

BEING FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

Acts 4:31

Introduction: The greatest need of Christianity in our day and time is for every Christian to live Spirit-filled, Spirit-led lives. One of the greatest sins among us Christians is the sin of self-satisfaction. We often accuse other members of being cold, complacent, careless, indifferent, lethargic, frigid and apathetic, but whether we admit it or not, every one of us fit into that pattern and category. Haven't you heard someone who says they are a Christian remark "Just so I get to Heaven by the skin of my teeth..." or "Just so I get a back seat in Heaven, I'll be satisfied." There's even a popular gospel hymn that speaks of "having a cabin over in glory land..." These remarks speak about being satisfied with the mediocre, nominal and the average life. Most of us seldom come up to average to say anything of our living a dynamic, spirit filled life for our Lord.

I. CONSIDER WHAT IT IS TO BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. It means that we simply give God the best that we have.
 - It is one thing to have life, but another to have life more abundantly.
 - It is one thing to be saved, but another to be surrendered.
 - It is one thing to be converted, but another to be consecrated.
 - It is one thing to have the Holy Spirit, but another to permit the Holy Spirit to have us.

2. Every Christian is indwelt with the Holy Spirit at the moment of Salvation.
 - Although every Christian has the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit does not always possess the Christian.
 - Although the Holy Spirit is present in every Christian's life, He is not the President of every Christian's life.
 - To have the Holy Spirit control our lives is a matter of our coming to the place where we are so emptied of sin and self to the point that the Holy Spirit can come into every nook and cranny and crevice of our lives.

3. The Holy Spirit does not have complete access to every part of some Christian's lives.
 - It is like saying you can have part of me, but not all of me, I've got a place or two that I want to keep for my self.
 - As long as the Holy Spirit does not have absolute entrance to the entire life of the Christian than that Christian is not living a Holy Spirit filled life.

II. THE CHRISTIAN MUST LIVE A SPIRIT FILLED LIFE

1. God commands that the Christian be filled. It is not optional, it is not a choice, it is a command.
 - Everything God has ever created obeyed His command, His voice, except people - us.
 - Remember that all was in darkness and God said "**Let there be light!**" and you know what happened then.
 - Jesus went to a certain fruit tree for fruit and it was barren. Jesus cursed the tree and it immediately withered away and died.

- What about Jesus and His disciples in a boat on the sea and a storm came up and raged. Jesus stood up and told the storm to stop. It did!
 - Everything God ever made obeys His voice and commands except US. It is past time that we hear and heed God's voice.
2. God made us, therefore it is His right to command us and He commands us to be Spirit filled.
 3. God is the one who preserves us and without Him we'd not be here a split second more.
 4. Spirit filled living is commanded of us by God as He has redeemed us. Jesus held nothing back, He willingly went to the cross. He unreservedly gave Himself for us, He poured out His blood for us. One thing we can do in return is to obey God's command to be filled with the Holy Spirit.
 5. Our world condition demands that we live Holy Spirit filled lives.
 - Ours are critical times and if we expect to meet the challenges of today, then we must empty ourselves of all sin and self so the Holy Spirit can fill every part of our lives.

III. SOME MARKS OF THE SPIRIT FILLED LIFE

1. A Spirit filled Christian will be effective in prayer.
 - Unconfessed sin in a person's life will rob one of living that spirit filled life and it will render prayers useless and fruitless. ***"If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me..."***
 - We may have great revivals without great plans.
 - We may have great revivals without great preaching.
 - But there is no such thing as having an old fashioned, Holy Spirit led revival without sincere, tearful praying on the part of Holy Spirit filled Christians.
2. The Spirit filled Christian will be pure in his/her conduct. ***(1 Corinthians 6:19-20)*** We are to keep our bodies, minds and souls clean, pure and spotless.
 - We should be pure in thoughts, pure and clean in our relationships to others. There will not be room for being dishonest, unethical to God or our friends if we keep our minds pure.
 - Someone once said, "What you are speaks so loud I cannot hear what you say..."
3. The Spirit filled Christian will have a passion for lost souls. After the day of Pentecost, the early Christians being filled with the Holy Spirit went out and demonstrated a tremendous compassion for those who were lost.
 - All around us there are challenges, callings us to a genuine feeling, a compassion to see people saved.
 - There is the call from without. The call of the lost and dying world. Our world is becoming more pagan by millions every year. More are being born than we are winning to the Lord. It has been said that 150 people every minute die and go into eternity and most of them lost.

- There is the call from within. The call of a broken heart, the call of a burdened heart.
- There is the call from below. Hear the screams and cries of those already in Hell.
- then there is the call from above. Challenging us to have a compassion for souls.

4. The Spirit filled Christian will have power in witnessing. (*Acts 1:8*)

- Jesus did not promise power for speaking in an unknown tongue. There is much talk concerning unknown tongues, sadly, most Christians do not use the one they have.
- Jesus did not promise the disciples power for the purpose of going into a great state of emotional excitement, but He promised them power to be effective witnesses.

CONCLUSION:

1. God is not necessarily looking for big people or great and famous people.
2. God is not necessarily looking for more intellectual people.
3. God is not necessarily looking for more culture, refinement, education and training.
4. What God is looking for more than anything else is more of His Christians who are so emptied of sin and self that there will be room for the Holy Spirit.
5. If we are filled with the Holy Spirit, we will be used of God to the Maximum of our potential rather than the minimum.
6. Christian, won't you search the rooms of your life and see if you have shut one or more doors off to the Holy Spirit. There is a door or two that you haven't opened to the Holy Spirit?
7. Then if you are not a Christian, right now, this very moment the Lord Jesus Christ can become just that in your life, Lord. Won't you surrender yourself to His keeping?