

# WHY THE HOLY SPIRIT?

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Sermon Notes

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Such a huge difference between a cistern and a well. A cistern has to be filled with water from the outside. It is not self-renewing and can run dry. An artesian well has flowing water that bubbles up with its cool and refreshing blessing. This same difference exists between a person trying to be spiritual and a Spirit-filled person. When we become Christians, Jesus blesses us with his Spirit. That presence and power in our lives makes all the difference in the world. It is his Living Water inside of us, renewing us, refreshing us, empowering us, slaking our thirst, and giving us life. Living for Jesus is more than just a spiritual commitment on our part requiring our effort; it is also the gift and blessing of Jesus enabled by his Spirit.

The great preacher and evangelist Charles Finney wrote how God gave him mighty infillings of the Holy Spirit "that went through me, as it seemed, body and soul. I immediately found myself endued with such power from on high that a few words dropped here and there to individuals were the means of their immediate conversion. My words seemed to fasten like barbed arrows in the souls of men. They cut like a sword. They broke the heart like a hammer. Multitudes can attest to this...Sometimes I would find myself in a great measure empty of this power. I would go and visit, and find that I made no saving impression. I would exhort and pray with the same results. I would they set apart a day for private fasting and prayer...after humbling myself and crying out for help, the power would return upon me with all its freshness. This has been the experience of my life."

During the middle of the Feast in Jerusalem, Jesus began teaching in the temple and was quickly involved in such a confrontation that "the Pharisees and the chief priests sent officers to take Him" (John 7:32). But they would not succeed because it was not yet His time and He still had many important messages to deliver.

## John 7:37-39

***"On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, 'If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.' But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified."***

The Feast of Tabernacles was a memorial to how God had provided for the Israelites while they wandered in the desert. A daily ceremony was performed where the priests would pour water on the altar. This was to remind the people of how God had supplied water from a rock during their time of need (Numbers 20:7-11) and also to acknowledge God's goodness in supplying adequate rain for the following season.

In this context of the people thanking God for His provision of water, Jesus stood up and literally shouted! They did good to thank God for their water, but Jesus had something so much better!! For those who would come to Him and believe, He would provide a thirst quenching gift which would flow for all eternity. This is similar to what He told the Samaritan woman at the well: "but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst" (John 4:14).

All through the gospel of John, Jesus demonstrated that He was the Son of God who would provide for all needs during His coming Kingdom, as was promised through the prophets; "Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat" (Isaiah 55:1). But since John was writing many years after Jesus was resurrected, he could add an explanation of what was meant by rivers of living water.

The Holy Spirit was "given" on the day of Pentecost, fifty days after the Passover when Jesus was crucified; "And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance" (Acts 2:4). This event marked the beginning of the Church and the beginning of the Holy Spirit being given and personally dwelling within all who believe.

The Holy Spirit is the very presence of God residing within our heart. He is a gift which Jesus said is even better for us than Himself; "It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you" (John 16:7). The Holy Spirit has been poured out for those who believe and will flow from our heart for all eternity. We should come to Him thirsty and ready to drink.

Most Christians don't know much about the Holy Spirit. We get saved, understand that we have the Holy Spirit and then get busy with life. We never take advantage of the relationship that we have with the Holy Spirit. But we cannot afford to be passive any longer. We were not meant to function without the aid of the Holy Spirit. Paul says we should be "filled" with the Holy Spirit.

"Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit."

Ephesians 5:15-18

What does this mean? The key is in the comparison to being drunk on wine. (I am in no way advocating drinking alcohol here – it is merely an example – Paul used it). There is only one way to get drunk. You get drunk by being "filled" with alcohol until the amount that you consume has you under its influence. This is not a casual drink that is in moderation. This is in excess to where you become drunk. So what is he saying about our life in the Spirit? Paul says let us have the same insatiable appetite for the guidance and fellowship of the Holy Spirit that a person does that chooses to get drunk on wine. When we meditate on God's word, pray and commune with the Holy Spirit, we will begin to be "filled" or "under the influence" of the Holy Spirit's leading in our daily living. It is interesting, however, that the tense is not a "one time" filling, but actually means "be filled and keep on being filled." You do not get drunk on wine once for the rest of your life. The effect of the wine soon dissipates. To continually be drunk you have to continually drink the wine. Although the Holy Spirit does not leave us, in order to stay "filled" or influenced by the Holy Spirit, we need to continually stay in communication and fellowship with the Holy Spirit. Isn't it time that we begin to experience all the ways that the Holy Spirit wants to help us?

## **TWO REASONS**

1. It is our **CHOICE**.

2. The absence of the truth of **GOD'S WORD**.

Matthew 13:11 NKJV

He replied, "The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them."

Acts 17:6 NKJV

"But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some brethren to the rulers of the city, crying out, "These who have turned the world upside down have come here too.

Acts 1:5,8 NKJV

1:5 – “For John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

1:8 – “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me<sup>[a]</sup> in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Author Jamie Buckingham once visited a dam on the Columbia River. He'd always thought that the water spilling over the top provided the power, not realizing that it was just froth, that deep within turbines and generators transformed the power of tons and tons of water to electricity--quietly, without notice, not like the flashy froth on top.

Acts 4:13 NKJV

Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.

### **QUESTIONS**

*“Does the world MARVEL at the church today?”*

*“Do the people of Jefferson County and every county that touches it MARVEL at us - - Family Church?”*

*“Will God ever ask you to do something you are not able to do?”*

Acts 2:38 NKJV

Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

### **QUESTIONS**

*“What is He doing in your life.”*

*“How do you get in step with Him and enjoy abundant life?”*

*“Can I honestly say that I’m experiencing the power of the Holy Spirit in my life? If not, why not?”*

1 Corinthians 2:9-10 NKJV

However, as it is written: “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him”<sup>[a]</sup>— <sup>10</sup>but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.

Romans 3:10-18, 23 NKJV

As it is written:

"There is no one righteous, not even one;

<sup>11</sup>there is no one who understands,  
no one who seeks God.

<sup>12</sup>All have turned away,  
they have together become worthless;  
there is no one who does good,  
not even one."

<sup>13</sup>"Their throats are open graves;  
their tongues practice deceit."

"The poison of vipers is on their lips."

<sup>14</sup>"Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness."

<sup>15</sup>"Their feet are swift to shed blood;

<sup>16</sup>ruin and misery mark their ways,

<sup>17</sup>and the way of peace they do not know."

<sup>18</sup>"There is no fear of God before their eyes.

3:23 – "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,"

Speaking to a large audience, D.L. Moody held up a glass and asked, "How can I get the air out of this glass?" One man shouted, "Suck it out with a pump!" Moody replied, "That would create a vacuum and shatter the glass." After numerous other suggestions Moody smiled, picked up a pitcher of water, and filled the glass. "There," he said, "all the air is now removed." He then went on to explain that victory in the Christian life is not accomplished by "sucking out a sin here and there," but by being filled with the Holy Spirit.

### **WHAT DOES SIN DO?**

1. Sin makes you **UNRIGHTEOUS** and **SEPARATES** you from God.
2. Sin keeps you from **UNDERSTANDING** God.
3. Sin keeps you from **SEEKING** God.
4. Sin causes you to turn to other things, leaving you worthless.

5. Sin causes you to lose the **FEAR OF GOD**.

James 4:8 NKJV

Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *you* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *you* double-minded.

Acts 2:33 NKJV

Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear.

Acts 2:16-17 NKJV

But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

*'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God,  
That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh;  
Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
Your young men shall see visions,  
Your old men shall dream dreams.*