

FILLED with the Holy Spirit



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On this Pentecost weekend, would you say you are “FILLED with the Holy Spirit”? Can you ever be – or is it reserved just for apostles and prophets? WHY do we even need God’s spirit? How do we receive more? How do we KEEP God’s spirit? Find out all this and more in this timely Pentecost season.

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I’ve been talking with various men and women in God’s family and I ask each one – “Would you say you are FILLED with God’s spirit?”

Almost all have answered with variations of “I would love to be, but to answer your question, no. I don’t think I’m filled with God’s spirit”.

Welcome everyone; this is Philip Shields, host of Light on the Rock, with what scripture says about being filled with God’s spirit.

I really feel most of us have thought that being filled with God’s spirit is something reserved for the Bible greats – like Peter and Paul and prophets and prophetesses. That’s maybe what you think, isn’t it?

Pentecost is almost here as I record this – and much of the meaning of the day revolves around several big events of this day

- The giving of the Torah, God’s law, at Mt Sinai around the day of Pentecost
- The giving of God’s spirit in Acts 2 – and so there’s a lot of talk about God’s holy spirit on this day
- And about God marrying Spiritual Israel, the church, on this day, just as he married physical Israel on Pentecost at Mt Sinai.
- It shows Yeshua is our “go-el” –Hebrew for our redeemer, as Boaz was.
- And the feast day is all about the first fruits; those being called out now by God. That’s the focus of the day.

Much is said about God's spirit on this holyday, and rightly so.

He wants you and me to have his spirit, and to have *so much* of it that he says, "ASK! Just ask. Just ask for more of my spirit and I'll gladly give you more. SO much more that it will be like when you asked me for WATER out of the rock in the wilderness, and out gushed RIVERS of water for you in your wilderness journey. Except now it's my Spirit – living waters – which I'll send you."

That Rock is Christ, remember (1 Cor. 10:4).

Luke 11:13

"If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly ***Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!***"

So ask. **We sometimes criticize Adam and Eve for not availing themselves of the fruit of the Tree of Life** – when it was right there.

But if we haven't recently asked for more of God's spirit, aren't we doing the same thing they did? Not availing ourselves of God's great gifts?

So please, even right now -- silently, in your mind, petition our heavenly father to send down more of His Spirit to you (sample prayer in the audio). And start to make it be part of a daily request, or at least several times a week.

Look what Yeshua says about this same thing:

John 7:37-39

On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone **thirsts**, let him come to Me and drink. 38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will **FLOW RIVERS of living water.**" 39 **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.

So our Father wants you to have His Spirit, to have more of it – and as we'll see, to be filled with his spirit.

WHY GOD'S SPIRIT is so important

But WHY do we need more of God's spirit, so it appears we're FILLED with God's spirit? WHY?

ANSWER: Be turning to Gal 5, and then to 2 Peter 1.

We have solely human nature inside us if we don't have God's nature, God's spirit. Human, carnal nature by itself will get us nowhere spiritually (see Romans 8:6-14). We need another nature.

Paul also explains in Galatians 5 that when we receive God's spirit, we now have two natures inside us now – our old human carnal nature that is naturally against God and his laws, and now we have been given God's nature. These two natures fight one another – and that's the conflict we often feel -- and we have to consciously listen to God's nature, via God's spirit in us, and follow God's lead. As we do, the Holy Spirit gets stronger in us. If we don't follow God's spirit's lead, we steadily grieve our God and his spirit slowly erodes within us. More on that in a coming sermon all about the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 5:16-26 from Holman's Apologetic Bible

“I say then, walk by the Spirit and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. 17 For the flesh desires what is against the Spirit, and the Spirit desires what is against the flesh; these are opposed to each other, so that you don't do what you want. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

19 Now the works of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, moral impurity, promiscuity, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatreds, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambitions, dissensions, factions, 21 envy, drunkenness, carousing, and anything similar, about which I tell you in advance—as I told you before—that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such things there is no law. **24 Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.** 25 If we live by the Spirit, we must also follow the Spirit.”

So this is serious business. We cannot be living a life of sin. We all still stumble in sin from time to time, as do I, but these must not be our normal walk. But without the Holy Spirit in us, we are doomed to a life of sin and failure.

So WHY do we need the Holy Spirit – and to be FILLED with it? Because without God's nature, God's seed, God's power and presence – all given by His spirit – we have no life. WITH God's nature in us, we can fight

our human nature and resist sin and walk with God, in life. With God's spirit, we have Christ himself – and our Father – living in us, showing us the way, and their presence by their Spirit is what makes us holy. Be sure to read **John 14:23** that shows God the Father and Christ want to come live inside us, and make our bodies their HOME.

So the more of God's spirit we can have, the better. That's the simple answer.

We are called to be holy. There is no way we can make ourselves holy. The only sure way anything or anyone is holy is when it pertains to God, or includes God's presence, or God makes it holy by his presence. Even dirt – when in the presence of God – is holy. Remember Moses on Sinai? Yah told him to remove his sandals, as the ground on which he stood was now holy ground because Yehovah was there! (Exodus 3:5). Look at what Peter says about all this in 2 Peter 1.

2 Peter 1:2-4

“Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, 3 as **His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness,** through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, 4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these **you may be partakers of the divine nature,** having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

When we receive the Holy Spirit, we actually also receive the holy incorruptible seed of God (**1 Peter 1:23**). We now have some of God's “DNA” inside us, if I can say it that way. We can grow up over time to look more and more like our heavenly Father. Isn't that amazing? I hope you'll take time to read the verses I refer to in your own Bible.

And the more God's seed grows in us, the less and less we will sin (**1 John 3:9**). I think 1 John 3:9 in the Greek is in the progressive sense – someone born again or begotten again of God cannot continue to sin as a way of life.

Having the Holy Spirit in us – is having GOD inside us (John 14:23). We become the temple of his Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 6:19)

ARE YOU FULL OF, FILLED WITH, GOD'S SPIRIT?

So we see we need God's spirit. I have a sermon on this website “22 things the Holy Spirit does for us” – and I don't have time to recount all the points again now. But just know that with God's spirit we will comprehend spiritual things,

we'll be begotten of God, we'll have the indwelling presence of God inside us, we'll have his mind and power. We'll be given gifts of the spirit (Romans 12 and 1 Cor. 12) and fruit of the spirit (Gal 5:22), and a bunch of other reasons.

So you want God's Spirit and a lot of God's presence in you.

But when I ask people, "Would you say you are FILLED with God's spirit?" – I have yet to find anyone who will say "yes". It's almost like most people believe it's impossible for them, at least, to be filled with God's spirit. Let's see what God's word says.

First, it's clear, that the great names of God's servants in scripture – even before Acts 2 – were filled with God's spirit. So let's start with them first. And you'll see it is possible for mere humans to be filled with God's presence.

John the Baptist was FILLED with God's spirit from before birth; from his mother's womb (**Luke 1:15**). His MOM – **Elizabeth** – was "FILLED with Holy spirit" (**Luke 1:41**). So was his father **Zacharias** – **Luke 1:67**. And, all of those were before Acts 2 and the giving of God's holy spirit en masse.

Of course **Yeshua** (Jesus) was FILLED with his Father's spirit (**Luke 4:1**). I think we'd expect that. In John 1:31-33 it is simply said the Dove – the Holy Spirit – would come upon him, but in **Luke 4:1** it says "Jesus, being FILLED with the spirit ... was led by spirit to the wilderness to be tested..."

OK that was Christ and John the Baptist and Elizabeth... but what about you and me, and the rank and file of believers?

When the 120 faithful gathered on the Day of Pentecost – or Shavuot – **Acts 2:4** says when the Spirit came as a mighty rushing wind, "they were ALL FILLED with holy spirit and began to speak with other tongues ..."

The 120 assembled there included the 12 apostles and a few notable other men and women including Mary, Yeshua's brothers James and Jude (Acts 1:12-14) – but most of the rest, maybe 100 of them, were ordinary people, like you and me. But my point is – over 100 ordinary people on that day were also "filled" with the Spirit, as Acts 2:4 says.

Acts 4:8 – Peter spoke as one filled with the Holy Spirit.

When the elder Ananias in Damascus came to heal Paul, after Christ struck him down on the road to Damascus, he says this in **Acts 9:17**

“God has sent me that you may receive your sight and to be filled with the Holy spirit”. Paul had been horrible to the believers up to this point, but God wanted him FILLED with the Spirit. And in Acts 13:9 – we see Paul was indeed filled with God’s spirit.

OK, OK, but you and I are no John the Baptist, or like those people in Acts 2, or Christ, or Paul, we say. Let’s keep reading.

When we come to Acts 4, the apostles and brethren were beginning to suffer intense persecution and beatings. The twelve apostles went to the group and made a report. The ordinary believers there all prayed fervently and look what happened to them:

Acts 4:31

“And when they [the local brethren] had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and **THEY (the brethren) were ALL FILLED with the Holy Spirit**, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.”

Why can’t that happen for us today? It can. If we ask. If we believe.

When it became clear that some deacons (servants to the group) were needed, the 12 apostles asked the brethren to pick seven men – FULL of God’s spirit. Somehow I guess it should be clear to others when you are full of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 6:3

“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”

They picked 7 men, and Stephen in particular is singled out as being full of God’s spirit.

Acts 6:5

“And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit...”

Acts 7:55

“But he (Stephen), being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God...”

Acts 11:24 describes Barnabas as being full of the spirit.

But let’s move on. Turn to Eph 3 please. Was being full of God’s spirit possible only for leading men, elders and apostles?

Don't forget that in John 7:37-39, when Yeshua said that we could have the Holy Spirit flowing out of us like RIVERS of living waters. But to whom did that pertain? He said, "If ANY man, ANYONE, thirsts... out of his belly can flow rivers of living water". ANYONE. You. Me. We're "anyone".

A BIG KEY that came to me as I was speaking: "If anyone THIRSTS...". We'll see that same point later in Isaiah. *Maybe we're not being filled enough because we're not aware how spiritually thirsty we should be right now.*

Laodicean types are self-satisfied. They have the "I'm OK, you're OK" mentality. They feel rich and increased with goods and in need of nothing.

Don't be like that. Let's you and I be deeply aware of our spiritual poverty, how much our spiritual gas tank needs to be filled up with God's spirit. We're aware of our lack, of our need, and of our thirst for him – like a thirsty deer searching for water, as King David says. We sing that song: "As the Deer panteth for the waters, so my soul longeth after thee..." But now let's really believe that's you and me!

Here's what Paul says to the everyday man and woman in Ephesus:

Ephesians 3:17-19

"...that **Christ may dwell in your hearts** through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height — 19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; **that YOU may be filled with ALL the fullness of God.**"

Ephesians 5:18

"And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; **FILLED with the Spirit...**"

Jesus' comments in John 7:37-39 could have come from Isaiah.

Isaiah 55:1

"Ho! EVERYONE who thirsts,

COME to the waters;

And you who have no money,

Come, buy and eat.

Yes, come, buy wine and milk

Without money and without price."

So, being FILLED with God's spirit is not just for prophets and apostles. It's for YOU, for me, for ANYONE who thirsts, for EVERYONE who comes to the Rock of our Salvation. We should ALL be experiencing this wonder of overflowing with God's Holy Spirit.

We're in the last days. Look at what was prophesied for our time:

Joel 2:28-29

"And it shall come to pass afterward

That I will POUR OUT My Spirit on ALL flesh;

Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,

Your old men shall dream dreams,

Your young men shall see visions.

29 And also on My menservants and on My maidservants

I will pour out My Spirit in those days. "

My amazing wife of 43 years, Carole, added this next bit to this sermon as we were discussing it last night. Now keep in mind, she herself – as most of us have – has struggled with believing she even has, let alone is filled with, God's spirit. Sometimes, so have I, especially after grievous sins in the past that strained our marriage and strained my relationship with Abba above. I bare myself to you so you can understand. But after her own prayers and studies the last few weeks, she sees it differently now. Here's what the love of my life said to me last night:

"It's amazing what things become possible, when you BELIEVE they are possible. If you don't believe you can be overflowing with God's spirit, and be FILLED with the Holy Spirit – then your belief, YOUR faith, will come true. You won't be filled in that case. We have to believe. Our faith, whether positive or negative, is so powerful."

My wife continued:

"If you don't believe you can be filled with God's spirit, you're right. For you, it won't happen. But if you listen to God's words, and now you BELIEVE that even puny little YOU and I can be filled with the Holy Spirit, guess what? **If we believe we can be filled with God's spirit, we will be.** That's faith in him. And that's regardless of any amount of sins in the past, if we've put them behind us and ask for forgiveness and ask for His spirit. **If we believe what he says, that he wants to give us His spirit, then we will receive it.**"

I asked "what if someone says they don't see the evidence of God's spirit in their own lives?" Her quick reply was, "If you have to wait to see something,

it's no longer faith. Faith is the evidence of things not seen. Remember what Yeshua said to Thomas in John 20:29? "You believe because you have seen. Blessed are those who believe without having to first see."

So thank you, Hon. **According to your faith may it be done unto you.** God LOVES to give you good gifts. He would absolutely love to give you his spirit. Lots and lots of it. So now you have to believe when you ask.

So – yes YOU can be filled with God's spirit. Just ask for it, every single day. Our loving Daddy, who happens to be God Most High, is inviting you and me to come to the springs of living water and drink in as Isa 55:1 says. "Come to the waters "(**Isaiah 55:1**).

Of course you have to repent, be baptized, and receive the laying on of hands from a duly ordained true minister of God (Acts 2:38).

Remember Philip baptized a lot in Samaria, but the brethren sent Peter and John there to lay hands on those baptized, and then they received the Spirit (story in **Acts 8**). Also **Acts 19** speaks of Paul re-baptizing some who had not understood the Spirit and when he laid hands on them, then they received God's spirit.

So you also -- ask and then BELIEVE you received God's spirit. Then every single day – ask for more. Make that something you can't wait to do each day. It only takes a minute or so.

And remember to

- **Follow the lead of the Spirit.** If you fail, and sin, then repent again.
- Ask God, as David did, not to take his Spirit from you (**Psalms 51:10-11**) – but in fact to restore the right spirit and clean heart to him.
- God likes giving his spirit to those committed to obeying him, as **Acts 5:32** says.
- Read God's word. Pray daily.
- Be tuned in to God and listening carefully if perhaps you might hear his words to you, in strong thoughts or circumstances. God is speaking to us, but are we tuned in? Are we listening?

And – I look forward to meeting you in person someday, when all of us, filled with God's spirit, rise in the air to meet our Beloved, our Master – and hear him say directly to you and to me, "Well done, my beloved. Well done. Receive the kingdom prepared for you." (Matthew 25:34)

Closing prayer.

Numbers 6:23-27

"Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, 'This is the way you shall bless the children of Israel. Say to them:

"YHVH bless you and keep you;

YHVH make His face shine upon you,

And be gracious to you;

YHVH lift up His countenance upon you,

And give you peace."

27 "So they shall put My name on the children of Israel, and I will bless them."

Please believe that even YOU, yes even I, can have the fullness of the Spirit.

Until next time....

If this message has blessed you, tell others about this website so they also can be blessed by our loving Father and our King/Saviour.