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Filled with the Spirit and Power

Welcome back to Walks with God. Today our topic is How to be Filled. We talked in our last teaching on Why to Be Filled. Today, we're going to get into how to be filled. And let me tell you, it is extremely simple. But let's go over some scripture, because believing it and getting in your heart is going to really be what helps you to receive it. When you're convinced that this is for you and that Jesus wants you to have this (and it's not difficult), it's so easy to receive. And let me tell you, it is a game changer. It changed my life. Operating in the power of the Spirit took me from who I was and turned me into a man of God on fire. I love the Lord. I love His Word. I love His presence. And I love ministering the Scripture. I love ministering the power. And I love ministering the Holy Spirit. I love the miracles, signs and wonders, and the healings and the testimonies that come from living the Spirit-filled life.

So, let's get into how to be filled. The first thing you need to know is it's as simple as asking. But before we get there, let's read the scripture from 1 John 5:14-15. It says, "Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we

know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him." Let me read that again. We need to get this. "Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him."

Let's listen to what Jesus said in Luke 11:9-11: "So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock and it will be opened to you. For whoever asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks him for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give you the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!" So, we started out by saying our confidence is in knowing that if we ask according to His will, what Jesus right here is saying in Luke that His will is for you to ask and believe that, as a good Father, He's going to give you, His son or His daughter, the Holy Spirit, if you ask. Isn't that amazing? That's a wonderful, encouraging word to know that Jesus Himself said, as a good Father, if you ask, He will give you the Holy Spirit.

Listen to what Jesus has to say about it here in John 7:37-39. I want you to hear His enthusiasm about this, because He just told you, if you ask, He'll give it to you. But listen to this. "On the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, 'If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart, will flow rivers of living water.' But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given because Jesus was not yet glorified." Let's read that again. "On the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, 'If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart, will flow rivers of living water.' But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given because Jesus was not yet glorified."

Do you sense the passion and enthusiasm to share the Holy Spirit with people, for them to have those rivers of living water flow from their belly? I'm telling you, I don't know how I ever lived without it. Listen to this. This is important to know as well. This is Jesus talking about John the Baptist in Matthew 11:9-10. "But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I say to you, and more than a prophet. For this is He of whom it is written: 'Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, who will prepare Your way before

You.'" God sent His messenger to prepare the way, and listen to what this messenger had to say in Mark 1:8, "I indeed baptized you with water, but He..." (speaking of Jesus) "...He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." And Matthew 3:11 says, "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

Let's take a look at the actual fulfillment of this in action. Because Jesus did come. And He Himself was baptized in the Jordan River and then He was baptized in the Holy Spirit. And when He went home to sit down next to the Father, He sent the Holy Spirit to us to come upon us and carry out His ministry. And look at what happens, let's see this in action. Go with me now to Acts 19:1-6. "And it happened while Apollos was at Corinth that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples, He said to them, 'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?' And so they said to him, 'We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit.' And he said to them, 'Into what then were you baptized?' So they said, 'Into John's baptism.' Then Paul said, 'John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is on Christ Jesus.' When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy

Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied." So, if you notice, all these people had received was John's baptism of repentance into water. Now that Jesus has died and risen, we can be baptized into Him. We go down in death and we come up in life in Him. And then it says here after Paul laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they received the Holy Spirit and spoke in tongues and prophesied. That's the baptism with the Holy Spirit.

Now let's look how it all started. Turn with me now to Acts 2. The day of Pentecost had come, the day that Jesus had told them to wait for, the day that the promise of the Father would be arriving. The Holy Spirit would descend upon the earth, and the 120 people in the upper room would receive that Holy Spirit, and they would speak with new tongues. They would go out and turn the world upside down. They would minister the gospel, and this is how we know they had the power of the Holy Spirit, because when He came, their whole lives changed immediately. They were being thrown into prison. They were being stoned. James was beheaded. Stephen was stoned to death. Paul was stoned and left for dead, but the disciples gathered around. They were in and out of prison. Their life was not easy once the Holy Spirit came. Which is why Jesus said, "You will have power. You will have power from the Holy Spirit to witness to Me." Because opposition comes when you're really living the Spirit-filled life and ministering in the power of the Holy Spirit.

You minister to people, but you get the attention of the enemy. And you stir up people around you that don't want this happening. They went in the power of the Spirit and immediately they faced opposition. But they didn't stop. In fact, they couldn't be stopped. The power of the Holy Spirit had come upon them, and these men begin to turn the world upside down.

But let's look at this. This is good to know. Peter gives a sermon. After this happened, people had questions. They want to know, what's going on here? But Peter stands up. Acts 2:14. But Peter standing up with the 11 raised his voice and said to them, Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you and heed my words. For these are not drunk as you suppose..." Some people had accused them of being drunk. The Holy Spirit came upon them, and the power of God came upon them. And these men were under the power of the Holy Spirit, and they were behaving in a way that they had never seen before. This is the first time this has ever happened. But Peter's addressing this. And he said, "for these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day, but this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel. And that shall come to pass in the last day, says God, that I will pour out my spirit on all flesh. Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy. Your young men shall see visions. Your old men shall dream dreams. And on my menservants and on my maidservants, I will pour out my Spirit in

those days and they shall prophesy. I will show wonders and heaven above and signs in the earth beneath blood and fire and vapor and smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness and the moon into blood before the coming of the great and awesome Day of the Lord. And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." Do you realize what a game changer this was? Jesus was saying, I've sent my Holy Spirit. These people are going to go out in the power of signs and wonders and they're going to demonstrate My kingdom. And whoever calls on the name of My Son, the Lord Jesus, will be saved. And what I really love is skip down to verse 39 "for the promise..." (speaking of what had just happened, the promise of the Father) "the promise. Is to you and your children and to all who are of far off and as many as the Lord our God will call." You want to pay attention when you hear words like "to all"; this wasn't just an isolated event that was happening right there in Jerusalem with the people who were present. Peter goes on to say this is the promise. He quoted the prophet Joel. This is the promise, the fulfillment of that promise. This is what the Prophet Joel prophesied. This is what Jesus said to wait for. And he said, I want you to know that this promise is for you, it's for your children, and it's for all who are far off and as many as the Lord our God will call.

So the first thing we need to know regarding how to be filled is the understanding that

this is for you. You won't believe that you can receive if you're not convinced that this is for you. And once you believe that this is for you and you understand this is not only something that Jesus wanted us to have, it is actually something that He commanded us to wait for. Once you start to see the evidence of the Spirit at work and the people's lives who encountered Him through the Scriptures, and even through believers today, and you realize, yeah, I don't have that and I want it. It's simple. How to be filled is not hard. In fact, it's simple. And I led you guys in a prayer in the first video, but I feel led to do it again. Sometimes you need to hear things more than once. You need to hear things more than once before you get it. You need to hear things more than once before you believe it. But it's as simple as saying, "Lord Jesus, come with Your Holy Spirit and baptize me" and just receive it. Receive it. Believe that Jesus wants you to have it. Believe that it's for you today. Believe that you can walk in this and you can receive this. Remember Jesus' words, on the last day of the feast, He stood up and He cried out saying, "If anyone thirsts, let them come to Me for a drink.'" He's not talking about natural water. He's talking about drinking of the Spirit. And that spirit will flow from your belly like rivers of living water. You can have rivers of living water that come from you to minister to other people. It builds yourself up and ministers to those around you. It edifies. You can edify

yourself. Oh, it's such a wonderful thing to be filled with the Holy Spirit. And it's so simple. How do we be filled? We ask. We ask the Lord Jesus, and He said that as a good Father, He will give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him. Luke 11:13, meditate on that until you believe it. And then ask Him. Ask Him. And I pray right now that you receive it in the name of Jesus. You receive that. So, heavenly Father, add a blessing to this reading, to this teaching. I pray that people will be impacted by these messages, that they would be drawn to the power of Your Holy Spirit and have a desire to walk in a level of intimacy that only comes with being filled. Maybe at one time they were filled, but they're not walking in it; they've forgotten, they don't remember, or they don't realize what it's like to live a Spirit-filled life. I pray that You minister that to them right now, minister a fresh outpouring of Your Holy Spirit to them, in the name of Jesus.

Well, thank you so much for joining us. We love you guys. It's an honor to do this. And we will see you again for the next teaching.