

June 29, 2003
AM Service
Patchogue Church of the Nazarene

“Filled With The Holy Spirit” (Part 2) Acts 2

In Acts 1:8 (NIV) we see that Jesus had promised His followers: “... you will receive *power* when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my *witnesses*....”

I Power and Witnesses

1. “Power” to do mighty works beyond our own abilities. Power to be “DY-NO-MITE” Christians! (The Greek word gives us our word for dynamite). Are you a “ho –hum” Christian or a “DY-NO-MITE!” Christian?
2. “Witnesses” is someone who has given His life for what he believes (The Greek word give us our word of martyr).

Jesus promised that we would receive mighty power to witness for Him with our lips and our lives. Our life, lived in holiness, righteousness – doing what is right, and love will witness of the reality of Jesus. And when we speak about Jesus our words will have power.

Acts 2:1-13 NLT

On the day of Pentecost, seven weeks after Jesus' resurrection, the believers were meeting together in one place. 2 Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm in the skies above them, and it filled the house where they were meeting. 3 Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. 4 And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability.

II Filled and Spoke

And so two things happen: They were filled and they had power for witnessing as they spoke about the wonderful things God had done.

1. “Filled”: even those who did not understand knew they were filled. They thought they were filled with alcohol, which was incorrect, but they knew they were filled with something. Peter corrects them. He says that they are not drunk but that what people were seeing was the promise of God spoken through the prophet Joel being fulfilled (v17): ‘In the last days, God said, I will pour out my Spirit upon all people...’
“Upon *all* people” that includes *you*!
2. Peter, filled with the Spirit spoke with power about the wonderful things God has done.

III How You Can Be Filled (To Have Power to Witnesses for Christ):

We initially receive the Holy Spirit when we accept Jesus that is:

1. When you confess/admit you have sinned (done things that go against the will of God), and because of that Jesus was put to death to take the punishment for your sin, and
2. Believe He was raised from the dead so that He can forgive your sin, and
3. If you will ask Him to forgive you because you are willing to turn from your sin (repent) and
4. Be baptized or publicly profess that you are now a follower of Jesus,
5. Then you will be forgiven and you will receive the Holy Spirit as a gift.

In other words everyone who receives Jesus receives the Holy Spirit the moment they put their faith in Jesus. But the Bible speaks of people being filled with the Holy Spirit again and again.

Peter was filled on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2) but in Acts 4:8- it says that ... Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, (spoke) to (the) Rulers and elders of the people!

And Acts 4:31 says of the disciples who were filled in Acts 2 that 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.

Saul whose name was changed to Paul had an encounter with Jesus (beginning of Acts 9) and in Acts 9:17 we read - 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."

Yet, in Acts 13:9 - Then Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked straight at Elymas and said, ...

So those who received the Holy Spirit when they believed in Jesus are said at times after that initial filling to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

As a matter of fact Paul taught that we are to be continually being filled with the Holy Spirit.

Eph 5:15-18 NLT

15 So be careful how you live, not as fools but as those who are wise. 16 Make the most of every opportunity for doing good in these evil days. 17 Don't act thoughtlessly, but try to understand what the Lord wants you to do. 18 Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, let the Holy Spirit fill and control you.

Now I was never good in grammar when I was in school, but I've learned that the continuous present tense is used here when it says, "let the Holy Spirit fill and control you." The "continuous present." That means it is as if Paul is saying, "let the Holy Spirit perpetually, continually, always fill you. Let it be your constant condition. Paul is commanding them (it is a command not an option) to keep on being filled with the Spirit. How? In a similar way you first received the Spirit:

1. Confess, admit and be willing to turn from any known sin in your life.
2. Be willing to allow the Spirit to fill, influence and control your life. Paul says don't get drunk ... Instead, let the Holy Spirit fill and control you. When someone is filled with alcohol we say they are under the influence. The alcohol controls or influences their body, mind and will or what they think, say and do. We need to commit ourselves to God allowing His Spirit to influence and control all we think, say and do.
3. Ask God to fill you. (Luke 11:13 Jesus said - If 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!). This asking must be sincere.
4. Believe that He fills you
5. Don't grieve the Holy Spirit but obey all you know He wants you to do.

Be filled because God commands it and it is the only way you can be a victorious Christian – not just “ho-hum” but “DY-NO-MITE!”

IV Wind, Fire and Power

1. There was wind on the day of Pentecost. Not just a slight breeze. Acts 2:2 says there was “a sound like the blowing of a violent wind (that) came from heaven ...” (NLT) “there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm.” It was not a little breeze it was more like a hurricane or a tornado. Have you ever seen what a hurricane or tornado does to the place where people live? It rearranges the furniture to say the least. That is what we need – something that will come in and rearrange our life.
2. And there was fire, which is another symbol of the Holy Spirit. Think of what fire does. Fire cleanses, fire makes something pure by burning away impurities, and fire is a source of power.
3. And they spoke in other languages. Without getting into a debate about speaking in tongues let's focus on the main point that these people were able to do something they normally could not do. Ordinary men and women had supernatural power to do and say things that were beyond their natural abilities. Before Pentecost the disciples deserted Jesus, denied knowing Him, they doubted and they were fearful. Something supernatural empowered them and changed them and there was no human explanation for it.
4. On the day of Pentecost there was wind, fire and the ability to speak with power and to speak in languages of the people present even though the language had never been learned or spoken by the disciples before. But what I want to focus on are not these things but on the truth that “something supernatural came from heaven and invaded men and women on earth, changing them forever”(Jim Cymbala, *Fresh Power*). Do we really understand the implications of this that we can be and must be continually “filled with the Holy Spirit?” The Holy Spirit is God! Therefore we are filled with God Himself! Think about that for a moment - God in you. Filled with all the fullness of God Himself. The Bible says that we are the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 6:19- Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own). The word temple is the same word used in the OT for

the Holy of Holies. The holiest place in the temple where only the high priest could enter once a year on the Day of Atonement. God is holy and He commands us to be holy also. Sin keeps us from a holy God. But Jesus, our High priest, has made atonement for our sins once and for all so that we have become the place where God dwells. God wants to fill you with Himself, the Holy Spirit, giving you power to be holy, righteous, loving, power to witness with your lips and with your life of the power, presence and reality of God. He wants to invade your life and do things in and through you that you would never dream would be possible, and would not be without the Holy Spirit.

The experience was not meant only for the people on the day of Pentecost never to happen again. (Acts 2:39) Peter tells us that "The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off-for all whom the Lord our God will call." Therefore you can be filled with all the fullness of God. Dynamite! This is our need for today. This is the need of the church for today. Whatever need you have right now for healing physical, emotional, and/or spiritual. Whatever your prayer is right now the answer is to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Counseling might help you, reading a book might help you other things you may be doing might help you but the main thing you need - and if you had this you may not need any of these other things – is to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Now you know there is a Holy Spirit. Now you know you can be filled with the Holy Spirit. So the question is are you filled?

1. Confess and turn from any known sin in your life.
2. Ask God to fill you
3. Believe that He fills you
4. Let the Spirit influence and control your life.
5. Don't grieve the Holy Spirit but obey all you know He wants you to do.