

BEING FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT



BEING FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT

Welcome! Before you proceed with this course, it is important to arm yourself with the necessary materials to take down your own notes and write the thoughts that will come to you along the line. We trust that you will receive new inspiration and be transformed by the end of the course.

This study seeks to elucidate you on what it means to be filled with the Spirit, its importance and how to be filled with the Spirit.

Learning Objectives

At the end of this course, you would have understood:

- i. What it means to be filled with the Holy Spirit
- ii. The benefits of being filled with the Holy Spirit
- iii. How to be filled with the Spirit

INTRODUCTION

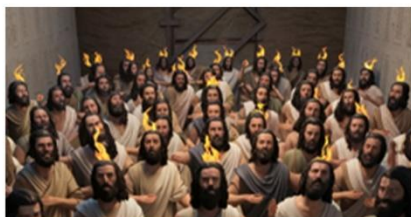
To begin to understand being filled the Holy Spirit, we need to begin from the subject of salvation and receiving the Holy Spirit. Receiving salvation – being born again is ‘you in Christ’. By that experience of the new birth, you have come into a special place called Christ. Apostle Paul by the Spirit, in **2 Corinthians 5:17**, said *“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”*

However, when we talk about receiving the Holy Spirit, it is you receiving the embodiment of Christ to live in you in His totality. Colossians 1:26-27 expressed this truth:



“Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.” Being born again is like immersing an empty bottle that is covered into a pool of water; the water is around the bottle but not inside it. However, receiving the Holy Spirit is like opening the already water-immersed bottle for the water to get into it.

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT



In furtherance to the already established truth, receiving the Holy Spirit is not synonymous to being filled with the Spirit. The former is a one-time experience while the latter is a continuous experience. You

should have received the Holy Spirit to live in you first for you to be filled with Him. The early Christians received the Holy Spirit in **Acts 2:1-4**, *"And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."* But in **Acts 4:31**, they were filled with the Spirit. *"And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spoke the word of God with boldness."* From this portion of the Bible, we understand that the disciples were not just receiving the Holy Spirit here, but that they did certain things which caused them to be filled with the Spirit. Later in this course, we will discuss those things.

By the way, you may be wondering if there is any difference between 'Holy Ghost' and 'Holy Spirit'. No, there isn't. The difference is the King James' usage of *Ghost for Spirit*.

i. The Old Testament:

In the Old Testament, certain individuals were recorded to have been filled with the Spirit of God. It is important to note that this did not happen to all of them and that those who were filled, were filled to carry out certain tasks for the Lord. However, they could not embody the fullness of God because they were not born again. An example is those the LORD filled with the Spirit of Wisdom for the purpose of making special priest's garments for Aaron. *"And thou shalt make holy garments for Aaron thy brother for glory and beauty. And thou shalt speak unto all that*



are wise hearted, whom I have filled with the Spirit of wisdom, that they may make Aaron's garment to consecrate him, that he may minister unto me in the priest's office" Additionally, Bazeleel the son of Uri was filled "with the spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship; and to devise curious works, to work in gold, and silver, and in brass, and in cutting of stones, to set them and in carving of wood, to make any manner of cunning work" (Exodus 31:3-5) to build the tabernacle. They could only be filled with the Spirit by measure for the specific tasks the LORD wanted them to carry out.

ii. The New Testament:

In the New Testament, when you receive the Holy Spirit after salvation, He comes to live in you in His fullness, not in measure. However, it is possible to have the Holy Spirit living in you and not be filled with Him. This



was why Apostle Paul admonished in **Ephesians 5:18 AMPC** *"And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be ever filled and stimulated with the Holy Spirit."* The expression 'be ever filled' is

actually rendered in the original as 'be being filled'. This means to be filled or stimulated by the Spirit until you are controlled by Him in His fullness. When you have received the Holy Spirit, He could be well settled in you; however, it is your responsibility to remain filled with Him. In the New Testament, being filled with the Spirit can be consciously and deliberately done daily.

Being filled with the Spirit is the secret to a continuously successful and victorious life. God wants us His children to always be filled with the Spirit. Shortly, we will look at the benefits of being filled with the Spirit and how to constantly stay filled with the Spirit.

BENEFITS OF BEING FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT

Being filled with the Spirit has certain benefits which the Lord wants us to have to be able to carry out ministry effectively in this world. We will consider some occasions where people in the Bible were filled with the Spirit and the effects or results that followed.

i. Boldness to Declare God's Word and Counsel:

Acts 4:31 says about the disciples "And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spoke the word of God with boldness." This is the first effect of being filled with the Spirit – speaking the Word of God with boldness. It does not matter that you perceived yourself as a shy person prior to this time. When you are filled with the Spirit, God's Word will come forth from your mouth like a torrent with all boldness. It does not matter that you are facing an adverse situation, preaching or teaching God's Word, when you are filled with the Spirit, the impact is tremendous. Consider Peter who denied the Lord Jesus at His arrest (**Matthew 26:69-74**). When that same Peter received the Holy Spirit and was filled, he preached Jesus publicly, and in one day about three thousand souls were saved (**Acts 2:41**). At another time in **Acts 4:4** after Peter had preached again being filled with the Spirit, five thousand men gave their hearts to Christ.



ii. Personal Effectiveness:

When you are filled with the Spirit, you will become an effective person not just an effective minister. This is because you not only need to be filled with the Spirit for ministry but also for your everyday life. Truly, if you will burn, people will come to see the fire. In **John 5:35**, the Bible says of John the

Baptist that *"He was a burning and shining light: and ye were willing for a season to rejoice in his light"*. Remember, though John lived in a different



dispensation from us, he was filled with the Holy Spirit from his mother's womb. As a minister of the gospel, if you are constantly filled with the Spirit, you will always be effective, because every step you'd take

will be the steps of the Spirit; every word you'd speak will be the words of the Spirit. Consider this: when someone is intoxicated with wine, he says things under the influence of the wine that he would not have said had he not been drunk. Likewise, when you are full of the Spirit, you would say things by the Spirit that you would not have said had you not been filled with the Spirit. You are a reservoir of the Holy Spirit. It is God's will that you are filled with the fullness of God.

iii. Increased Grace:

Being filled with the Spirit produces a life of an ever-increasing grace. You cannot perform beyond the level of the grace that you have. For example, if a Pastor has the grace to pastor only 50 people, it does not



matter that he organized a program where 5,000 people came. After the program, it is only a matter of time before his church attendance would return to 50 people again. It's about what he's graced for. However, the good thing is that God increases grace (**James 4:6**). So, you'd never have to remain in the same level all the time. When the disciples of Jesus were filled with the Spirit in **Acts 4**, they did not only speak the Word of God with boldness, in verse 33, The Passion Translation says *"The apostles gave powerful testimonies about the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great measures of grace rested upon them all."*

HOW TO BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT

Having dealt extensively with what it means to be filled with the Spirit and its benefits, we will now discuss how to be filled with the Spirit.

1. Speaking in Tongues

The first step to be filled with the Spirit is to pray in the Spirit – speaking in tongues. *“He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church” (1 Corinthians 14:4)*. The above scripture makes it clear that when you speak in tongues, you edify yourself. The word edify is translated from the Greek word, *‘oikodomeō’*, which means to ‘build up’, ‘construct as in a house’ or ‘embolden’.

There are people today who erroneously believe that speaking in tongues is for a set of Christians they call ‘Pentecostal’. This is because the disciples received the Holy Spirit and spoke in tongues on the day of Pentecost. This is not exactly so. The word ‘Pentecostal’ has nothing to do with the disciples receiving the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues. Let us consider carefully



Acts 2:1, *“And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.”* Pentecost means ‘fiftieth’ and was a festival connected to the Passover. This was the festival being

celebrated by the people, when the disciples, secluded from the celebration, were all in one accord in one place where they received the Holy Spirit and spoke in tongues. How then could they be called Pentecostals? It was all the Christians at the time that spoke in tongues.

The Lord Jesus Himself said in **Mark 16:17** *“These signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues”* The Lord Jesus Himself mentioned speaking in tongues as

one of the credentials that should follow every one that believes – the Christians. How important speaking in tongues is! When you speak in tongues as you should, you'd be filled with the Holy Spirit. **Jude 1:20 AMPC** says *"But you, beloved, build yourselves up [founded] on your most holy faith [make progress, rise like an edifice higher and higher], praying in the Holy Spirit*". Don't downplay speaking in tongues; it is the quickest way to be filled with the Spirit. If you are a minister and you do not speak in tongues, you ought to desire it. First of all, be sure that you have received the Holy Spirit to live in you, then believe that you should speak in tongues. You can even pray this by faith right now or at the end of this course: *"Dear Holy Spirit, thank you for living in me. I activate your power in me today as I receive the ability to speak in another tongue in even now. Thank you Lord"*. After praying like this, you can open your mouth to pray in tongues of the Spirit.

2. Offering Words of Praise to God

Praise is the highest form of worship and the most important service to God.

Hebrews 13:15 says *"By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name."* The words 'giving thanks' in the above verse is translated



from a Greek word, *homologeō* which means 'making confessions', 'to acknowledge'. As you take words of thanksgiving, declaring what God has said about Himself, and speak them to Him, you will be filled with the Spirit. Every day, let your heart be filled with gratitude, praising the Lord for who He is, declaring His greatness in prayers and even in songs. You'd be filled with the Spirit and catapulted into a realm where there are no impossibilities.

3. Meditation on the Word of God

This is just as important as the first two mentioned earlier because they are all part of the ministry of the sanctuary – the personal ministry of a minister to the Lord. Meditation on the scripture is not something you do for the purpose of preaching. The focus is to drive the Word of God into you for a personal ministration. **Colossians 3:16** says *“Let the word of*



Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.” The way to achieve this is to

grace in your hearts to the Lord.” The way to achieve this is to meditate on the Word of God. It is just like eating your daily food; you ought to eat the Word of God like that for your personal benefit. Apostle Paul writing to Timothy, a young pastor said *“Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all.”* (1 Timothy 4:15). As you do this daily, you’d be filled with the Spirit. Glory to God!

As a minister of the gospel, you should practice being filled with the Spirit every day, not once in a while or when you want to minister to other people. If you practice being filled with the Spirit, you will live a life that is very effective. Make being filled with the Spirit an everyday occurrence with you. Desire it, make it happen, and your result will far outweigh your input at all times. If you want to please God, your personal ministry to Him is very important.

We trust you have been immensely blessed by this Reading Course and invite you to avail yourself of other insightful courses on our school website, all tailor made to enhance your spiritual growth and equip you with requisite knowledge, such that your results in ministry are pleasing to the Lord and evident for all to see.

Visit our website with details below for More Information.

www.school.christembassy-ism.com

Thank You.

