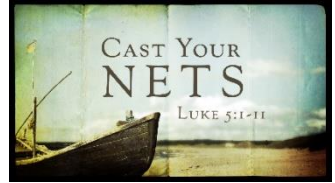


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Fishing for Men In Saving Souls (Luke 5:1-11)

**- Devotion by Pastor Lazarus at
Church Prayer Meeting**



Greetings to you all in the loving name of Jesus Christ.

I thank God for this fellowship with you all and also, I thank Rev Jack Sin for giving me this privilege to preach God's holy word to you at your prayer meeting.

Today we are going to meditate on the God's word from Luke 5:1-11. I know it is a very familiar chapter to all of us but let us meditate on it once again.

I. Jesus Taught from a Boat. (vs 1-3)

- A. The multitude pressed around Him to hear the word of God: The large crowd showed the increasing popularity of Jesus as a teacher. The crowd was so big that Jesus got into one of the boats and taught the multitude from the boat.
- B. The Lake of Gennesaret: This was another name for the Sea of Galilee, as it is more familiarly known. It was also sometimes called the Sea of Tiberias.
- C. One of the boats, which was Simon's: Simon must have felt privileged that Jesus wanted to teach from his boat. We can also be sure that Simon listened to this teaching more attentively.

II. Peter Received Jesus' Direction in a Time of Failure. (vs 4-5)

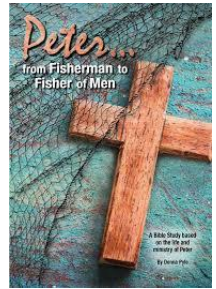
- A. When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, "*Launch out into the deep and let down your nets.*"
- B. Peter replied "*Master, we have toiled all night.*"
Peter Simon used two words (1) **master** and (2) **toiled**
The particular ancient Greek word Luke used for Master (*Epistata*) is unique to Luke's Gospel.
The word has the idea of "commander," "leader," or perhaps even "boss."
We have toiled all night and caught nothing;

I have a question for all of us, how many of us experienced failure in our life, ministry or even business?

Simon Peter said "I worked all night and I'm tired."

1. Simon was an expert in fishing.
2. He knew where he could get the fish.
3. He knew a lot more about fishing than a carpenter would.

But he (Simon Peter) tried and was fishing the whole night but got nothing. Simon was frustrated, tired, and weary. A night of fishing has proven very unfruitful. He caught absolutely nothing.



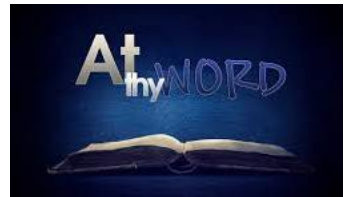
We all face situations like Peter many times. We work hard, use our own methods to succeed, we do many things and get nowhere, and finally we blame one another. It's because of you we're in this situation, because of you I'm this failure. Many times we do not understand the actual problem.

We have a believer called Suresh: he is a business man who works very hard but he has faced loss and failure and as a result he changes his business every 3- 4 months due to unproductivity. He said to me "Pastor, I am very tired".

At this particular time, most people's goals failed, most of the businesses failed, and the government has failed to work properly during COVID-19. In our city 10,000 restaurants are up for sale, due to loss or complete failure. Nobody likes failure in their life, everybody likes to succeed. But Peter said: *"nevertheless, at your word I will let down the net"* even though Peter could have come up with a number of possible excuses.

Peter however further said, *"at thy word I will let down the net."* This was Peter's great statement of faith, and trust in Christ. God's people throughout all ages have lived and gone forth with this confidence in sharing the word of Jesus to save souls.

- At Thy Word, there was light.
- At Thy Word, the sun, moon, stars, and planets were created.
- At Thy Word life came to this earth.
- At Thy Word creation is held together and sustained.
- At Thy Word empires rose and fell; history unfolds His great plan.



III. The Power in Jesus Word/Miracles of Jesus (vs 6-7)

He is able to do in seconds what Peter was not able to accomplish all night!

The miraculous catch of fish produced in Peter a contrite spirit as he marveled at the power of Jesus.

IV. Peter's Reaction and the Call of Four Disciples. (vs 8-11)

When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "*Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!*" Peter saw himself as a sinner when he saw the holy God.

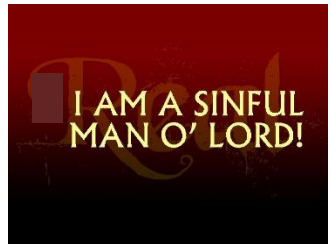
In Isaiah 6:3, Isaiah saw the holy God. "Holy Holy Holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is the full of his glory." When he saw the holy God, he said in verse. 5 "Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips."

a. Peter fell down at Jesus' knees

Jesus had already miraculously healed Peter's mother-in-law (Luke 4:38-39). Yet there was something about this miracle of the blessed catch that made Peter worship Jesus and surrender himself to Him.

b. He also said "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." When Peter saw the great power of Jesus – displayed in Jesus' knowledge in an area where He should have no knowledge – it made Peter realized his spiritual condition.

When Jesus met Peter, Peter realized that he was sinner and he was in need of saviour. The power and the presence of our lord Jesus Christ changed the life of Peter and gave hope and eternal life to him.



What is our reaction?

According to Romans 3:23 we all are sinners and we all need a Saviour, Jesus Christ. Jesus came to this world and died on the cross to save us from sin. So, to receive forgiveness of our sin, we need to come to Jesus and confess our sin. He will forgive our sin and give us hope and eternal life. Will you tell this to others?

- Peter worshipped Jesus (fell down at Jesus knee).
- Peter surrendered himself to Jesus.
- Peter followed Jesus and preached the gospel.

May the Lord help and guide us to go out and share Christ with others, to save souls as He leads even in this Covid19 situation and may God bless!

Pastor Lazarus
Calvary Reformed Church
Bangalore - India

Question:

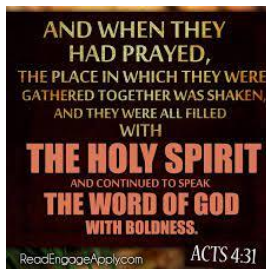
What is the biblical evidence or proof of one having received and being filled with the Spirit?



That is a relevant question. Some quarters of the Christian community often point to speaking in tongues (the Baptism of the Spirit in a second experience so-called) as the evidence that one has received the Spirit. But what does the Scripture say?

In Acts 2, is commonly quoted to support tongue speaking in the church today, however, note that this was a once off event **with the inaugural coming of the Holy Spirit upon the NT church for the first time and not a repeated daily or weekly event for the church**. It is also noteworthy that they spoke in known **intelligible languages or dialects (Acts 2:6-13) understood by others** and not unknown

incomprehensible tongues that we find in many of the churches who practiced tongue speaking today.



in Act 4:31, the disciples were filled with the Spirit and they **did not speak in tongues but they spoke the word clearly with boldness in sharing Christ**. The same is true In Acts 13:52 as they were filled with the Spirit and they were filled with joy, not tongues. There are 7 other such incidences in the book of Acts alone.

Consider also this clear teaching by Paul,

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace,

longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law” (Gal 5:22-23).

If one truly has received the Spirit, then we should expect to see the fruit of the Spirit in our lives. If you claim to have the Holy Spirit of God, then it is reasonable that we also show forth the fruit of the Spirit daily and tongue speaking is not one of them! Consider this,

Paul also says, “For this is the will of God, even your sanctification [holiness, same word as in verse 7], that ye should abstain from fornication ... For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness. He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us his **Holy Spirit**” (1 Thess 4:3,7,8).

The evidence of having received the Holy Spirit is when a person lives a holy life and keeps away from sin. If a person has truly received the Lord and the Holy Spirit, he or she should flee from sin and live a holy life by the grace of God. Consider 2 Tim 2:19 — “Let those who name the Name of Christ depart from iniquity.” That is truly spirit-filled living and it is without tongues speaking!



And **grieve not the HOLY SPIRIT** of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption” (Eph 4:30).



In Eph 5:18, we have the command to be filled with the Spirit. The context of this passage clearly shows what the Spirit-filled life is all about and how it is evidenced. Notice what the verses did not say: “And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but **BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT**; speaking to yourselves in strange ecstatic utterances.” Nowhere in this context are we told that the gift of tongues is the evidence of being

filled with the Spirit and if this is needed, this is the best place for Paul to teach this doctrine of tongue speaking (if there is such a thing) but he did not **because tongues speaking is a temporal sign gift and it would have ceased when it fulfilled its purpose by the time of the completion of the whole canon (1Cor 13:8-10).**

Here are what Paul states instead in a clear and succinct form in the subsequent verses in the context of being filled with the Spirit -

Verse 19 — **Heart felt melodious Songs in reverential worship!** The Spirit-filled believer is a joyful believer that is committed to the true corporate and personal worship of God. The Holy Spirit, who indwells in him, creates beautiful melody in the heart of the trusting believer in reverential corporate worship with others in the church and he or she worships God joyfully from his or her heart, to his or her edification (1 Thess 5:16).



Verse 20 — **A Thankful Heart to God in all things!** The Spirit-filled Christian is essentially a thankful believer to God. If we are often UNTHANKFUL or ungrateful to God and men, and always murmuring, gossiping and complaining about this person or that thing, then it is a serious concern and the Spirit of God is not leading, guiding or filling that person (1 Thess 5:18, Num 11:1-5).

Verse 21 — **A Submissive Heart to one another in the fear of God!** Pride is often the cause of many inter-personal problems. Where should we look to find submission? In the basic relationships of life — husband / wife, parents / children, employer / employee, etc (Eph 5:22-6:9). How does the believer react when there



are occurrences of failures, work or health and other related problems? **Do we see him / her able to humbly seek and submit to the will of God as he or she respect and fear God and not your own, under the influence and control of the blessed Holy Spirit?** Would you listen to others like your teachers, preachers or elders or your parents or do you just make your own mind? That is the litmus test, a Spirit

filled Christian is willing to obey God and not just our selfish plans or desires. It is also not an unedifying act of irreverent dancing in the worship service as a manifestation of being filled in the Spirit, or so-called 'being slain in the Spirit', which has no biblical foundation at all, nor the **speaking of tongues or prophetic utterances which have ceased with the end of the apostolic era and the completion of the canon in due season (Rev 22:18-20).**

Conclusion

A Spirit filled Christian is the will of God for us. We pray for those who may be rightfully concerned or are seeking to understand this matter in the light of the scriptures and we hope that this will assist towards this end.

Jack Sin

Praising God for His Provision for Pastor Lazarus Church Building Project!



From This....



To This!!!



The dedication of the new building of Calvary Reformed church in a village in Bangalore by Pastor Lazarus. Let us continue to pray for the extended ministry of this church.

FINISHING WELL THE RACE OF LIFE

Lord's Day Program from Jul - Sep 2021

JULY

- 4 The Power of a Sound Mind (2 Tim 1:1-7)
- 11* Hold Fast to Sound Words (2 Tim 1:8-18)
- 18 The Imageries of a Christian (2 Tim 2:1-14)
- 25 Study to be a Biblical Practitioner (2 Tim 2:15-19)



AUGUST



- 1 A Sanctified Vessel for God (2 Tim 2:20-26)
- 8* The Characteristics of the End Times (2 Tim 3:1-9)
- 15 Fruitfulness through the Word (2 Tim 3:10-17)
- 22 The Sacred Duty to Share the Gospel (2 Tim 4:1-5)
- 29 Perseverance in the Ministry (2 Tim 4:6-10)

SEPTEMBER

- 5 Faithful Coworkers Labouring Together (2 Tim 4:11-22)
- 12* Love and Truth in Action (2 John)
- 19 The Case Study of 3 Persons (3 John)
- 26 Consider God in Troubled Times (1 Kings 4:1-11)



Memory Verse

- 2 *Tim 2:2* And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

Announcements

1. Welcome to our Worship Service! For our visitors, do leave us your contact numbers in our guest book before you leave.
2. Pastor Jack speaks today on “***The Imageries of a Christian (2 Tim 2:1-14)***, the new quarterly theme on “Finishing Well the Race of Life - The Epistle of 2 Timothy”.
3. Pastor Jack speaks next Sunday on “***Study to be a Biblical Practitioner (2 Tim 2:15-19)***. We will welcome sister Dewi Bhanmati to our church membership by transfer.
4. Sunday School classes continue after worship service:
 - WCF Shorter Catechism Class – Pastor Jack
 - New Testament Survey – Dn Choo Siang
 - Studies in Numbers – Dr Kwong Leen
5. Chinese Fellowship meets on Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom with both local and overseas brethren.
6. Do send your prayer items to Pastor and join us for Church Prayer Meeting on Wed at 8pm via Zoom. The Jul prayer list is available from Dn Choo Siang.
7. Monthly Neighbourhood Bible Class meets on the first Friday of each month in church on the study of 2 Samuel. Include **Fri 6 Aug 2021, 7.30pm** in your calendar! Come and join us!
8. We rejoice with Filadelfia BPC, Batam as they commemorate their 17th Anniversary Thanksgiving today.
9. The Pandemic book can be purchased through Dn Yue Kay (Hp: +65 97450311) or via email at sovereignhopebpc@gmail.com.
10. Do kindly observe the safety measures of the church and assist with the weekly cleaning of the premises.
11. Love gifts, Offering and Tithes to the Lord can be given in the following ways:
 - **Cheque** payable to **Sovereign Hope Bible Presbyterian Church** and mail to church address. (Kindly write the full name of the church as indicated.)
 - **Fund transfer** to Church **UOB Account 392-308-825-1**
 - **PayNow** to Church UEN: **T19SS0116FSOV**
