

ONE message. people. mission.



Be Filled with the Spirit

Various

Overview

- **Who is the Holy Spirit?**
 - A Person
 - Acts 13:2 uses personal pronouns “Me” and “I” for the Spirit
 - Jesus calls the Spirit “he” and “him” in John 15, 16
 - A Divine Person
 - To lie to the Holy Spirit is to lie to God (Acts 5:3-4)
 - The Holy Spirit speaking is equated to God speaking (Acts 28:25)
 - The Holy Spirit is omniscient (1 Cor. 2:10-11), omnipresent (Ps. 139:7-8), and eternal (Heb. 9:14)
 - A Distinct Person
 - As Christians we believe in one God who eternally exists as three distinct persons— Father, Son, and Spirit—who are each fully and equally God in eternal relation with each other
 - Matthew 28 & 2 Corinthians 13 list Spirit right alongside Father & Son
 - The Father is the grand architect, the Son is the agent that carries everything out, and the Spirit applies the work of the Father and Son to our hearts and minds
- **What Does the Holy Spirit Do?**
 - Most foundationally, at the bottom of everything the Spirit does, the Spirit glorifies the Son (cf. Acts 1:8; John 16:14)
 - He does this at the birth of Jesus (Luke 1)
 - He does this in the ministry of Jesus (Luke 4:1-2, 14-15)
 - He does this in the church of Jesus (i.e. book of Acts)
 - He glorifies Jesus through:
 - Revelation of the Scriptures (Acts 1:16, 4:25; cf. 2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pt. 1:16-21) which are about Jesus (Acts 8:35; 10:43; cf. Luke 24:24-27)
 - Regeneration and Sanctification of Sinners (Acts 9:17-18; cf. 2 Cor. 4:4-6; 2 Cor. 3:18)
 - Empowering the Saints
- **What Does it Mean to Be Filled with the Spirit?**
 - It is not:
 - Meaning that some Christians have the Spirit and others don't (Rom. 8:9; 2 Cor. 12:13)
 - A secondary experience (i.e. baptism of the Spirit)
 - A one time event (Acts 2:4; 4:8; 4:31)
 - So to be filled with the Spirit is to be filled with knowledge of, praise for and delight in Jesus

- Being filled with the Spirit is not about you or some personalized existential religious experience; it's about God working through you for the glory of Jesus
- The filling of the Spirit comes not for personal gain, but Kingdom growth
- **How are We Filled with the Spirit?**
 - Notice that this is passive, we are filled, or being filled with the Spirit; we do not go fill ourselves with the Spirit
 - Through Prayer (Lk. 11:13; Acts 2:4; 4:31; 9:17-18)
 - Through the Word (Eph. 5:18; John 7:37-38; 1 Cor. 2:10-14)
- **What are the Results of Being Filled with the Spirit?**
 - Galatians 5 lists the fruit of the Spirit
 - Those who are full of the Spirit speak God's Word boldly (Acts 2; 4:8; 4:31; 9:20; 18:25)
 - Those who are full of the Spirit pursue unity in diversity - the church is bound together not by ethnicity, occupation, music style, or any other agenda other than the very thing that birthed them, the Spirit of God testifying to the work of Christ

Questions

Discussion starter: Why do you think the Holy Spirit is so often clouded in mystery and even misunderstanding?

1. Where in the book of Acts (or elsewhere) do we see the personhood and deity of the Spirit taught?
2. Why is it important that we understand and embrace both the personhood and deity of the Holy Spirit?
3. What is the danger in not having a biblical understanding of what the Spirit does?
4. According to Acts 1:8 and John 16:14, what's the primary role of the Holy Spirit?
5. What does this teach us about humility?
6. What implications does this have on the way we go about 'doing' church?
7. Read 2 Corinthians 3:18. How does the Spirit go about changing/sanctifying us? Why is it important to understand the Spirit does it this way? How is this drastically different from 'religion'?
8. Read Acts 2:4, 4:8, and 4:31. What's significant about all these passages indicating Peter and the disciples were filled with the Spirit multiple times? What's the implication for our lives and ministry?
9. Read Luke 11:13 (cf. Acts 2:4; 4:31; 9:17-18) and Ephesians 5:18. What means are we to use to be filled with the Spirit?
10. Every time the book of Acts mentions someone is filled with the Spirit, it's directly related to kingdom growth, not personal gain. How does this differ with the common view of being filled with the Spirit today? What does this tell us about our desires when we ask to be filled with the Spirit?
11. Over and over in the book of Acts, those filled with the Spirit boldly proclaim the gospel (cf. Acts 2; 4; 7; 9; 18) and pursue unity in diversity. How does this encourage and/or challenge you? What's the implication for our church as a whole?

Accountability Question: Is your desire to be filled with the Spirit more focused on personal gain or for kingdom growth?