

## “What Does it Mean to be Filled with the Holy Spirit?”

**The Ministry of the Spirit**

May 31, 2026

"Three crucial decades in world history. That is all it took. In the years between AD 33 and 64 a new movement was born. In those thirty years it got sufficient growth and credibility to become the largest religion the world has ever seen and to change the lives of hundreds of millions of people. It has spread into every corner of the globe and has more than two billion putative adherents. It has had an indelible impact on civilization, on culture, on education, on medicine, on freedom and of course on the lives of countless people worldwide. And the seedbed for all this, the time when it took decisive root, was in these decades. It all began with a dozen men and a handful of women: and then the Spirit came." **Michael Green**, "Thirty Years that Changed the World", p. 9

...the GLOBAL Impact of Christianity!!

"...if you're a Westerner—whether you've stepped foot inside a church or not, whether you've clapped eyes on a Bible or not, whether you consider yourself an atheist, pagan or Jedi Knight—you are a goldfish, and Christianity is the water in which you swim. ...we depend on values and goals—and ways of thinking about values and goals—that have been deeply and distinctively shaped by the Jesus-revolution (otherwise known as "Christianity"). These values are now so all-pervasive that we consider them to be universal, obvious and natural: the air we breathe." **Glen Scrivener**, "The Air We Breathe - How We All Came to Believe in Freedom, Kindness, Progress, and Equality", p. 3-4

...The Forces of Opposition!

...The "Strange Appeal" of the Christian Message

**"If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."**  
(Lk 9:23)

?? - WHO Wants ANY of These? ...this is the Worst Sales Brochure EVER!!

Rom 8:23-25 ...we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup> For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? <sup>25</sup> But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Heb 11:1, 32-33, 35-40 <sup>1</sup> Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ...<sup>32</sup> And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—<sup>33</sup> who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, ... Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. <sup>36</sup> Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. <sup>37</sup> They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated—<sup>38</sup> of whom the world was not worthy—wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. <sup>39</sup> And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, <sup>40</sup> since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

?? - Seriously! You're going to take THIS around the world and sell it to human beings??  
...Have You Met These Creatures??

**2 Tim 3:1-4** <sup>1</sup> But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. <sup>2</sup> For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents,

ungrateful, unholy, <sup>3</sup> heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, <sup>4</sup> treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

...**WHY Would Anyone Want THIS? ...How can anyone explain that THIS would Grip the Whole World!??**

"It all began with a dozen men and a handful of women: and then the Spirit came." **Michael Green**

[SGC Statement of Faith]

## 10. The Empowering Ministry of the Spirit

### The Filling of the Spirit

When Christ ascended, he poured out the Holy Spirit on the church, ushering in a greater experience of God's presence and power among his people.<sup>[1]</sup> The Spirit transforms hearts by the miracle of regeneration<sup>[2]</sup> and indwells all believers in abundant, new covenant measure.<sup>[3]</sup> The Spirit also desires to fill God's people continually with increased power for Christian life and witness.<sup>[4]</sup> To be filled with the Spirit is to be more fully under his influence<sup>[5]</sup> more aware of his presence<sup>[6]</sup> and more effective in his service.<sup>[7]</sup> All Christians, therefore, must continually seek to be filled with the Spirit<sup>[8]</sup> by living and praying in such a way that invites the Spirit's work among us, actively longing for God to accomplish his gracious purposes in us and through us. The filling of the Spirit brings to God's people a deeper knowledge of Christ,<sup>[9]</sup> an increased desire for holiness,<sup>[10]</sup> a stronger commitment to unity and love, a greater fruitfulness in ministry, and a deeper gratitude for our salvation.<sup>[11]</sup>

**...You Simply Cannot Describe or Explain or Begin to Understand this Global and Personal and Ongoing Activity in this world—w/o an understanding of The Ministry of the Spirit!!**

"...in this book I want to address a question that I think is commonly in the minds of Christian people when they read the Acts of the Apostles: what can we learn from these people who turned the world upside down in so short a space of time? ...Who were these people who so changed the face of society? What did they preach? ...How did they live? What can we learn from the way they founded churches, from their pastoral care, from their idea of discipleship, their prayer, their priorities? ...What about the Holy Spirit, who was so clearly a vibrant reality in their advance? What about the spiritual gifts that seemed so normal a part of the life of the early church?" **Michael Green**, "Thirty Years that Changed the World", p. 8

It all began with a dozen men and a handful of women: and then the Spirit came." **Michael Green**

...**Acts 1 ... becomes Acts 2:14** "But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them" ...**then, Acts 4:1-8**

"We read of the Spirit coming upon these men assembled on the Day of Pentecost at Jerusalem; and at once you see the difference that made to them. The Peter who in a craven spirit had denied his Lord, in order to save his own life, is now filled with boldness and great assurance. He is able to expound the Scriptures in an authoritative manner and to speak with such mighty effect that three thousand are converted under his preaching." **Martin Lloyd-Jones**, "Preaching and Preachers", p. 308

Acts 2:37, 41 "Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, 'Brothers what shall we do?' ...41 So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls."

Acts 4:4 "But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand."

Acts 4:8. "Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit..."

...**It seems that this being "filled with the Holy Spirit" was a BIG DEAL!** and they will KEEP ON NEEDING it!

...**Acts 4:23-31** ...and This Filling gave way to—**Acts 4:32-33** (overflowing generosity; "great power and great grace")

**the "DEACONS" will need to be full of the Spirit—Acts 6:3** "brothers, pick out among you seven men of good repute, full of the spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty."

**STEPHEN will need to be full of the Spirit to preach in the face of death!—Acts 7:55** "But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God."

**PAUL will need to be filled with the Spirit to fulfill his calling—Acts 9:17**

**ANTIOCH - The Church's first steps of global expansion will need the Holy Spirit—Acts 13:2-3**

...**NOTICE: The Day of Pentecost was NOT a "One-and-Done" Experience!**

"Here I must call attention to a further point which I feel we also tend to miss. This 'accession of power', or if you prefer it, this 'effusion of power' upon Christian preachers is not something 'once for all'; it can be repeated and repeated many many times." **Martin Lloyd-Jones**, "Preaching and Preachers", p. 308

"If baptism is the initial experience, fullness should be the continual state of Christians, though all too often it is not. Those who are real Christians are never told to be baptized in the Spirit. That has already happened. But they are told to be filled with the Spirit. On the day of Pentecost the disciples were both baptized and filled with the Spirit. The baptism was complete, unrepeatable and inalienable. But the filling could be both lost and regained. The distinction is important. You and I can resist the Spirit of God (Acts 7:51). We can grieve the Spirit (Eph 4:30). But when we return, in repentance, trust and obedience, we can be filled afresh with the Holy Spirit. I have been filled hundreds of times, and hundreds of times I have run dry. This is not a once-and-for-all experience, but a constant offer from a generous, renewing God." **Michael Greene**, "30 Years that Changed the World", p. 257

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## 10. The Empowering Ministry of the Spirit

### The Filling of the Spirit

The Spirit also desires to fill God's people continually with increased power for Christian life and witness.<sup>[4]</sup> To be filled with the Spirit is to be more fully under his influence<sup>[5]</sup> more aware of his presence<sup>[6]</sup> and more effective in his service.<sup>[7]</sup>

..."continually" ..."increased power" ... "more fully under ..."more aware" ..."more effective"

-- This, for me, is one of The MOST IMPORTANT implications to the concept of being "Spirit Filled"!! ...It's current, continuing, ongoing nature!

-- My previous dynamic experiences are not as important as my current exchange with the Spirit!

"...if Luke was asked what determined and characterized Christianity or the Church he would probably say that those who are part of it are people of the Spirit: they have had, and continue to have, experiences of the Spirit of God that are ecstatic and obvious." **Graham Twelftree**, "People of the Spirit - Exploring Luke's View of the Church", p. 208

... thus, "Continuationists" need to be people who don't just believe that somewhere on earth, the Spirit's manifestations 'could' continue to happen—no, they are seeking to have those experiences 'continue' in their own life!

"What is meant by this 'unction or anointing' of the Spirit? ...let me put a question to all preachers. Do you always look for and seek this unction, this anointing before preaching? Has this been your greatest concern? There is no more thorough and revealing test to apply to a preacher. ...What is this? It is the Holy Spirit falling upon the preacher in a special manner. It is an access of power. It is God giving power, and enabling, through the Spirit, to the preacher in order that he may do this work in a manner that lifts it up beyond the efforts and endeavours of a man to a position in which the preacher is being used by the Spirit and becomes the channel through whom the Spirit works." **Martin Lloyd-Jones**, "Preaching and Preachers" p. 305

## MINISTRY

...N.T. Examples of "Life's Activities" that are Associated w/ the Filling of the Holy Spirit:

- Courage & Boldness in the face of threats and fears (Acts 2, 4)
- Anointed preaching and ministry (Acts 2, 3, 4)
- Abundant Generosity & Support (Acts 2, 4)
- Serving the needs of the body of Christ (Acts 6)
- Direction and decision making (Acts 13)

**\*\* Installing "Liturgy" for this "Spirit-Filling Dynamic" ...Acts 1&2 prayer/waiting posture ...Acts 4's prayer gathering ...Acts 9&19 laying on of hands (Paul, Ephesians Disciples)**

### **"I need to be filled with the Spirit"**

- ...because of intruding fear!
- ...because I lack "courage & confidence" in the things God has called me to!
- ...because of the season/setting I am entering in God's purpose?
- ...because of a need for anointing in something I need to speak/minister to another (personal ministry, counseling, church ministry setting, etc.)