

“The Filling of the Holy Spirit”

**Dr. Richard S. Koole
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I. Introduction

A. Moody and the praying invalid (p. 18-19)

B. The role of prayer and the filling of the Spirit

II. Review

A. The importance of this series

1. “Clothed in Power”
2. Five-part series
3. Will be made available

B. Based on an incredible truth

1. The Holy Spirit is God...and he dwells inside of you

C. Previously

1. The list of what the Holy Spirit provides for you
2. Last week
 - a. He has provided every Christian with a spiritual gift
 - b. There are seven primary gifts
 - c. Each Christian has one
 - d. They are the source of our power to minister effectively
3. Your need to stir up the gift
 - a. II Timothy 1:6

For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. (II Timothy 1:6)

4. The magnitude of effectiveness is dependent upon how filled you are with the Holy Spirit
5. The need to understand how to be Spirit filled

D. Now...The Filling of the Holy Spirit

III. Three Questions

A. What is the “filling of the Holy Spirit?”

Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18)

1. Continual

- a. Not a one-time event
- b. **“Be continually being filled”**
 1. Present tense verb
 2. Continuous action
- c. Upon salvation...all are “baptized by the Holy Spirit” into the family of God
- d. But the filling raises or falls depending upon you and me
- e. Sin and disobedience drains the filling
 1. We’re leaky vessels
- f. Need the continual re-filling of the Holy Spirit

2. Controlling

- a. Compared to the control of alcohol

Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18)

1. Alcohol controls a drunk
- b. Compared to “A Glove”
 1. No practical value by itself
 2. But put a hand in it!
 3. Depends on the strength of the *hand*, not the *glove*!
 - a. The hand of a surgeon...or a boxer
- c. You are the *glove*—God is the *hand*
 1. Got quite a fist in the glove
 2. Power!!
- d. Not necessarily an emotional feeling
 1. Talking to “Spirit filled people”
 - a. Can sense the presence of God
 - b. A lack of worry and anxiety

3. *Commanded*

- a. *“be filled with the Spirit”*
 1. It’s in the “Imperative” mood
- b. Not an option if you want to be obedient

4. *Crucial*

- a. It is crucial to living your life to its fullest potential
- b. Will be held accountable for what you could have done
- c. Charles Finney

“He who neglects to obey the command to be filled with the Spirit, is as guilty of breaking the command of God, as he who steals, or curses, or commits adultery. His guilt is as great as the authority of

God is great, who commands us to be filled. His guilt is equivalent to all the good he might do if he were filled with the Spirit.”

- d. Are you just a fraction of what you could be?
- e. A life of regrets....what could have been

5. Comprehensive

- a. Plural verb – all of you be filled
- b. Not just pastor and missionaries
- c. My hope for each of you this morning
- d. A “Spirit Filled Church”
 - 1. Oozing out the doors and windows
 - 2. People drawn to us
 - 3. Because God is here....through the Spirit

B. What does it take to be filled?

If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land (II Chronicles 7:14)

1. Humble yourself

- a. James 4:10

Humble yourself in the sight of the Lord and he will lift you up

- b. God won't fill a person who's already filled with pride
- c. The need to “Die to Self”....what it means
- d. Take the following test

*When you are forgotten, or neglected, or purposely set at naught, and you don't sting and hurt with the insult or the oversight, but your heart is happy, being counted worthy to suffer for Christ....**THAT IS DYING TO SELF***

When your good is evil spoken of, when your wishes are crossed, your advice disregarded, your opinions ridiculed, and you refuse to let anger rise in your heart, or even defend yourself, but take it all in patient, loving silence.....THAT IS DYING TO SELF

When you lovingly and patiently bear any disorder, any irregularity, any impunctuality, or any annoyance; when you stand face-to- face with waste, folly, extravagance, spiritual insensibility—and endure it as Jesus endured.....THAT IS DYING TO SELF

When you are content with any food, any offering, any climate, any society, any raiment, any interruption by the will of God.....THAT IS DYING TO SELF

When you never care to refer to yourself in conversation, or to record your own good works, or itch after commendations, when you can truly love to be unknown.....THAT IS DYING TO SELF

When you can see your brother prosper and have his needs met and can honestly rejoice with him in spirit and feel no envy, nor question God, while your own needs are far greater and in desperate circumstances.....THAT IS DYING TO SELF

When you can receive correction and reproof from one of less stature than yourself and can humbly submit inwardly as well as outwardly, finding no rebellion or resentment rising up within your heart.....THAT IS DYING TO SELF

2. Pray

If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray

a. Our neglect in the American church

1. A recent national conference designed to ignite and foster movements of Christianity featured 73 widely recognized speakers and boasted over 60 workshops...but none were focused on prayer
2. “We are not yet desperate enough to cry out to God in fervent prayer, nor are we convinced enough that God alone is the answer” (Byron Paulus)

b. Comanded to pray

1. Colossians 4:2 “Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful...”

c. Why should we pray?

1. Hasn't God already determined what to do?
2. David Jeremiah

The biggest reason for why God asks us to pray—a reason we can't avoid—is this: Scripture insists that God has hard-wired the universe in such a way that he works primarily through prayer. And when we don't pray, we short-circuit what God wants to do. When we fail to pray, we cuff God's hand.

3. Prayer is the key to revival

All revivals down through history have begun by people saying, "God, we're not satisfied with the status quo"

4. Are you satisfied with your status quo?

d. How we should pray

1. Moment-by-moment

a. Constant communication with the Spirit within you

2. Daily time

3. Special times

e. The importance of prayer

1. Oswald Chambers

"Prayer does not prepare us for the greater works, Prayer is the greater work."

2. God wants to hear from you

3. *Seek his face*

If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face (II Chronicles 7:14)

a. **Through prayer**

b. **By immersing yourself in the Word of God**

1. John Piper

"It is almost certain that you will not be filled with the power of the Holy Spirit if you are not filled with the Word of God "

2. Colossians 3:16

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

3. Start with the book of Philippians**c. By daily following the leading of the Spirit**

1. What does he want you to do this hour?
 - a. To encourage at the picnic?
 - b. Afterwards with your family?
2. Where does he want you to serve in this church...now?

d. By developing healthy spiritual habits

1. Too much noise
 - a. The distraction of cell phones, etc.
 - b. When was the last time you had an undisturbed conversation
2. Alone in the presence of God
3. Getting to know him

4. Turn from their wicked ways

If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land (II Chronicles 7:14)

a. Confess your sins

1. Daily
2. Go back into your life
3. James 5:16

Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed

b. Turn from such sins

1. Establish boundaries

c. The freedom of coming clean with God

1. “this is how it feels to be free!”

C. What does the filling provide?

1. Freedom

- a. II Corinthians 3:17

(17) Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom..

- b. Freedom from the guilt of sin
- c. Freedom from the fear of God’s disapproval
- d. Freedom from worry and anxiety

1. Philippians 4

(4) Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! (5) Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. (6) Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. (7) And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

- e. The peace of God that transcends all understanding

1. No matter what you are facing

- f. “This is how it feels to be free!!!!”

2. Transformation

- a. Into the likeness of Christ
- b. Back to II Corinthians 3:17-18

(17) Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. (18) And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

- c. Don't want to be like the "average Christian"
- d. Reflecting the Glory of God
 - 1. People see and sense it

3. Fruit

- a. The fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control

- 1. Do you have it to a supernatural degree?
- 2. Don't be content with just a little
- b. Grunting and saying through clenched teeth, "I will be patient" hasn't worked yet...and isn't likely to change
- c. The early church....Acts 1:8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

- 1. Told to wait for the power
- 2. Thought they were ready
- 3. The filling (Acts 2:4)
 - a. 3000 saved (Acts 2:41)
 - b. Signs and wonders (v. 47)
 - c. 5000 saved (Acts 4:4)
 - d. Couldn't be silent (Acts 4:20)
 - e. Power to do the job

f. “Turned the world upside down”

d. When hard becomes easy

It costs much to obtain the power of the Spirit. It costs self-surrender and humiliation and the yielding up of the most precious things to God. It costs the perseverance of long waiting and the faith of strong trust. But when we are really in that power we shall find this difference, that whereas before it was hard for us to do the easiest things, now it is easy for us to do the hardest things.

e. A bullet not an arrow

James Hervey, the friend of the Wesleys at Oxford, describes the change which took place in him through his filling by the Spirit: that while his preaching was once like the firing of an arrow, all the speed and force thereof depending on the strength of his arm in bending the bow, now it was like firing a rifle-ball, *the whole force depending upon the powder back of the ball, and needing only a finger-touch to let it off.*

f. Power to—

1. Share your faith
2. Save your marriage
3. Raise your kids

4. Guidance

a. Daily “seeking the will of God”

1. Not a 20 year plan

b. The correct word is “leading”

1. And it happens constantly and daily

c. A.W. Tozer

And to expose our hearts to truth and consistently refuse or neglect to obey the impulses it arouses is to stymie the motions of life within us and, if persisted in, to grieve the Holy Spirit into silence.

- d. What is the Spirit asking of you?
 - 1. Don't put him off
- e. Failure to follow his leading on a daily basis will quench his filling

5. *Comfort (peace)*

- a. Jesus knew what they (and you) would face
 - 1. Philippians 4:6-7

(6) Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. (7) And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

- b. He'll never leave you alone!
 - 1. Christ is alive in you!
 - 2. The fullness of God himself

6. *Opportunities*

- a. God uses Spirit-filled people for His key services
- b. God wants to bless you abundantly
- c. The “unexplainable will happen”

IV. Summary

A. A pastor's prayer...

Ephesians 3:16-21

(16) I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, (17) so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, (18) may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, (19) and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. (20) Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, (21) to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.