

Filled, Overflowing and Poured Out:

The Holy Spirit in Christian Life and Mission

Contents

The Holy Spirit and the Purpose of Humanity	2
Knowing God and Mission	4
The Holy Spirit: God’s Empowering Presence	7
The Holy Spirit: God’s Indwelling Presence	9
The Holy Spirit- God’s Continual Presence.....	10
The Holy Spirit: God’s Emboldening Presence	12
Quenching the Holy Spirit	14
Grieving the Holy Spirit.....	17

The Holy Spirit and the Purpose of Humanity

The Bible introduces us to the Holy Spirit in second verse:

Genesis 1:2 The Spirit's role in the Creation

Genesis 1:26-28 The Creation of Humanity

Male/Female, In the image of God

God blessed them

Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth

Subdue it

Rule over it- the 3 domains of land, sea, and sky

Genesis 2:1-4- God ceases from working (to enjoy) creation.

Genesis 2:7- We are dust, but "breath"- and we become a "nephesh" (soul).

Genesis 2:8-15 Humanity is given a place, a purpose, and a provision.

Humanity's role is as priest and regent to the world.

In God's Image, we were to be His representatives. Images of a King, in the ancient world were used to mark the boundaries of the Kingdom. The Living God, made living images, to declare His Lordship. By "filling the earth" humanity demonstrates that God's glory "fills the earth".

Humanity is to fill the earth

Humanity is to subdue the enemy that is loose

Humanity is to bring order to the formlessness

Humanity is to be the delegated rulers on the earth

In the Fall, all of this is reversed. The blessing of children is now mixed with pain and heartache

The enemy subdues humanity

The garden becomes a wilderness of thorns and thistles

Humanity is enslaved to working the ground

The Garden was the sanctuary of God where the man and the woman served as His priests. When that fellowship was broken, the priests were locked out of the sanctuary. If humanity was the intermediary between God and His creation, what would happen when this relationship was broken?

The Removal

Atonement must be made and barriers must be built

Seeds of Restoration

Will there be a Son of Adam who will

- trod down the serpent?
- turn the thorns back into a garden?
- vanquish the curse and restore the blessing

The Goal of God in history is to place His Presence among a people who Proclaim His Name.

Proclaiming the Name of the LORD

Genesis 4:26

Genesis 12:5-8

Exodus 34:6

Numbers 6:22-27

Acts 2:1-11

1Peter 2:9

Knowing God and Mission

Here are two different ways of thinking about our relationship with God. One is that we're part of a local church and through the church we come to know about God in apply his principles in our daily lives. This way of thinking is common, especially for those of us who have grown up in church.

The other picture is something like this: Through Jesus Christ, God brings us into relationship with Himself. As we walk with Jesus in our daily lives He involves us in His work in the lives of those around us. We celebrate that relationship and those things that he does when we gather as a church.

How do we shift from "applying God's principles" to "knowing God as a person"?

A. It takes thinking about the Bible differently

Many of us think of the Bible as being from God and about us. We read it and we do what it says.

More accurately, the Bible is from God, to us, about God. It is God's *invitation* to us to *know* Him.

Matthew 22:1-14 Read the Wedding Feast Parable.

Who was blessed, those who received the invitation or those who attended the banquet?

What became of those who hear the invitation but refused to come?

What did attendees receive?

What became of the man who came but would not fully participate?

B. It takes a different way of thinking about our lives

Many of us think in terms of the Bible and Church as being ways to improve our existing lives.

Read Matthew 4:18-22- what changed when the Disciples met Jesus?

C. It takes a different way of thinking about God

Many of us think of God as available when we need Him and present when we talk with Him.

God calls me to make Him present or known. Truly, God is there before we arrive. God is at work before we begin. God calls us to involve us in His work in His world

Read Colossians 1:13-20 Where is Christ? Where is everything else?

The Promise of a New Way of Relating to God

The big difference between the Old and New Covenant is the way that God *is with* us. Ezekiel 36:22-26

1. God cleanses us from filthiness and false gods- and puts a new heart and new spirit in us. (v5-26)
2. The hearts of stone are in our hearts of flesh
3. God puts His Spirit in us. The external word is now God's internal word and presence.

The picture is like a cup that was dirty. But you want to use it to drink. So, first you wash it, then you fill it. Then you drink from it. When God wants to use something, He cleans it, fills it, then uses it.

We have words for this cleansing- *consecrate, sanctify*, these both carry the idea "make holy".

When Peter and Paul write to Christians, they refer to them as Haggioi- or Holy Ones or Saints.

Most of the time we speak of Christ's New Covenant work as being about Cleansing, and we stop there. Once someone has received God's forgiveness and cleansing we tell them they are all set, just stay really clean. We never tell them, and perhaps, no one ever told us that we are cleansed by God for God. His intention is to

1. Love us (relationship)
2. Put us to use (mission)

Mission and Relationship in Ezekiel 37

V1-14 The Holy Spirit turns a field of bones into the Army of God

V21-28 God's Servant David makes us a dwelling place for the Presence of God

Do: Moses prayed one of the most dangerous of prayers, "show me Thy glory" Exodus 33:18.

Would you pray that you would come to know God more deeply? Here are some Scriptures that might help you pray:

John 17:1-3 Hebrews 11:6

For this week: take time each day in God's word. As you finish each day, spend some time reflecting. Here are some questions that might be helpful to ask about the passage for each day. Write your insights in your prayer journal.

- a. What does this reveal about Who God is?

- b. What does this reveal about what God is doing?
- c. What about these aspects of God increase my appreciation and gratitude toward Him?

The Holy Spirit: God's Empowering Presence

John 3:5 Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born **of** water and the **Spirit** he cannot enter into the kingdom **of God**.

Zechariah 4:6- ⁶Then he said to me, "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel saying, 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the LORD of hosts

Luke 24:49- ⁴⁹And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

Romans 8:11- ¹¹But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

Romans 15:13- Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the **power** of the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 1:19- and what is the surpassing greatness of His **power** toward us who believe. *These are* in accordance with the working of the strength of His might

Ephesians 3:16- that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with **power** through His Spirit in the inner man,

Ephesians 3:20- Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the **power** that works within us,

Colossians 1:29- For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His **power**, which mightily works within me.

1Thess 1:5- for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in **power** and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake

1Peter 1:2 ...according to the foreknowledge **of God** the Father, by the sanctifying work **of the Spirit**, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure.

Mark 13:11 When they arrest you and hand you over, do not worry beforehand about what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour; for it is not you who speak, but *it is the Holy Spirit*. (also Luke 12:12)

Discuss:

What sorts of things do these texts say the Holy Spirit empowers believers to do?

What sorts of things do these texts say the Holy Spirit does for/in/and through us?

Do: With a prayer partner share, your greatest difficulty and greatest joy from the past week. Pray for one another. Take time to praise God and to thank Him.

For this week:

As you read, pray, and reflect each day, consider the following:

How has the Holy Spirit been at work in me this week?

How have I seen the work of God around me and in the lives of others this week?

How has my need for more of God's Spirit been evident in my life recently?

The Holy Spirit: God's Indwelling Presence

The Holy Spirit Comes to Us a God's Gift When We Trust Christ:

Acts 2:38- Peter *said* to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the **gift** of the Holy **Spirit**. (continue to verse 39)

We are Given the Spirit as We "Ask", "Seek", and "Knock":

Luke 11:13 If you then, being evil, know how to give good **gifts** to your children, how much more will *your* heavenly Father give the Holy **Spirit** to those who ask Him?"

We are commanded to seek to be continually filled with the Holy Spirit:

Ephesians 5:17-20- ⁵Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise,¹⁶ making the most of your time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit,¹⁹ speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; ²⁰always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father; ²¹and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.

Is there a difference between receiving the Spirit, being "Baptized" in the Spirit, and being "filled with the Spirit"?

At the very least we can say,
"There is one baptism and many fillings."
We might also describe the Christian life as:

Receiving salvation and the gift of the Holy Spirit. This is followed by testing, trials, and difficulties, in which we cry out to God unable to go further on our own. We ask, seek, and knock and receive God's Empowering "Baptism of the Spirit".

From then on, as leaky vessels, we find the need to return to God daily asking that He continue to fill us.

Are there conditions that lead to being filled with the Holy Spirit?

There are some clues in Luke 1:35-56; 67-79; Acts 7:55-60

We are more filled with the Holy Spirit when the saving work of God in Christ is most treasured in our hearts.

If you want more of the Holy Spirit- look at, consider, and act on the reality of your salvation in Christ.

Focusing on Christ produces an emptying of sin and selfishness-

Focusing on Christ produces a growing of gratitude and love

Focusing on Christ makes space in us for God to fill us

2 Corinthians 5:14 is the center of this argument for proclaiming God's word out of a love and fear that now controls us.

Discuss:

Have you ever prayed for God to give you His Spirit?

Have you ever sought God for more of His Spirit?

If being filled with the Spirit is a continual need, how frequently should we ask?

How often do you ask?

Do:

In groups of 2 or 3, select and read a portion of Hebrews 1-3.

How does that portion show the wonder of who Jesus is?

How does that portion show the greatness of what Jesus has done?

How does that portions demonstrate our desperate need for Jesus?

Pray together, thanking, praising, and calling upon the Name of the Lord Jesus.

Ask Him for more of His Spirit, and to deepen His work in our lives

The Holy Spirit- God's Continual Presence

In what ways is God, Who is Omnipresent, also "local"?

What do we mean when we talk about the "Presence of God"?

Reflection: Recall a time when you experienced the Presence of God in a very real and immediate way?

Expressions of God's Continuing Presence in the Old Testament

The Wind (ruach, spirit)-Genesis 1:1 Genesis 6:17 Genesis 8:1, Exodus 14:21

The Presence (Paneem or face)-Genesis 3:8; 4:16; Exodus 25:30; Lev 10:1-4, Numbers 6:22-27

The Glory (Kavod)-Exodus 33:12-23; Exodus 40:34

Glory (shekinah)-The physical manifestation of the blazing brilliance of God- it literally means presence, but carries with it the idea of dwelling or abiding. Mishkan is the word for "Tabernacle". It was associated with the visible cloud that rested on the tent and the Temple. 2 Chr. 5:13, 14; 7:1-3

The Cloud- Exodus 24:13-18; Isaiah 4:5-6

The Fire- Exodus 3:2, 13:21

Dwelling (Mishkan), abiding- Leviticus 26:11-13; Numbers 35:34 (shakan)

If we think of Salvation in Christ as being our Exodus and Red Sea experience, then the Spirit is our Cloud by Day and Pillar of Fire by night- guiding us through this wilderness.

The Abiding Presence of Jesus

John 14:16-17

John 14:23, 25-26

Every experience you have of God comes to you by means of the Holy Spirit. We are drawn to Christ and convicted of sin by the Holy Spirit. The Spirit glorifies the Son so that we believe in Christ and are saved. When we have trusted Christ, He lives with and in us by His Spirit. Your experience of God's closeness during times of suffering or times of joy are the Holy Spirit.

Walking In the Spirit/Led by the Spirit

If God's continual Presence with us like the cloud by day and fire by night, the Holy Spirit is not only about presence, but also about guidance. The Bible uses phrases like "walk by the Spirit" and "Led by the Spirit"

We might think of "Walking by the Spirit" as the Spirit's empowerment to live in holiness and in the Fruit of the Spirit- as in Galatians 5:16-18.

Being "led by the Spirit" is a little less clear, Romans 8:14. Perhaps Jeremiah 31:31-33 is helpful here.

The Holy Spirit: God's Emboldening Presence

Everything we have said up to this point underscores that the work of the Holy Spirit is to bear witness to Jesus Christ and to the Father through us. We can also say the Holy Spirit works to bear witness of Jesus Christ to us. We speak of followers of Jesus as "believers". How is it that we have such certainty in promises we have not yet fully seen? How do we continue in faith when we have a lack of faithfulness? This is the work of the Holy Spirit.

The Pledge and Seal of the Holy Spirit

2Corinthians 12:13-22- How do we know that God is faithful to His promises? We are told God established us, anointed us, sealed us, and gave us *His Spirit as a pledge*.

Ephesians 1:12-14- What are we yet to receive? The Holy Spirit of Promise is given as a pledge of our inheritance "with a view to redemption of possession".

Anointing was a way of declaring, or delegating authority
Sealing was a way of establishing identity, authenticity- the was the signature of image of the sender
Pledging was a way of establishing trust. It was a security. It was a sample gift of what was promised. An engagement ring was a way of saying, "All that is mine will also be yours. Take this now as a token that I will make good on my promise."

The Spirit Bears Witness that We are God's Children

Romans 5:5- the love of God poured into our hearts by the Spirit, secures our hope

The Love in the heart of the Father, was acted upon by the Son and given to us by the Spirit.

Romans 8:14-16- the Spirit testifies we are children and heirs of God. He is not a spirit of slavery leading to fear again. He is the "Spirit of Adoption" by which we call "Abba!"

Galatians 4:4-7 Accomplished by Christ- Applied by the Spirit God "sent forth" His Son to redeem us that we might receive the adoption as sons.

God "sent forth" the Spirit of His Son into our hearts declaring "Abba! Father!"

Regarding "Sonship"

Regarding Adoption

The Spirit and Sanctification

Romans 8:1-13

Galatians 5:13-26

The Spirit and Intimacy in Prayer

Romans 8:26-27

Ephesians 6:18

The Spirit gives us confidence to speak God's Word

Acts 2:29;

Acts 4:29, 31

Acts 28:31

**The Spirit gives us insight and recall what we share
Christ**

John 14:15-27

John 15:26

John 16:12-15

Romans 8:14-17

Col. 1:9

2Tim 1:7

Quenching the Holy Spirit

1Thess 5:14-19

The Holy Spirit powers these kinds of interactions:

Appreciation of faithful leadership (v12),
Esteem on account of their work, live together in peace (v13)
Admonishing (v14)
Encouraging and doing good (14 and 15)

Rejoicing (v16),
Prayer (v17),
Thanksgiving (v18)

Therefore: v19 Do not quench the Holy Spirit
V20 Do not despise prophetic gifts
V21 Examine everything and hold onto what is good
V22 Abstain from every form of evil

You can quench the Holy Spirit by doing what He opposes or by opposing what He is doing. Since fullness of Spirit is manifested primarily through speech that is empowered or constrained (Acts 16:6) by God.

Quenching the Spirit occurs when we:

- Refuse to speak God's Word
- Refuse to hear God's Word
- Suppress those who would speak God's Word
- Speak in a way that displeases or dishonors God

By Forbidding to Speak

When we insist God-called people not to speak, we are quenching the Holy Spirit. When we fail to give opportunities for people to publically praise God, thank God, or ask for Along with empowered speaking is the aiding and evaluating of the Body to clarify, apply, and learn.

Forbidding to Speak by Class (Age, education, gender, etc)
Review Acts 2:14-21

- What sorts of people receive the Holy Spirit?
 - How are they different?
 - How are they the same?

What is the result of them receiving the Holy Spirit?
What sorts of expectations should we have for all of

God's people in Jesus Christ?

- Who long should this continue to operate?

What should be the end result?

Forbidding to Speak by Type of Speech

Preaching

Prophecy

Prayer

Teaching

Testimony

Admonishing

Encouraging

Worship

Where does the ability to be used by God in this variety of ways come from? (1Cor. 12:11)

What are we willing to say that the Holy Spirit is not allowed to do, as He wills?

By Failing to Speak

If we can quench the Spirit by restraining the speech of others, can we also quench the Spirit by our own failure to speak?

- **Dismissing God**- How does my failure to obey the prompting of the Holy Spirit or obeying the prompting of the Spirit from the wrong attitude affect the communities relationship with God?
- **Failure to encourage**- how might my failure to encourage impact my family in Christ?
- **Failure to correct**- can you think of any instructions from the Bible on how we should correct each other? (ie Gal. 6:1)
- **Failure to give thanks**- In the thanksgiving offering, the worshipper made the offering which was shared as a meal served to the priests, the other worshippers, and the poor. At the meal the worshipper told what God had done in his or her life. When this was connected to an answer to prayer, it was seen as a vow to praise (Psalm 22:25-26) Whether this was a freewill offering, a thanksgiving offer, or paying of a vow if the worshippers did not acknowledge what God had done, the community would go hungry.

When God has done something in our lives, we should want to tell our sisters and brothers about it. We might share the news with non-believers as well. The gratitude for God's goodness may call us into helping or giving to others. Not to give thanks

to God could result in spiritual or even physical starvation for our family and even keep some out of the Kingdom

Test everything and hold on to what is good (v20-21)

While we encourage each other to teach, and preach, and testify, we also remind each other that what we say is to be examined. Everything taught must be held up and looked at in the light of Scripture. It must not only not contradict particular verses, it must also be in keeping with the whole direction of the revelation of God in Scripture. The idea here is not to go off by ones' self and criticize, but in the gathering to discuss and learn.

When looking at what someone says from the burden of their heart, we must also recognize that they are trying to express God's heart through the limitations of their vocabulary, understanding, etc. Sometimes it takes the gathering to distill the essence of what is being said. We must be careful not to judge before we examine.

Live together in peace (V12)- we looked at verse 12-13. There is a connection between quenching the Spirit and not living in peace. We should consider

Peace is one of the fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22)

The gifts of the Spirit are for the good of all (1Corinthians 12:7)

The Holy Spirit is the "bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:3)

The Holy Spirit is grieved when we break the unity of God's people.

Grieving the Holy Spirit

Ephesians 4:29-32

V29 is the result of “rotten” speech as opposed to words that give edification and grace to all who hear you.

V31 To keep from grieving the Holy Spirit put away bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, slander, and malice

V32 Instead be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving each other as Christ has forgiven you.

What is unwholesome speech?

Is the problem the words themselves or something deeper?
(See V31)

What is the source of the problem?

If I am making excuses for my speech, what might I be overlooking in my heart that God would have me face?

How and why have I developed habits of anger, bitterness, criticism, or slander?

In what ways do I form community around dislikes, complaints, and criticisms?

Why do I do this?

How is this hurtful or helpful?

V32 what might it mean to “grieve the Holy Spirit”?

Why would unwholesome speech along with bitterness, wrath, clamor, etc... grieve the Holy Spirit?

V30 refers to the Spirit in a way that gives us a wider view of our present and future life. How?

How does this help re-frame the way we speak to and about each other?

How does V32 both heal the deeper issue and provide a model for our speaking to one another?

Once again we find the Spirit filled, Spirit empowered life begins in clearly seeing Jesus and ends by returning us to the Cross where He purchased our forgiveness.

The Glory Has departed

When God's people continue in sin, there comes a point at which He removes His presence from them.

From Exodus 40:34-38 until 1Samuel 4:14-22 The Glory dwelt in the Tabernacle, then departed

From 2Chronicles 5:14 to Ezekiel 10 the Glory dwelt in the Temple, then departed

From Acts 2 to Revelation 2-3 The Glory dwelt among the churches. We are left with the question, "will the LORD remove His light from the lampstand?"

How long can the Church function without the presence and leading of the LORD and not even know it?

Spiritual Self Reflection

Based on 10 Questions To Diagnose Your Spiritual Health

By Donald S. Whitney

Circle a number for each statement. 1 = not at all 5=all the time

1. I thirst for more of God, His presence, His Word, and His Spirit

1 2 3 4 5

2. I find my questions, fears, and decisions increasing resolved by Scripture

1 2 3 4 5

3. I find myself to be more loving and receptive towards others

1 2 3 4 5

4. I sense God's Presence in my daily life

1 2 3 4 5

5. I find myself concerned with the spiritual and physical needs of others

1 2 3 4 5

6. I love, enjoy, participate in, and am grateful for the community of believers in Jesus

1 2 3 4 5

7. I desire Bible Study, worship, prayer, and spiritual conversation

1 2 3 4 5

8. I grieve over the sin in my life

1 2 3 4 5

9. I am quick and eager to forgive others

1 2 3 4 5

10. I am eager for Heaven and to be with my Lord, Jesus

1 2 3 4 5