holy Spirit wanting to make perfect intercession through me for something. And oftentimes the incident that I would praying for would be revealed to me. And I would know, and I would tell my wife, "Baby, let's take hands and pray." Other times, I don't know. I would pray until the burden was gone, and my peace would return to me. I would be restored to my natural self. I didn't feel

that feeling anymore, but it wouldn't go until I prayed. And I believe that's the Holy Spirit giving you a burden to pray and wanting to pray through you the perfect will of God for any given situation.

Another reason it's important to be filled with the Spirit is in 1 Thessalonians 5:16: the Spirit will enable you to pray without ceasing. Listen to this. This is one of the few verses where the Bible says, this is the will of God for you. It says, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." And verse 19 says, "Do not quench the Spirit." You can quench the Spirit by not praying without ceasing, by not giving thanks in everything, by not doing the will of God in Christ Jesus for you, can quench the Spirit in your life. This is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you: that you rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and in everything give thanks. Let me tell you something. I can't pray without ceasing in my own understanding. And by the way, this clearly this doesn't mean that we pray nonstop all day long, every day. We have jobs, we have to work. And if you walked around your job, you know, praying all day long, people would think you were talking to yourself. This just means have a lifestyle of always praying, always constantly being in prayer, rejoicing and giving thanks. And there have been many times where I felt the Lord call me away to pray, to spend a day in prayer, and I can pray pretty good in my own



understanding for a while. But if I'm going to be honest to myself, I can't really pray without ceasing, unless I pray in the Holy Spirit. And that is the gift of God that comes when you receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit. And can I tell you, I pray in the Spirit all the time. Now I wake up in the morning and I thank God, I praise God, and I rejoice in the Lord and in the glory of His salvation. And then I begin to pray in my spiritual tongue. I begin to pray in my heavenly language. And sometimes I can go on and on and on for hours. And if I wake up early enough and I don't have to be in the office till 9:00, I can easily pray in the Spirit for 3 hours. But it doesn't stop there. All throughout the day, I'll just continuously be in prayer. [prays in tongues] And it's such a beautiful feeling inside. I'm glorifying God in a spiritual tongue that I don't even understand. In fact, the Bible says that He who speaks in the tongue speaks mysteries to God. You won't always understand what you're saying, but something beautiful is happening. There's a pure and undefiled connection between the Lord where your spirit is praying. It's bypassing your natural man. It's bypassing your flesh and your own understanding, and it's communing with God and it's glorifying Him. And, oh, it's a wonderful thing!

Number five, and this really is the most important one. This is the reason that the Lord Jesus sent His Holy Spirit to begin with. Acts 1:8 says this, "But you shall

receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” Sound familiar? That was the Great Commission, wasn't it, to preach the gospel to every creature, to make disciples of every nation? Jesus said the Holy Spirit will come upon you and will give you the power to witness to Me to the end of the earth. That is the point of the Holy Spirit coming, to empower us to do ministry like Jesus did. And listen, Jesus was very intentional with His ministry, the way that He taught, the way that He modeled ministry. Jesus Himself received the baptism of the Holy Spirit after being baptized by John on the Jordan River. As He came up, the Spirit descended upon Him like a dove. And then He went, and He fasted, and He prayed, and He came out of the wilderness in the power of the Spirit. This is something that Jesus not only did He say is the promise to us, but it was a command that we were to wait for until He came.

Let me share a quick story for you with you. A few years ago, we were in L.A. We were ministering with a team of missionaries, and we split up and we fanned out across the city and we went into some neighborhoods that desperately needed the Lord Jesus Christ. And as I was walking, I saw this ministry team in front of me pass this one particular house. We were literally going through the neighborhoods, going door-to-door, looking for people to minister to. And I remember

this team that had gone out in front of us, they passed by this house where there was a woman standing on the front porch. And as I got a little bit closer to the house where this woman was standing, I realized why they passed her by. She was very intimidating. She was very tough looking. She had a hat and tattoos and she just looked really hard. But inside my spirit felt something for this woman. And I knew her exterior is hard, but her inside is soft. And the Lord wanted to minister to her there. So, I said to my wife and my team, "Hey, let's go over to this house and just ask this lady if we can pray for her." And as we approached her, that hard demeanor just slightly softened. And I feel like I almost saw a smile. And I said to her, and listen to me, this woman was tough looking. I mean, I think she could have taken most of the guys on our team, and I'm not joking. But I approached her and I said, "I just have it in my heart to pray for you. Do you mind? Can my wife and I and my team here, can we pray for you? Is there anything that you need?" And immediately her eyes watered up and you could see she was trying with everything in her to hold it back. And she said, "Well, we can all use prayer, can't we?" And I said, "You, specifically, today, Jesus wants to minister to you." And she said, "Alright then." We started to pray, and the tears flowed. I was crying. My wife was crying, our team was crying. This woman was sobbing. And after a few minutes of prayer, we talked. My wife prophesied over her by the

power of the Holy Spirit. And when we were done, we hugged this woman, and she squeezed us so tight. And I walked away with tears in my eyes, and I said, "I love you." And she said it back, "I love you guys, too." How many of you have ever encountered a stranger, and 3 minutes later, 5 minutes later, you're telling them that you love them and they're saying it back to you, and it's genuine? Can I tell you, that was a first for me! But the Spirit of God led me to do the ministry that God left in my hand to preach the gospel to every creature. The Spirit led me. He empowered me. He gave me the words to say. And that day, this woman encountered the kingdom of God. And do you know what? The next day, we saw her crossing the street, and she didn't look hard anymore. She looked happy. And she saw us, and she recognized us. And she smiled and waved and actually told us, "Wait, wait, wait!" She wanted to cross the street and come over and greet us. And when she did, I felt like I was talking to somebody who had come into the kingdom. It was no longer this hard exterior. I feel like the Lord did a work in her heart, and the rest of that week, we prayed for her. Whenever we thought about her, I said, "Lord, I pray for this woman that she would come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ." And I believe she did. And I hope someday that I get to see her again. But that encounter happened because I obeyed Jesus words to receive the Holy Spirit and become filled with His Holy Spirit. And now I minister in

confidence and power. Like Acts 1:8 says, you shall receive power. I came in the power of God and the love of God, and I demonstrated the manifestation of His kingdom to this woman right there on the steps of her porch. And she encountered the living God. Jesus Himself touched her through our ministry team because of the Holy Spirit. Others had passed her by, but we were sensitive to the Holy Spirit and said, "No. She looks scary, but Jesus wants to talk to her." And boy, He did! And that's just one example. And there are many examples. 1 Corinthians 12:7-11. We won't take the time to read them, but there are ministry gifts. There are manifestations that, as the spirit wills, will happen in your life, a gift of healing, a gift of faith. You will minister these gifts to the body as the Holy Spirit sees fit. And you need to receive the infilling of the Holy Spirit to walk in these gifts. Actually, let's take time to read that. We've got a few minutes. Let's go ahead and read that. I didn't have this in my notes, but I feel like it's a good idea to go ahead and read through some of this. Let's see, 1 Corinthians 12:7-11: "But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another

different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills." You notice it was the same Spirit, the same Spirit, the same Spirit, different workings, different gifts, different operations of the same Spirit. That's the Holy Spirit, the one that Jesus commanded us to wait for.

So, as you can see, the Spirit-filled walk of a believer is something that Jesus believed in and encouraged. And there are many reasons why; this is by no means an exhaustive list. But I believe this right here is enough. If this is not something that you've experienced, pray, pray. Because let me tell you right now, Jesus is your baptizer with the Holy Spirit. He is the one who will baptize you in the Holy Spirit. He is the one who will fill you with the Holy Spirit. And it's very simple. In fact, I would just encourage you now, before we even continue with the rest of this series, if you're not there and you desire this and you long for this, maybe you've wanted to in the past and it didn't happen for whatever reason. Maybe you've never even heard of this. Let me pray for you right now. In fact, just right where you are. Open up your hands and invite Jesus. Say, "Lord Jesus, come. Come with Your Holy Spirit and baptize me in the Holy Spirit." And I pray right now, Jesus, for anybody that's desiring this, that you would go and that you would baptize them right now in the

Holy Spirit. Baptize them right now with Your Spirit. Oh, glory to God. I feel it. I feel it. Oh, hallelujah, I feel it. Receive it, receive it. Go back and watch this again if you need to but receive the Holy Spirit. Oh, thank You, Lord. Thank You, Lord. Thank You. Can I tell you? I felt it as I was praying. I felt it. This is powerful and it's real.

So, thank you so much for joining us with this. And we will see you again. We'll see you again soon. God bless you.