

The Filling of the Holy Spirit to Propel the Church Forward
(Acts 1:5-8; Acts 2:4, 37-41; Acts 4: 1-3, 7-8, 31; Acts 10: 3-4, 9-18, 19; Acts 11:
16-18; Acts 13: 1-5; 1 Cor. 12: 4-13)

Introduction

We saw in the last message of how we must open up our hearts and ears in order to really hear God's voice through the Holy Spirit. Remember, they're those who closed off their hearts and ears to the Holy Spirit, even men who had great knowledge of God's Word through the Jewish law and felt like they were doing the right thing for the church. But Stephen on the other hand was different from them because he was full of the Holy Spirit.

Now, after first opening our hearts and ears to the Holy Spirit's voice, we must take it a step further and be filled with the Holy Spirit. That's how God establishes the church and propels it forward.

Acts 1: 5-8

Jesus telling they are going to be baptized in the Holy Spirit and spread the Gospel

Verse 5: "baptized in the Holy Spirit"

Verse 8: "receive power" and "witness to the remotest parts of the earth"

Acts 2: 4, 37-41

What happened when Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit?

Verse 4: "all filled"

Verse 37: "pierced to the heart" to make crowd ask "what do we do?"

Peter had a boldness to speak to random people in a large crowd about Christ.

Verse 41: on that day were "added 3000" souls!

Acts 3: 3-7

Peter had the power to heal a man who was crippled for his whole life.

Acts 4: 1-3, 7-8, 31

Verse 7-8: "filled with the Holy Spirit" he "spoke to the rulers and elders"

Peter, being filled, developed a boldness not only to speak to random people in a crowd like in chapter 2 but now to speak to RULERS and ELDERS; people of power.

Verse 31: all "filled and spoke with BOLDNESS"

Now, not only Peter had boldness, but ALL developed a boldness to speak because they were filled with the Holy Spirit.

Acts 10: 3-4, 9-18, 19

We first see an Italian man named Cornelius who is a devout man of God.

Verse 3-4: Angel speaks to Cornelius. Notice that God did not talk directly to him through the Holy Spirit initially but sent an angel.

Verse 9-18: Peter sees a vision about eating unclean food and God telling him it's okay.

Verse 19: "The Spirit said" meaning It was talking directly to Peter on what to do. So Peter began to speak about Christ and His resurrection to the Gentile men with Cornelius.

Verse 44-48: "Holy Spirit fell on all that were listening"

Acts 11:16-18

Peter is questioned by circumcised or Jews of the church

Verse 16-17: Peter told them they were "baptized with the Holy Spirit...Who am I to stand in God's way?"

Verse 18: They all understood. The churches minds were changed.

Acts 13:1-5- The First Missionary

Verse 2: Holy Spirit said set apart Barnabas and Saul

Verse 4: Sent out by Holy Spirit

Holy Spirit guided them to lead the first missionary and reach out to others

We see the overwhelming things that the Holy Spirit did to propel the church forward. Let's look a little more at this actual filling of the Holy Spirit. Think about SpongeBob Squarepants..

"Full"= Greek word **Pleres** (play'-race)

- filled up
- a surface, covered in every part
- hollow vessel that is filled up
- complete
- permeates the soul, passes through every part, saturates

1 Cor. 12: 4-13

Verse 4: "varieties of gifts, same Spirit"

Verse 8-10: the actual gifts are listed

Verse 11: "distributing to each individually just as HE WILLS"

Gifts of the Holy Spirit are exactly what they are, gifts. They're NOT given to you by your own will but by someone else's.

Conclusion

We see the crazy ways the Holy Spirit was propelling the church forward. From speaking words that converted 3000 souls, to healing random people, to reaching people who were thought to be unreachable, to being led directly on who to approach and where to go, the Holy Spirit took the church to a whole other level. The filling and total control of the Holy Spirit is what we need to fulfill our purpose in our church and to propel it forward.

Remember not to complicate the idea of the filling of the Holy Spirit and its gifts. Just first allow your whole self be saturated and completely soaked in His Spirit. The gifts will come according to what God wills. So it really doesn't matter what you do, how you put your tongue, or how you lay your hands on someone but it is according to God's will on what gifts you receive.

This concludes the first half of our series of "Our Place in the Church." These first four messages are aimed at laying the basis of what we need. The next four messages are going to be more about the actual practical applications of figuring out our place in the church.