

“The Blessing Of Being Filled With The Holy Spirit”

In this final session I want to talk to you about a **gift**. It’s a gift that is given to us by God. And I want you to understand something ... **it’s for every fully devoted follower of Christ** here today! I want us to focus our attention on the Infilling of the Holy Spirit. It’s a gift that will change your life and if this gift is used correctly it will strengthen your life like nothing else can.

I want to walk you through several thoughts that helped me to understand what the infilling of the Holy Spirit is and what it isn’t.

Illustration: My Story – Fall 1991; Steven Cissell; Nixa A/G, Paper, Process of Worship, Spirit was in me but had not yet come UPON me

Introductory Comments: Luke’s writings vs. Paul’s writings; Doctrine from Narrative Texts – All Scripture is God-breathed (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Infilling of the Holy Spirit – a second work whereby the Spirit of God comes upon you in power and the pattern of Scripture is that you will speak in a language that you do not know. **It is also called ...**

“For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”
Acts 1:5 (NIV)

“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.’”
Acts 2:38 (NIV)

“The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles.”
Acts 10:45 (NIV)

“All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.”
Acts 2:4 (NIV)

“On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: ‘Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about.’”
Acts 1:4 (NIV)

“The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—
for all whom the Lord our God will call.”
Acts 2:39 (NIV)

“I am going to send you what my Father has promised;
but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”
Luke 24:49 (NIV)

“The Blessing Of Being Filled With The Holy Spirit”

1. The “Infilling of the Spirit” is a second work of the Spirit in my life.

When you came to Christ the Holy Spirit took up residence inside of you. Every believer has the Spirit of God living inside of them.

“You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.”

Romans 8:9 (NIV)

In other words, at salvation the Holy Spirit takes up residence in your heart. You become the temple of the Holy Spirit.

“Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit,
who is in you, whom you have received from God?”

1 Cor. 6:19 (NIV)

“And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth,
the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal,
the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until
the redemption of those who are God's possession--to the praise of his glory.”

Ephes. 1:13-14 (NIV)

So the first work of the Spirit comes at salvation and at that moment you become a child of God and become a member of God's family.

“The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. ¹³*For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body--* whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free--and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.”

1 Cor. 12:12-13 (NIV)

Also at salvation the Holy Spirit begins to produce fruit in your life and it becomes evident when we remain in the Lord Jesus Christ.

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
²³gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.”

Galatians 5:22-23 (NIV)

“Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. ⁵“I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”

John 15:4-5 (NIV)

But there is a second work of the Spirit called the Infilling of the Spirit or the Baptism of the Holy Spirit whereby God gives you the gift of the Spirit that the book of Acts talks about. A lot of people are confused because they think that when they are saved that that is enough. But I would submit to you that there is something more that God has in store for His children.

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The early church understood this. They knew that it was critical not only for people to be saved and indwelt with God’s Spirit but they also knew that it was important for believers to have the infilling of the Holy Spirit.

“Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went.

⁵Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Christ there. ⁶When the crowds heard Philip and saw the miraculous signs he did, they all paid close attention to what he said.

⁷With shrieks, evil spirits came out of many, and many paralytics and cripples were healed.

⁸So there was great joy in that city.”

Acts 8:4-8 (NIV)

“But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.”

Acts 8:12 (NIV)

“When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. ¹⁵When they arrived, they prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, ¹⁶because the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them; they had simply been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. ¹⁷Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.”

Acts 8:14-17 (NIV)

Let’s look at it again ...

“While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus.

There he found some disciples ²and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" They answered, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." ³So Paul asked, "Then what baptism did you receive?" "John's baptism," they replied. ⁴Paul said, "John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus." ⁵On hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶When

Paul placed his hands on them, the *Holy Spirit came on them*, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. ⁷There were about twelve men in all.”

Acts 19:1-7 (NIV)

These passages are a fulfillment of what is promised in Acts 1:8 ...

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Acts 1:8 (NIV)

Reflection: Am I personally open to receiving the Infilling of the Holy Spirit?

2. The “Infilling of the Spirit” is a gift for everyone including me.

“The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—
for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

Acts 2:39 (NIV)

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There is absolutely nothing that you and I can do to earn the infilling. It is a gift from God. We try so hard to receive this gift and we get so stressed out about it and we strain and press and push and beg and plead and work ourselves into a frenzy to receive what ... a gift! By its very nature it can't be earned or purchased ... it is a GIFT.

There is a difference between seeking this gift and trying to earn it. Seeking it is simply saying, “God, I’m open to this and I’m ready for it and I’d like to have it and I’m simply asking You for what You’ve promised me in Your Word.”

“So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ¹⁰For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. ¹¹“Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? ¹²Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? ¹³If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

Luke 11:9-13 (NIV)

God is happy to have you come to Him! He’s not going to slam the door in your face. He wants to give it to you and it’s for everyone!

“I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. ²⁹Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days.”

Joel 2:28-29 (NIV)

“On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: ‘Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about.’”

Acts 1:4 (NIV)

“Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.”

²²And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.”

John 20:21-22 (NIV) – *Salvation of the Apostles?*

“I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.”

Matthew 3:11 (NIV)

“The first person to preach about the baptism in the Holy Spirit was not a Pentecostal but a baptist!”

(Mark Rutland)

“And this was his message: ‘After me will come one more powerful than I, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸ I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.’”

Mark 1:7-8 (NIV)

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“I would not have known him, except that the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, “The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is he who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.”

John 1:33 (NIV)

“John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.”

Luke 3:16 (NIV)

“I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

Luke 24:49 (NIV)

Reflection: Have I been trying to “earn” this gift from God?

3. When I am filled with Spirit I will speak in a language that I do not know.

*“The greatest effect of the divine enduing power of the Holy Spirit is that they communicated truth in the language that people could understand.”
(James Robinson)*

Do we want the power to communicate in the very dialect of people so that they can understand what we're talking about? (German, Spanish, French, Italian, Chinese, Japanese, Portuguese, Pittsburghese, street people, elite people, down & out, up & out)

It may not be fluent or a lot but that is the record that we have in the book of Acts. It's the pattern of Scripture. **Three** out of five times it clearly says the people spoke in tongues [note that in Scripture, “Every matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.” 2 Cor. 13:1 (NIV)] **No Hands: Acts 2:4; 10:44** **Hands: Acts 8:17; 19:6**

“All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.”

Acts 2:4 (NIV)

Pentecost – A Jewish festival held in mid-spring, fifty days after Passover. At this festival Israelites celebrated the wheat harvest. Pentecost was also known as "the Harvest Festival" and has traditionally been called "the Feast of Weeks"; in Hebrew, its name is “Shavuoth.” —Contemporary English Version Dictionary

“While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. ⁴⁵The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. ⁴⁶For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God.

Acts 10:44-46 (NIV) - CORNELIUS

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“While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples ²and asked them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” They answered, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” ³So Paul asked, “Then what baptism did you receive?” “John’s baptism,” they replied. ⁴Paul said, “John’s baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus.” ⁵On hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶When Paul **placed his hands on them**, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.”

Acts 19:1-6 (NIV) – ALREADY COVERED THIS PASSAGE

“When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. ¹⁵When they arrived, they prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, ¹⁶because the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them; they had simply been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. ¹⁷Then Peter and John **placed their hands on them**, and they received the Holy Spirit. ¹⁸When Simon saw that the Spirit was given at the laying on of the apostles’ hands, he offered them money ¹⁹and said, ‘Give me also this ability so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit.’”

Acts 8:14-20 (NIV)

“Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. **Placing his hands** on Saul, he said, ‘Brother Saul, the Lord--Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here— has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.’”

Acts 9:17 (NIV)

“I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you.”

1 Cor. 14:18 (NIV)

So the book of Acts indicates to us that when believers are given this gift ... the second work of the Spirit that they will know because they will speak in a spiritual language (tongues).

From time to time I have people come and ask me if they can be filled with the Spirit and not speak in tongues or they know someone else who is very spiritual and Spirit-led and they don’t speak in tongues.

My only response to those comments is that we can’t allow experience to dictate to us our theology. I can only speak to what the Word of God tells me ... when the early church was filled with the Holy Spirit ... they spoke in a language they didn’t know and that was the norm. The Bible never tells us it will be any different so I have nothing more to go on.

Reflection: Will I allow personal experience or God’s Word to form my theology?

Moving out of Lukean theology ...

4. The “Infilling of the Spirit” is not the same thing as the Gift of Tongues.

“Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹But eagerly desire the greater gifts. And now I will show you the most excellent way.”

1 Cor. 12:30-31 (NIV)

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The answer to the above questions is no. Not everyone has gifts of healing, tongues or interpretation. Look at verses 7-11. These are a sampling of gifts that are given to us by the Holy Spirit and they are for the body of Christ as a whole. Two of the gifts listed are speaking in tongues and the interpretation of those tongues ...

“Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

⁸To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, ¹⁰to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.”

1 Cor. 12:7-11 (NIV)

- a. The Gift of Tongues is for the building up of the Body of Christ. (JRAG/China Student)
- b. The Infilling of the Spirit is for the building up of the individual. (Personal Strength)

Just because a person has been filled with the Spirit does not mean they will be used in the Gift of Tongues in a public setting to encourage or build up the corporate congregation. They are not the same thing ... they're **apples and oranges**.

The Infilling of the Spirit brings a **prayer language & personal strength** ...

“For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God. Indeed, no one understands him; he utters mysteries with his spirit.”

1 Cor. 14:2 (NIV)

“If you praise him in the private language of tongues, God understands you but no one else does, for you are sharing intimacies just between you and him.”

1 Cor. 14:2 (Msg)

“For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful.”

1 Cor. 14:14 (NIV)

“... the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. ²⁷And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.”

Romans 8:26-27 (NIV) – Missionary/Thieves/Angels/Prayer

“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.”

Ephes. 6:18 (NIV)

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“But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit.”
Jude 1:20 (NIV)

“I’m grateful to God for the gift of praying in tongues that he gives us for praising him,
which leads to wonderful intimacies we enjoy with him. I enter into this as much
or more than any of you.”
1 Cor. 14:18 (Msg)

*Reflection: Have I been confused about the issue of speaking in tongues? Am I afraid of
speaking in tongues?*

5. The “Infilling of the Spirit” is something I need daily.

“Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.
¹⁸Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, **be filled with the Spirit.**”
Ephes. 5:17-18 (NIV)

In the days when Paul wrote Ephesians the pagans would get drunk to take them to a higher state of consciousness whereby they could commune with the gods and figure out what the gods wanted by using drugs and alcohol to reach higher plains.

Verse 18 is a command. It’s an ongoing process. In the Greek it’s “be being kept filled.” In other words, constantly and continually we need to be filled with the Spirit. This gift is meant to be an ongoing process whereby we’re continually renewed day by day.

“All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to
speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.”
Acts 2:4 (NIV)

“After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken.
And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.”
Acts 4:31 (NIV)

These believers had already been filled but they understood the need to be continually filled. It doesn’t matter what happened to you 6 months ago ... or 5 years ago ... or 10 years ago ... it’s something you need today!

6. The “Infilling of the Spirit” is something I am commanded to seek.

I think we come across that the Infilling of the Spirit is optional. That as long as we’re saved we’re okay. Now the fact is that in order to get into Heaven you must simply be saved. In fact, you don’t even have to be baptized in water to get into Heaven.

We teach here at RCC that if you have confessed with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead you will go to heaven. You must confess your sin and turn away from it and if you do this you enter a personal relationship with Christ.

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But all of that does not negate the fact that we are commanded to be baptized in water following our salvation! If you're not baptized in water then according to God's Word you are living in disobedience. We all understand that being baptized is a command from God.

Being filled with the Spirit is a command! We are to be open to this gift and ready to receive it. It's a present imperative that comes straight from the heart of God!!!

“On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: ‘Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about.’”

Acts 1:4 (NIV)

The following passage is used to try and refute tongues today ... (Canon closed is NOT perfection)

“Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. ¹¹When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. ¹²Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.”

1 Cor. 13:8-12 (NIV)

Perfection comes when Jesus comes. John backs that up ...

“Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.”

1 John 3:2 (NIV)

When the Holy Spirit comes upon people today there are three different groups of people in the crowd ...

a. Those who are filled.

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. **Acts 2:4 (NIV)**

b. Those who question.

Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. ⁶When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. ⁷Utterly amazed, they asked: "Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans?" ⁸Then how is it that each of us hears them in his own native language? ⁹Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome ¹¹(both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs--we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" ¹²Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?" **Acts 2:5-12 (NIV)**

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c. Those who mock.

Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine."
Acts 2:13 (NIV)

Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit (My Personal Fears) ...

“He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me scatters.
³¹ And so I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. ³² Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.”

Matthew 12:30-32 (NIV)

God wants to fill you today and tongues are for today!

7. The “Infilling of the Spirit” is given to me so that I will have power.

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Acts 1:8 (NIV)

This gift is not so that we can feel good or so that God can build a super-elite club or so we can be full of pride. The infilling of the Spirit has nothing to do with your maturity in Christ. It’s interesting to note that in I Timothy 3 when it talks about Christian leaders it speaks nowhere of speaking in tongues. Rather, it speaks about **integrity** and **character** because these are the things that mark a believer’s maturity. Even brand new believers can receive this gift. This is a gift to help you have power to live a victorious Christian life.

The Infilling of the Spirit brings power to witness ...

“On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you!’”

John 20:19 (NIV)

“Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: ‘Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say.’”

Acts 2:14 (NIV)

“Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”

Acts 2:36 (NIV)

“With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, ‘Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.’”

Acts 2:40 (NIV)

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“Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. ¹⁹But Peter and John replied, "Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God. ²⁰For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard."

Acts 4:18-20 (NIV)

“Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than men!"

Acts 5:29 (NIV)

“After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.”

Acts 4:31 (NIV)

“Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, did great wonders and miraculous signs among the people. ⁹Opposition arose, however, from members of the Synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called)--Jews of Cyrene and Alexandria as well as the provinces of Cilicia and Asia. These men began to argue with Stephen, ¹⁰but they could not stand up against his wisdom or the Spirit by whom he spoke.”

Acts 6:8-10 (NIV)

The Infilling of the Spirit also brings power to perform miracles (none before chapter 2) ...

“Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles.”

Acts 2:43 (NIV)

“Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." ⁷Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong. ⁸He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God.”

Acts 3:6-8 (NIV)

“The apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers used to meet together in Solomon's Colonnade.”

Acts 5:12 (NIV)

“Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Christ there. ⁶When the crowds heard Philip and saw the miraculous signs he did, they all paid close attention to what he said. ⁷With shrieks, evil spirits came out of many, and many paralytics and cripples were healed. ⁸So there was great joy in that city.”

Acts 8:5-8 (NIV)

“Then Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked straight at Elymas and said, ¹⁰"You are a child of the devil and an enemy of everything that is right! You are full of all kinds of deceit and trickery. Will you never stop perverting the right ways of the Lord? ¹¹Now the hand of the Lord is against you. You are going to be blind, and for a time you will be unable to see the light of the sun." Immediately mist and darkness came over him, and he groped about, seeking someone to lead him by the hand.”

Acts 13:9-11 (NIV)

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The Infilling of the Spirit also brings **spiritual discernment** ...

“Be very careful, then, how you live--not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. ¹⁷Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. ¹⁸Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.”

Ephes. 5:15-18 (NIV)

“For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God. Indeed, no one understands him; he utters *mysteries* with his spirit.”

1 Cor. 14:2 (NIV)

A mystery is a former secret that has now been revealed in the N.T. You can go throughout the entire N.T. and see many mysteries that have been revealed to us now.

“If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all *mysteries* and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.”

1 Cor. 13:2 (NIV)

When we are filled with the Spirit you will have insight into the will of God. It helps you to know the will of God. **(Meetings, counseling, creative/strategic ideas, seminars, etc.)**

“For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God. Indeed, no one understands him; he utters *mysteries* with **(by – in the margin)** his spirit.”

1 Cor. 14:2 (NIV)

When you are praying in the Spirit God reveals things to you. God opens things to you and ideas begin to pop into your mind or in your heart that He wants to change in your life. He helps you through difficult times or gives you practical steps to take in a situation.

Reflection: Am I prepared to ask Jesus to fill me with the Holy Spirit?

“Baptism can be done to you. Filling can be done to you. But receiving must be done by you.”
(Mark Rutland)

What do I do with this infilling of the Holy Spirit? How do I use this power? How did Jesus use it?

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”

Luke 4:18-19 (NIV)

“As you go, preach this message: 'The kingdom of heaven is near.' ⁸ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.”

Matthew 10:7-8 (NIV)

“The Blessing Of Being Filled With The Holy Spirit”

Get out of your comfort zone and get the message of Jesus to the nations. Speak and act in the power of the Holy Spirit. Be baptized in the Holy Spirit. **Why should Jesus fill you? What are you doing with your life that you need that kind of power?**

I want you to notice three things about the prayers of the believers as they prepared to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit ...

a. I need to pray as God directs (compliantly).

They did exactly what God told them to do and I need to do the same! They waited for 10 days as they sought the Lord.

“On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: ‘Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’”

Acts 1:4-5 (NIV)

“Then they returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city. ¹³When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.”

Acts 1:12-14 (NIV)

“When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.”

Acts 2:1 (NIV)

b. I need to be faithful in prayer (constantly).

“They all joined together *constantly* in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.”

Acts 1:14 (NIV)

“They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to *prayer*.”

Acts 2:42 (NIV)

I have seen people come forward and pray and leave the altar with nothing happening and they go home and decide it's not for them. Or they pray once or twice for a day or two and then stop seeking God. I can't explain why some have to wait and others don't. I'm not the baptizer. But I can tell you this ... don't stop praying!

Don't doubt God. He will fill you! Don't spend your time focusing on tongues or on the gift itself ... spend your time focusing on God! Seek Him! Seek His will ... His face ... His presence ... His power ... His anointing ... and I am a firm believer that God will be true to you His children!

“The Blessing Of Being Filled With The Holy Spirit”

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.”
Matthew 5:6 (NIV)

“So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ¹⁰For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened ... how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”
Luke 11:9-13 (NIV)

c. I need to pray trusting in God (confidently).

“When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.”
Acts 2:1 (NIV)

Why would they wait 10 days? Most of us lose our intensity and our focus after 10 minutes. How were they able to seek God for that length of time? I believe it was because they had confidence in the Word of God. They believed that He would do what He said He would do.

Reflection: Am I confident that God wants to fill me? Do I genuinely believe this gift if for me today? Am I willing to seek Him until I am filled?

Have you received since you believed?

(Ephesus; Acts 19:2)

I'm not asking if you're Presbyterian, Methodist, Baptist, Catholic or A/G. I'm not asking if you attend RCC or some other Pentecostal church. I'm not asking if you like the expressive style of worship. I'm asking, have you been filled with the Holy Spirit since you believed? Has He come upon you?

Let's Pray!

This is not about overflowing with emotion ... it's not about some semiconscious state ... it's not about some supernatural phenomena ... it's about Who has control of you.

*“Many Christian workers say: ‘Oh I have the Spirit, I have had Him for years.’
Yes, so did I for many years, but there came a time when He got me – got me under His hand, submerged in His power till He spoke for Himself, and my whole being was under His control. There is a difference between the experience where we have the Spirit for our pleasure and where He has us for His pleasure.”
(J.W. Welch)*

For those who ...

Have been filled with the Spirit but want to be refilled again today.

Have never been filled with the Spirit and want to ask God to fill you with His Spirit.

“The Blessing Of Being Filled With The Holy Spirit”

If you'd like to have myself or someone else gently place our hands on you and join with you in praying for God to fill you with His Holy Spirit I invite you to come to the altar. But keep in mind that on the day of Pentecost, no one laid hands on anyone else. It's Jesus who does the baptizing!

Resource: A Prayer To Be Filled

Don't be passive! God is not going to force the Holy Spirit on you so cooperate with Him. It is fascinating that in Jesus' ministry people often had to reach out and touch His garment to receive the healing power of the Spirit. They could not just passively sit and wait for Him to do something.

Don't be afraid to stretch out your arms toward the Lord, just like a small child does when she's reaching up to her daddy.

When Jesus fills you with the Holy Spirit you will speak in a spiritual language that you do not know. Don't be afraid of it!

The Holy Spirit doesn't come and forcibly begin shaking and moving your tongue. Remember, Acts 2:4 says "They began to speak in tongues as the Holy Spirit gave them utterance." Notice that they, not the Spirit, began to speak. The Holy Spirit does not speak in tongues. You do! He simply provides the syllables.

When we place our hands on you, begin to thank God for this gift. The Spirit will not make you speak. You choose to speak, and as you do, He will provide the syllables.

Pray with faith and authority ... not in a begging manner!