

HAVE YOU BEEN FILLED?

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Text: Acts 2:1-4 & 6:8-10

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Jesus was a layman, a member of the synagogue in Nazareth. When He began His ministry He chose fishermen and a tax collector.

The church, born on the Day of Pentecost, was a movement of laypeople. The church grew in numbers, and administrative problems arose. Grecian Jews complained that their widows were neglected in the daily distribution of bread. Seven deacons were elected to serve tables. This became ministry function in the early church.

Stephen's life shines like a spiritual diamond in the pages of history of the early church. What kind of man was Stephen? He was sensitive to the call of God. If he had not been willing to wait on tables, God would never have used him to perform miracles and wonders in Jerusalem.

What was Stephen's spiritual secret? He was "full" of God. The Bible repeatedly gives witness that he was "full."

I. HE WAS FULL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

A. Pentecost is about God inhabiting us to the fullest extent.

B. The opportunity for man to be filled with the Holy Spirit is a great privilege extended to all.

This promise is to you, your children, and as many as the Lord our God shall call.

II. HE WAS FULL OF POWER.

A. Power is the logical result of being filled.

* The Spirit of Christ, which every believer has, assures us of our salvation.

* The baptism of the Holy Spirit equips us for service.

B. It is also logical that the power will be evident in our life.

Note: Power does not mean perfection. Power means enablement!

III. HE WAS FULL OF FAITH.

A. His faith was in the Word of God.

The Scriptures, not feelings, were the basis of his experience. Joel 2:28

B. His faith was in the power of God to change things.

The empowering of the Spirit gives us this assurance.

IV. HE WAS FULL OF GRACE AND WISDOM.

A. His accusers were not able to resist the wisdom and the SPIRIT by which he spoke.

It was not that he was a great speaker—he was a powerful speaker.

B. Wisdom is a right application of knowledge.

Jesus said the Spirit would bring all things that He had said to our remembrance.

CONCLUSION

On New Year's Day, in the Tournament of Roses parade, a beautiful float suddenly sputtered and quit. It was out of gas. The whole parade was held up until someone could get a can of gas. The amusing thing was this float represented the Standard Oil Company. With its vast resources, its truck was out of gas.

Often, Christians neglect their spiritual maintenance, and though they are "clothed with power" (Luke 24:49) find themselves out of gas. (Larson, 181)

My question is have you been filled? Are you full? Do you need the empowering of the Holy Spirit in your life?

References

Larson, Craig B. (Ed.). (1993). Illustrations for preaching and teaching. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books.
White, Robert (Comp.). (1995). Spirit walk: Daily devotions on the Holy Spirit. Cleveland, TN: Pathway Press.