

"How to be Filled with the Holy Spirit"

The Ministry of the Spirit

June 7, 2026

INTRO... a Passive and an Active Posture

Acts 1:8 "You will RECEIVE power, when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you WILL BE my WITNESSES..."

It is Biblically appropriate for us to SEE both the "God-side" of this matter ...&... the "Human-side" of this matter. [there is a "PASSIVE-Posture" and an "ACTIVE-Posture" for us in "The Ministry of the Spirit"]

We may define God's providence as follows: God is continually involved with all created things in such a way that he (1) keeps them existing and maintaining the properties with which he created them; (2) cooperates with created things in every action, directing their distinctive properties to cause them to act as they do; and (3) directs them to fulfill his purposes. ... The decrees of God are the eternal plans of God whereby, before the creation of the world, he determined to bring about everything that happens. ... We may sometimes forget that God works through human actions in his providential management of the world. If we do, then we begin to think that our actions and our choices do not make much difference or do not have much effect on the course of events. ... God has made us responsible for our actions, which have real and eternally significant results." **Wayne Grudem** (Systematic Theology, 2nd Ed. – Chap. 16)

God's Original (& Ongoing) Purpose — Seeing the Creation Mandate through the Lens of "Divine Purpose & Human Participation"

Gen 1:26ff ...a purpose that God has designed MAN for!

Acts 1:8; Matt 28:18-19 ...New Covenant Creation Mandate ... God intends to "Fill Us with His Spirit" and then to "Fill the Earth with His Glory"!! ...THAT's "Divine Design"

Thus, since the indwelling, animating, energizing and empowering life of the Spirit in and through us is ESSENTIAL to God's Purpose—It must be a priority that we learn how to be "Spirit-Filled"

The How-To's of Church History

...The dawn of the "deeper life" (holiness movement => Deeper Life movement => Keswick movement & Pentecostal revival) (Andrew Murray, A.T. Pierson, R.A. Torrey, Hudson Taylor, A.B. Simpson, A.W. Tozer)

- 1600's – 1700's ...a time of Spiritual dullness, distance, stagnation, moral decay, formalism
- 1730-1740 ... The 1st Great Awakening (John Wesley, George Whitfield, Jonathan Edwards)
- Late 1700's to 1900 ... **Greater "EXPERIENTIAL" Emphasis** (D.L. Moody, A.B. Simpson, Charles Spurgeon, Andrew Murray, Hudson Taylor, A.T. Pierson, R.A. Torrey)

"HOW MAY WE BE FILLED? 1. We must be empty. ...we must be empty before we can be filled. God cannot speak His messages into full ears. The Holy Ghost cannot pour His fullness into those who are already full." ..."The heart must be emptied of self and the world, before it can be filled with Jesus and the Holy Ghost. Probably each of us is as full as we can hold, because the places God does not fill are crammed with something else and God finds no room." **A.B. Simpson**, "The A.B. Simpson Collection", p. 1525, 66

"D. L. Moody used to take a glass of water for an empty glass and fill it and then ask, "How can that be filled, how could I fill that with milk and how could I fill that glass?" The obvious answer is, you got to empty it. Then Moody would pour it out into another vessel as an object lesson. There must be an emptying and detachment from the interests of life. Most of us are too concerned with life." **A.W. Tozer**, "The Mystery of the Holy Spirit", p. 101

"Empty vessels! Remember this. Emptiness is eligibility. ... Again I remind you that you must be emptied of self in all forms before Divine Grace can fill you." **Charles Spurgeon**, "The Filling of Empty Vessels" (Spurgeon's Sermons, The Complete Set (63 Vols.))

"And what are now the conditions of this fulness of the Spirit? ...All filling needs emptying. ...The first condition of all filling is emptiness. What is a reservoir but a great hollow, a great emptiness prepared, waiting, thirsting, crying for the water to come? Any true abiding fulness of the Spirit is preceded by emptying. 'I sought the blessing long and earnestly,' said one, 'and I wondered why it did not come. At last I found it was because there was no room in my heart to receive it.' ...A surrender, in poverty of spirit to wait on the Lord in His great mercy and power, 'according to the riches of His glory, to strengthen us mightily by His Spirit in the inner man.' A great longing, thirsting, waiting, crying, a praying without ceasing for the Father to fulfil His promise in us, and take full possession of us within. Such an emptying is on the way to the filling." **Andrew Murray**, "Filled with the Spirit"

"Whatever else Keswick's teaching may have gotten wrong, it was not wrong to say to all Christians that there is more joy, more peace, more love, more power, and more fruit to be enjoyed in Christ than we are presently enjoying. ... Any view of the Christian life that does not promote the desire for, and the pursuit of, this inexpressible fullness—this more—is as defective as the view that says its usual way of coming is through a single crisis experience of full consecration." **John Piper**, (quoted in "No Quick Fix - Where Higher Life Theology Came from, What it is, and Why It's Harmful" by Andy Naselli)

[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.^[1] The Spirit transforms hearts by the miracle of regeneration^[2] and indwells all believers in abundant, new covenant measure.^[3] The Spirit also desires to fill God's people continually with increased power for Christian life and witness.^[4] **To be filled with the Spirit is to be more fully under his influence^[5] more aware of his presence^[6] and more effective in his service.^[7] All Christians, therefore, must continually seek to be filled with the Spirit^[8] 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,^[9] an increased desire for holiness,^[10] a stronger commitment to unity and love, a greater fruitfulness in ministry, and a deeper gratitude for our salvation.^[11]

The Emptying of the Ultimate Man

Php 2 ...The great kenosis ...Observing the pattern of God Filling Emptied Spaces!!

CONTEXT: ... "the advance of the Gospel" (1:12) ... "disunified ministry/ unworthy manner of life" (1:15, 27) ...the Remedy (chap. 2)

v. 1 ... "any participation in the Spirit" ...what a great phrase!

- o **Gk. Koinonia** – partnership; participation; communication; communion; fellowship

"The koinonia of believers is more than partnership, it is communion in the Spirit, common sharing in the Spirit. Paul was aware that disunity in the church threatened his partnership. ...Believers in Christ are heirs to the Holy Spirit; they have common possession of the Holy Spirit. ...What all believers have in common is their experience of sharing together in the gift of the Spirit." **Walter Hansen**, "The Letter to the Philippians", Pillar Comm.

...Here in Php—"weak unity" comes from "weak ministry of the Spirit"!! ...clearly, what we would call "Spirit-Filled" life is NOT "full enough"!!

v. 2-4 ... "being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind." ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves."

THIS is a very "Anti-Individual" passage! ...This is a Passage about a "DIMINISHED-SELF"!!—"Less of ME!"

THIS... is Not Merely Human—it is "the unity of the Spirit" (Eph 4:3) ...it is the opposite of "grieving the Holy Spirit" (Eph 4:30)—ie, all the "misbehaviors" of Eph 4-5 are the result of a "Diminished Spirit & an Enlarged Self"

...THAT—Has to be fixed! ...v. 5ff is Paul's Remedy!

v. 5-8 ... **The Heart/Mind of the Ultimate Man—Who Will Fulfill God's Creation Mandate and God's Redemptive Mandate!**

v. 5 ... "this mind" (Gk. Phroneo – a mental disposition, one's interest, mental exercise)

v. 6 ... He was NOT a "GRASPER"!! (Gk. harpagmós; to seize upon with force (CWSB Dictionary)

v. 7 ... **He "emptied himself"** ...further described in v. 8 as "**he humbled himself**"

Def. (Gk. kenoō; to make empty, i.e. (figuratively) to abase, neutralize: — make (of none effect, of no reputation, void)

Don't Miss the Implications this has for "FILLING"

- To be "filled" means to be "dominated by" to be "under the influence of"
- Reality - You cannot be filled by "A" and also filled by "B"!! ...you cannot have more than "ONE ULTIMATE"!!

...His will, His priorities, His preoccupations, His ambitions ...His concerns, His unsafe environments, His boundaries, His conditions ...Were EMPTIED of Self—and FILLED with the Spirit!

Jn 5:30 "I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me.

Jn 6:38 For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me.

Acts 10:37-38 you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from

Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth

with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

Lk 3:21-22 Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened, ²² and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove;

Lk 4:1 And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness

Lk 4:18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed,

...THIS "Fullness of the Spirit" doesn't actually start with John's Baptism! ...it starts with—
"though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped. ⁸ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men." (Php 2:7-8)

Matt 26:39 And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will."

SGC SoF— To be filled with the Spirit is to be more fully under his influence^[5] more aware of his presence^[6] and more effective in his service.^[7] All Christians, therefore, must continually **seek to be filled** with the Spirit^[8] **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.**

"...before you can be filled with the Spirit you must desire to be filled. ...are you sure that you want to be possessed by a spirit other than your own? ...That Spirit, if He ever possess you, will be the Lord of your life! Do you want Him to be Lord of your life? I ask you, Do you want Him to be Lord of your life? That you want His benefits, I know. I take that for granted. But do you want to be possessed by Him? Do you want to hand the keys of your soul over to the Holy Spirit and say, "Lord, from now on I don't even have a key to my own house. I come and go as Thou tellest me"? ...Are you sure that you want your personality to be taken over by One who will expect obedience to the written and living Word? Are you sure that you want your personality to be taken over by One who will not tolerate the self sins? ...Self-love, self-confidence, self-righteousness, self-admiration, self-aggrandizement and self-pity are under the interdiction of God Almighty, ...Again, I ask you if you desire to have your personality taken over by One who stands in sharp opposition to the world's easy ways. No tolerance of evil, no smiling at crooked jokes, no laughing off things that God hates. The Spirit of God, if He takes over, will bring you into opposition to the world. ...Are you sure, brother? You want His help, yes; you want a lot of His benefits, yes; but are you willing to go with Him in His opposition to the easygoing ways of the world? If you are not, you needn't apply for anything more than you have, because you don't want Him; you only think you do!" **A.W. Tozer**, "How to be Filled with the Holy Spirit", p. 45-48

"If there is anything bigger in your spiritual life than God, anything bigger than your yearning after God, then you will never be filled. I have run into Christians, who have for years wanted to be filled in a vague sort of way. But the reason they are not filled is they have other things they want more." **A.W. Tozer**, "The Mystery of the Holy Spirit", p.97