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**“The Filling of
the Holy Spirit”
(Eph 5:15-21)**

*Summary of Sunday Sermon by
Pastor (6 Nov 2022)*

Theology is important as it affects the way we understand true religion which in turn affects our actions and demeanour. Pneumatology is the doctrine of the Holy Spirit.

There is much confusion in the Christian community about what it means to be filled with the Spirit. Some quarters interpreted it as one able to exhibit a supernatural manifestation like the speaking in tongues or healing or even to prophesy the future. Is this supported by the Word of God? Let us discuss. There are 3 salient points that we need to be mindful of and here they are below.



1. Instructions before the Filling of the Spirit (vs 15-17)

- We are told to awake from our spiritual slumber and Christ will give us light.
- We are to walk circumspectly / gingerly / carefully / prudently and not foolishly.
- We are to redeem the time and not waste it on just temporal things - what have you done for Christ and for the sake of the souls of men?
- The reason given by Paul is because the days are evil and we live in perilous times.
- We are to strive to understand what the will of the Lord is and obey it.

2. Imperative of being Filled with the Spirit (vs 18-19)

- They are some who misunderstood or have the defective understanding that speaking in tongue, healing & prophecy are signs of being filled with the Holy Spirit.

- Below are verses when disciples were filled with the Spirit and they did not speak in tongues.
- **Note that “being filled” was given in the passive voice i.e., there is an external agent, and it is a must for everyone as it is in the plural and not only for some elite in the church.**
- Examples of people when they were filled with the Spirit and the manifestations:
 - Acts 4:8 - filled with the Holy Spirit, Paul spoke in clear language that is understood by all and the apostle did not speak in tongues
 - Acts 4:31 - the place was shaken; they were all filled with boldness to share the Word of God, but none spoke in tongues
 - Acts 11:24 - Barnabas was filled with the Holy Spirit, and he preached & many came to know the Lord. But he did not speak in tongues at all.
 - Acts 13:52 - the disciples, though persecuted were filled with the Holy Spirit and with joy as a result, but they did not speak in tongues.
- There were only 3 occasions in the NT when tongues were spoken, and they were for specific reasons:
 - Firstly, the speaking in tongues in Acts 2 during the inauguration of the NT church, but tongues were known languages understood by the different nationalities present.
 - Secondly, the first Gentile Cornelius in Acts 10 was an Italian military officer, and he was enabled to speak in tongues because God used it to show the Jews that the Gentiles were accepted by God and it validates it by allowing him to speak in tongues, just like what they did on the day of Pentecost.
 - Thirdly, John the Baptist’s disciples had just returned to Jerusalem in Acts 19. To show to them that there was a major revival in Jerusalem, tongues were spoken by those affected as those disciples were not around on the day of Pentecost. They could also be true believers and that they were accepted just like the rest.
- What is the meaning of being filled with the Spirit?
 Dr John Macarthur used the 2 words - to “*permeate*” & “*dominate*” to describe it.
 - the Holy Spirit permeate the entire being and affect our thoughts and actions
 - The Holy Spirit dominate or lead or guide the entire being in what we do
 - The Spirit empower and enable the person to do certain things for the Lord.

- A saved person has the indwelling holy Spirit but is He in total control of your life?

In Eph 5:18, we have the command to be filled with the Spirit (note the use of the passive voice). The context of this passage clearly shows what the Spirit-filled life is all about how it is evidenced.

Notice what the verses do 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 or healing or prophecy.

3. Implications of the Filling of the Spirit (vs 20-21)

The truly Spirit-filled person will do 3 things according to Paul:

- will have a right desire and demeanour in the spirit of worship – worshipping God in spirit & in truth i.e., not physical or in a false manner; rooted in the heart, not external.
- a joyful believer who worships the Lord with praise and songs. The Holy Spirit, who indwells in him, creates beautiful melody in the heart of the trusting believer in reverential and God honouring worship (1Thes 5:16 and Jn 4:22-24) in a manner that is acceptable to God.
- will have a thankful & grateful heart/spirit even in the midst of difficult circumstances, giving glory to God. There will be a fear of God & a spirit of submission to one another in the Lord. A proud or arrogant person is not filled the Spirit; there will a spirit of meekness & humbleness in a Spirit filled person

Conclusion

We need to get our theology right on the doctrine of the Person and work of the Holy Spirit as it affects our lives and our church, and we pray for divine wisdom to seek the truth that will set us free. May the Lord give us the humility and the receptive heart to do it by His grace and mercy.

End time believers need to be vigilant and discerning in these last days of ecclesiastical declension and spiritual confusion and yet we are to pray for those sincerely confused or inadvertently in error that they will be enlightened by the Lord and patiently reach out to them with the truth of God's Word with genuine love and concern.

Kim Meng

A Relevant Question....

Can you share with me your thoughts about this passage of scripture if you are free? Thanks.

Rom 6:13 "Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God."

Response:

That is a good question. This is a verse on progressive sanctification as the believer grows in holiness and fight against sin in this life.

While salvation is all of God's grace, sanctification is progressive, cooperative and interactive and we have a part to play in it if we want to be holy. The context is also the believer's struggle with sin after regeneration and his possible victory over it.

The word "yield" is used twice in the verse suggest that we have a duty to surrender our body to Christ and to make sure that we are used as vessels for righteousness' sake.

Conversely, we can use it for evil, as to use our tongue to curse or tell a lie or our hands to violently hit someone or our eyes to behold evil or even our legs running for an unsound cause. Exercise unto godliness is the call of Paul to all of us.

It is our call every day in our spiritual battles, and we need the Spirit of God to help us make a conscious effort to humbly yield our faculties or consciously use our faculties for the Lord for good and not for evil.

Hope this helps.

Jack

THE HOLY SPIRIT & THE BELIEVER TODAY

Lord's Day Programme for Oct-Dec 2022



OCTOBER

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|----|--|----|---|
| 2 | The Work & Nature of the Holy Spirit
(John 14:16-31) | 23 | Walking in the Spirit
(Galatians 5:1-16) |
| 9* | The Holy Spirit & Regeneration
(Titus 3:1-8) | 30 | REFORMATION SUNDAY
Why We Should Persevere
in Our Reforming Spirit
(Jude 1-9) |
| 16 | The Holy Spirit & Prayer
(Romans 8:20-34) | | |

NOVEMBER

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| 6 | The Filling of the Holy Spirit
(Ephesians 5:15-21) | 20 | The Holy Spirit & Sanctification
(2 Peter 1:1-11) |
| 13* | The Fruit of the Spirit
(Galatians 5:1-23) | 27 | The Holy Spirit & Witnessing
(Acts 1:1-11) |

DECEMBER

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| 4 | The Holy Spirit & Worship
(John 4:20-30) | 25 | CHRISTMAS SERVICE
When the Heavenly King Condensed
(1 Timothy 3:1-16) |
| 11* | The Holy Spirit & the Charismatic Movement (1 Corinthians 13:1-13) | 31 | WATCHNIGHT SERVICE
Guidelines for End Times Living
(Mark 13:20-37) |
| 18 | The Gifts of the Spirit
(Romans 12:1-12) | | |

Memory Verse

Gal 5:22, 23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

Announcements

1. Welcome to our Sunday Worship Service! For our visitors, do leave us your contact numbers in our guest book before you leave.
2. Pastor speaks this morning on "***The Fruit of the Spirit***" (*Gal 5:1-23*), ***continuing the quarterly series on "The Holy Spirit & The Believer Today"***.
3. Pastor preaches this evening at the Global Assembly English Service via Zoom at 5pm (SGT) on "***The Purpose, Prognosis & Possibilities of the Protestant Reformation.***"
4. Pastor will be preaching next Sunday on "***The Holy Spirit & Sanctification***" (*2 Peter 1:1-11*).
5. The following Sunday School classes continue after worship service:
 - Westminster Confession of Faith – Pastor
 - Addressing Objections to the Gospel – Joseph Wee
 - Studies in 1 Chronicles – Dn Kwong Leen
6. Chinese Fellowship meets on Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom with both local and overseas brethren. Included in the programme is a video study on Fundamentals of Theology on alternate Sundays. Join us for a time of profitable learning.
7. Do send your prayer items to Pastor and join us for Church Prayer Meeting on Wed at 8pm via Zoom. The prayer list is available in church.
8. Monthly Neighbourhood Bible Class will next meet on **Fri 2 Dec 2022, 7.30pm in church** on the study of 2 Samuel. Come and join us!
9. Do kindly observe the safety measures of the church and assist with the weekly cleaning of the premises.
10. 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**
