

1 Spirit-Filled Life

- The How-to's for a Spirit Filled Life

2 Review

- In the last few sermons, I've stressed the importance of receiving the “promise of the father,” which is the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.
- It is an empowerment:
 - For holy living,
 - For effective ministry and witness,
 - The ability to discern all things as the other Counselor leads and guides us into all truth.
- While it is a Free Gift, received by faith . . .
 - One must ask, seek, and knock . . .
 - Be 100% committed to loving God by obeying His commandments.

3 Review

- When we are filled with the Holy Spirit.
 - We can expect “rivers of living water” to flow out from inside us to others.
 - Operation of at least one spiritual gift for the good of the body.
 - Attacks from the enemy:
 - To discourage us through trials.
 - Where we sin against the Lord.
 - Where we spiritually leak and the “river” inside us runs dry.
 - Where we seek to do ministry and holy living in our own strength, fail, and then give up.

4 Review

- Be very careful, then, how you live — not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil {full of trials and temptations}. (Ephesians 5:15–16 NIV)
- In other words, we need to be careful with all our choices. Why?
 - Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. (1 Peter 5:8 NIV)
 - I left out the first part of verse 8, does anyone know what it says?
 - Be self-controlled and alert. (1 Peter 5:8 NIV)
- So then, if we are careful, alert, and self-controlled—making wise choices in how we live, we can expect the Spirit's fire to keep burning brightly in our lives.

5 The Devil

- As you all know, the best way to deal with the devil is to compromise your walk so that you won't be a big target. Right?

- Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. (James 4:7 NIV)
 - Submit to God
 - Resist the devil
 - The devil won't walk away, but RUN!
- In other words, if we serve God and don't give in to the temptations of the devil during trials, the devil will leave us alone.
- But if we make foolish choices and act unwisely—compromising our walk with the Lord, the devil will move in and make his home in our house.
- Then instead of peace in our homes, we'll have strife, confusion, and all kinds of trouble because when the devil knocked on the door, we opened it.

6 The Secret

- The secret to Holy Spirit living and power is in our relationship with God.
- Since God is holy, the devil seeks to make us unholy whereby God's goodness and grace is frustrated, hindered, or stopped.
- “Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you.” “I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.” (2 Corinthians 6:17-18 NIV)
- And what does the very next verse say? Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God. (2 Corinthians 7:1 NIV)

7 Function of Priest

- The Lord said to Arron, You must distinguish between the holy and the common, between the unclean and the clean, and you must teach the Israelites . . . (Leviticus 10:10-11 NIV)
- They (priests) are to teach my people the difference between the holy and the common and show them how to distinguish between the unclean and the clean. (Ezekiel 44:23 NIV)
- So were Israel's priests faithful?
 - Her priests do violence to my law and profane my holy things; they do not distinguish between the holy and the common; they teach that there is no difference between the unclean and the clean; . . . so that I am profaned among them. (Ezekiel 22:26 NIV)

8 Question

- “This is what the LORD Almighty says: ‘Ask the priests what the law says: If a person carries consecrated meat in the fold of his garment, and that fold touches some bread or stew, some wine, oil or other food, does it become consecrated?’” The priests answered, “No.” (Haggai 2:11–12 NIV)
- Then Haggai said, “If a person defiled by contact with a dead body touches one of these things, does it become defiled?” “Yes,” the priests replied, “it becomes defiled.” (Haggai 2:13 NIV)
- So what’s the point?
 - That which is holy can’t make common things holy.
 - That which is holy is defiled, if it touches something that is unclean.
 - In other words, our faith and walk with the Lord can be defiled by making unwise or foolish choices.
 - Since it is the Holy Spirit we are receiving, we must be Holy vessels.

9 Observation

- It seems to me, too many people today are seeking to be Spirit-filled, without seeking to be fully consecrated to the Lord and be holy.
- Instead, we copy the pagans and use shamanistic practices and principles to induce a form of spiritual intoxication that is neither biblical or holy.
- Just because someone “shakes” and “quakes” doesn’t necessarily mean it is the Holy Spirit or even a demonic spirit.
- It could very well be the manipulation of our own spirit by exerting stress upon our bodies through mysticism.
- Some of the favorite techniques of the pagans are the use of potions (drugs), extreme fasting, cutting, exposure to cold, denial of sleep, prolonged chanting, ritualistic prayer, and twilling, hoping, or some sort of dancing—to bring about disorientation.
- This is all done to invoke a trance, or “out-of-body” experience that puts them in contact with the spirit world, so they can gain knowledge on how to manipulate it for themselves.

10 Unclean

- I am the LORD your God; consecrate yourselves and be holy, because I am holy. Do not make yourselves unclean . . . (Leviticus 11:44 NIV)
- However, according to the New Testament many defiled and made themselves unclean. How did they do that?
 - Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many. (Hebrews 12:14–15 NIV)
- So what happens when we allow bitter root judgments to occur in our lives?

- They cause trouble . . .
- They defile us and cause us to be unclean . . .
- Where the Holy Spirit's power and grace is frustrated in our lives.

11 Grieve Not

- Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. (Ephesians 4:30 NIV)
 - Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths (Ephesians 4:29 NIV)
 - Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. (Ephesians 4:31 NIV)
 - Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. (Ephesians 4:32 NIV)
 - But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. (Ephesians 5:3 NIV)

12 Grieve Not

- Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. (Ephesians 5:4 NIV)
- For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) (Ephesians 5:8-9 NIV)
- Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. (Ephesians 5:11-12 NIV)
- Be very careful, then, how you live — not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. (Ephesians 5:15-16 NIV)

13 The Secret

- The secret of having effective ministry where God's presence and power is in our marriages, families, and church is in us being filled to overflowing with the Spirit of living God.
- The secret of a Spirit-filled life is in our relationship with the LORD.
- The secret to our relationship with the LORD is in us being holy.
- The secret to us being holy is simply emulating the attributes of His character and nature —being like Him in all we say and do.

14 2 Timothy 2:20-21

- In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for noble purposes and some for ignoble.

- If a man cleanses himself from the latter, he will be an instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.
- So how are we to make ourselves useful and ready for the Master?
- So if we want to be used by God for important missions, what should we do?
- So what is the key or secret to being used by God?

== In Filling . . .

- Signs of a Spirit-filled person is not just that they they have gifts, but that they also have fruit. So let us ask the following questions.
 - Do I love those around me, including my enemies?
 - Do I have inner joy, regardless of my circumstances?
 - Do I have inner peace?
 - Am I patient (long-suffering) in my circumstances?
 - Would those around think of me as kind?
 - Would goodness be a quality that describes me?
 - Do I live a faith-filled life?
 - How do I treat those around me, am I gentle, mean or indifferent?
 - Do I have self-control over my flesh, or does it control me?

15 How To Be Filled

- Fully consecrate ourselves as holy before the Lord and avoid doing anything that would grieve the Holy Spirit of God. God desires to fill clean vessels.
- Recognize our need. Without the Holy Spirit in our lives, we're powerless and lack the guidance that only God can provide.
- The Spirit baptism is not something we ask for once, but should be something we ask for and expect to receive repeatedly.
- So then let us be careful how we live and seek, ask, and knock, so that the door of God's divine power can be released in our lives.

16 In a Battle

- Some of us are dealing with major battles in our lives and the only solution is for us to surrender our lives to the Holy Spirit and let Him take control.
- However, the Holy Spirit will never do something for us that we are unwilling to do ourselves.
- The Holy Spirit gives us power to do what we know we need to do.
- Which of the following show that we have surrendered our lives to the Holy Spirit?
 - “Lord change my spouse, then I'll be nice to them.”
 - “Lord make me a better spouse.”

- “Lord as I step forward to be a better spouse give me guidance and the power to succeed.”

17 Be Filled . . .

- In his recent book, Living in the Spirit, George O. Wood the general superintendent of the U.S. Assemblies of God said . . .
 - “Each of us needs revival and frequent refillings.
 - Our experiences with God in the past are not going to sustain us for the future.”
 - “We need to examine our hearts and shore-up our commitment to the Lord and seek the fulness of the Spirit so that we can bring witness of God’s power to save.”

18 More Lord!