

## "The Filling of the Spirit"

Today, we're going to talk about the Holy Spirit. Now, some people **get a little weird** whenever they talk about the Holy Spirit, or when they hear someone else talking about the Holy Spirit. That's **understandable** to a degree. **Pastor Carl** came just over a month ago to explain with **absolute crystal clarity and irrefutable proof the entirety of the Trinity**. He came, he spoke, he conquered all in his path, **claiming to have it all absolutely figured out**, right?

No, in fact he said that like most of us, it is very **difficult** to understand the Trinity, which could lend to the fact that some people get weirded out by talking about the Holy Spirit. Add to that the fact that we're all **somewhat comfortable** with the other two parts of the Trinity. God the **Father**... OK, we all have some concept of a Father in our minds, whether it be our own or another. God the **Son**... well roughly half of us in the room are sons, another half of the remaining have had a son, so again, somewhat familiar concept. It's when we start to talk about the **Spirit that things get a little unfamiliar, a little uncomfortable, and a little uncertain**. I'm here today to talk about being filled with the Holy Spirit, and why the Spirit doesn't have to be **unfamiliar**, because he is the part of the Trinity most **intimately connected** with us; doesn't have to be **uncomfortable**, for he is our **Comforter and Counselor**; and doesn't have to be **uncertain**, because it is very **clear what his mission** on this earth is. Let's pray.

"Father, we praise you for everything that you are: for your love for us, for your amazing creation, and for your incredible plan, both to bring us into your family and for our lives moving forward, playing a part in your Kingdom. We ask that you would speak to us this morning, that you would open our hearts and our ears to what you have to say, and that you would use me as your voice today Father, speaking nothing but that which is from you. We love you and thank you for joining us here this morning. In Jesus' name, Amen."

We'll start this morning, looking at the Spirit in Scripture in a couple places, then talk a bit later about some applications involved with being filled with the Holy Spirit.

Let's set the stage here in **John chapter 14**. Jesus has actually spoken himself about the Spirit multiple times throughout his ministry, from the teaching of **Nicodemus** in chapter 3 to the **days leading up to his death**, and even after his death too, as we'll see in Acts chapter 1 (How many guys can say that, huh?)

But we look right now at Jesus' time with his disciples in the **Upper Room** just before he is taken by the authorities and eventually put to death. He has finished washing feet, sharing the Last Supper, predicting his betrayal by Judas Iscariot, and predicting Peter's denial as well. Jesus now makes it very clear what's about to happen.

In verse 1 of Chapter 14, he begins with "Do not let your hearts be troubled," and proceeds to tell them in the next few verses, **Trust God, Trust Me...** It's going to be OK. **But... I'm going away now**

Wait, hold on... Don't let our hearts be troubled? They're beyond troubled...

Their best friend, leader, Lord and Savior is leaving their side, and they are **instructed to simply trust**.

He tells them that he is going to prepare a place for them, then goes on to **promise the Holy Spirit's coming**, something that will be a theme of the remainder of the Bible

Verse 16: "And I will ask the Father, and he will give you **another** Counselor to be with you forever – the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for **he lives with you** and **will be in you**. I will not leave you as orphans, I will come to you.

Verse 25 continues: "All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, **whom the Father will send in my name**, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

Jesus and the disciples then leave the upper room, and he continues on this subject more in chapter 16.

Verse 7, "But I tell you the truth: It is **for your good** that I am going away. **Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you**; but if I go, I will send him to you."

They must be thinking, "Wait... did we hear him correctly? **For our good that he goes away? To our advantage?"** Actually yes, that's what he said. It will be to their advantage if he goes away. Because then the Spirit can come, and we'll take a look at why that's better.

### **But first, a quick tangent...**

When I taught this section recently to our Jr. High students I called to their attention how Jesus and his disciples must have felt around this time. Jesus had spent just thirty three years on this earth, only three of which were spend in full time ministry... **His message was salvation by faith, He was the long-awaited Messiah.** The **future of the church** he was leaving in the hands of these few men, those that had followed him for the last few years. **He couldn't do it for them, that wasn't the plan...** It's as if Jesus benched himself for the fourth quarter, entrusting the rest of the game to his disciples, a rag-tag group of guys that had really only played a few games in their life. If you didn't think there was a sports analogy and maybe even a video clip coming, you don't know me well enough.

**In the following clip**, the Monstars have stolen the power of several NBA stars and are beating the stuffing out of Michael Jordan and his looney friends in a **basketball game to I don't know, decide the fate of the universe or something.** They've fallen behind by almost 50 points, and the players are starting to feel like they can't do it any longer.

Anybody see where I'm going with this? Now as a Laker fan that was only in Grade school during MJ's best years, I'm probably the last to use Michael Jordan in the place of a Christ analogy, but you see where I'm going here. The looney tunes characters **felt like they couldn't** do it on their own because **THEY COULDN'T DO IT ON THEIR OWN!** But **once they had Michael's secret stuff, they felt up to the task!** As you can see, I'm gonna leave it there so we have two weeks in a row where they pastor preaching dodges around a spoiler alert of a movie that's quite old, 16 years in this case, 53 years in last week's case.

But you can see the comparison at play here... Jesus could only lead his followers so far, and his time had come to go. His teammates had to finish the game, and they felt like they couldn't do it on their own. Guess what? **THEY COULDN'T DO IT ON THEIR OWN!** They needed help! **They**

**needed Jesus' Secret Stuff. And he promised to give it to them, saying, "it is better for you that I leave, so you can have it.**

If you need me to spell it out for you, in this case, the **secret stuff is the Holy Spirit.**

God had some big plans for them. Jesus even said in **John 14:12**, "I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these."

So who is the Holy Spirit?

I know you've heard this before, so I'll go through it kind of quickly... If you want to look more into it, join a Triad, skip to Chapter 14... I highly recommend it!

**The Holy Spirit is a PERSON.**

This person teaches (John 14:26 says He will teach us everything and remind us of what Jesus taught us), guides (John 16:13 says he will guide us in all truth), possesses intellect, has will, has emotions (Ephesians 4:30 warns us not to bring sorrow to God's Holy Spirit), searches our hearts, predicts, and in Acts, Luke tells us that the Spirit speaks, is lied to, is tempted, bears witness, is resisted, snatches, gives orders, sends, thinks forbids, prevents, and appoints, all very person-like things.

**The Holy Spirit is God.** Pastor Carl nailed that a few weeks ago.

**The Holy Spirit is a Continuation of Christ.** There's a reason that Jesus says in John 14:16, "I will ask the Father, and he will give you **ANOTHER** Counselor." It's because the Spirit's role on Earth is to pick up where Jesus left off.... All over the earth... at the same time.

**The Holy Spirit is our most INTIMATE CONNECTION to the Trinity.** Both in **Proximity and in Consistency** if that makes sense. It is to our advantage that Jesus left because he was only in one place at one time (I'm not going to put limits on Him and say that he couldn't have been, but that's another message for another day). It is to our advantage that we have the Spirit because He literally **dwells in us (proximity)**, He's with **us ALWAYS (consistency)**. Psalm 139 asks, "where can I go from your spirit?" And Jesus promises at the end of Matthew, "And Surely I am with you ALWAYS."

What does the Spirit do? The Spirit does a number of things that I already mentioned, but mainly, he **points us towards Christ**. We'll take a look at that in this next section.

**Flip forward to Acts, chapter 1**, where we see the early believers awaiting the coming of the Spirit.

Before Jesus is taken up into heaven, he tells them...

<sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> For John baptized with<sup>[a]</sup> water, but in a few days you will be baptized with<sup>[b]</sup> the Holy Spirit."

And continues in verse 8, "<sup>8</sup> 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."

<sup>9</sup> After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight."

The rest of that chapter describes a few instances where the believers were gathered together and **praying, seeking God's will, preparing themselves, and anxiously awaiting the Spirit's arrival**

Flip over to **Acts Chapter 2**.

<sup>2</sup> When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup> Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. <sup>4</sup> All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues<sup>[a]</sup> as the Spirit enabled them.

What an amazing display! I **read this section** to the students one Sunday, along with several other sections of Scripture where God reveals himself, and asked them what they all had in common.

**LOUD NOISES, LOTS OF FIRE!!!**

It was a great display, and had a profound effect on the people, IMMEDIATELY!

**Look no further than PETER** to see the drastic difference the Spirit made. Just a few short chapters ago, he **followed up his promise to Jesus that he would lay down his life for him with his triplicate denial.**

What's he like now? Verse 14-39 summarize his standing up and telling all onlookers the **entirety of the Gospel.** He boldly refers them to the OT where the **Spirit is promised,** and boldly tells them that the **Spirit of the Almighty God is here.** He boldly tells them that Jesus, you know, that guy ya'll just killed, yeah, He was the **Son of God. Repent! He exclaims, and you too can be filled with his Spirit.**

WOW!! **Big turnaround for the Big Fella!** And what made the difference for Peter? The difference in which he went from denying Christ to Proclaiming Christ? **He was FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT!**

So what does the Spirit do? If you flip in your swords to Galatians 5, we can find these things.

1. The **Spirit Gives us NEW LIFE. (V.24-25)**
  - a. **Ephesians 2:1** tells us that we were dead in our sins
  - b. John 3:3 Jesus explains that no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born again. Born of the Spirit.
  - c. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new Creation; the old has gone, the new has come!
  - d. So the Spirit gives us NEW LIFE
2. The **Spirit BEARS FRUIT in us. (V. 22-23)**
  - a. Notice I said fruit, not fruits! We don't pick and choose. The fruit is the Character of the Christ. The Holy Spirit works to make us more like Christ, we don't choose love joy and peace but forget that Patience stuff, I WANT IT NOW!
  - b. The fruit of the Spirit will be talked about more in 2 weeks
3. The **Spirit Leads us TOWARDS CHRIST (V.18)**
  - a. We just covered that
  - b. He is a continuation of Christ and works to build His character in us.
4. The **Spirit PURIFIES US** from the inside out. (V.16-17)
  - a. Again the Spirit's goal is sanctification.
  - b. If we live by the Spirit, we will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature

So that's who the Spirit is, why he came, and what he does... So how do we respond?

How do we become filled with the Holy Spirit? Notice I didn't say, "How do we get the Holy Spirit?" If we have invited Christ in our hearts, we have the Spirit.

Being FILLED with the Spirit is something different. **Picture a cup of water** filled to the brim. That cup has water in it, just like we believers have the Spirit. **But if you keep filling the cup with more water, the cup is constantly being filled** and the water will just flow over into all the surroundings. Similarly, those who are constantly **being filled with the Spirit will end up all wet and spilling the Spirit all over the place. Get it?**

Also note that being filled with the Spirit isn't an additive. It's not like adding cream and sugar, and it's not like having a second helping of the Spirit.

**Being Filled with the Holy Spirit is the next step of spiritual maturity, constantly deciding to continue the process of sanctification by the Spirit making us more like Christ.**

So How to we do it?

**1. Present our bodies as LIVING SACRIFICES**

a. Rom 12:1 urges us to do this.

**2. ASK to be Filled**

a. Luke 11:9-11... Ask, Seek, Knock... He's gonna take you up on it.

**3. Respond with OBEDIENCE**

a. Walking by the Spirit is an active process.

**4. Have Faith**

a. Bruce Main

**b. See what a difference the Spirit made in Peter's life? He can do the same for you**