Week 3 – Be Filled with the Spirit  
**Acts 2:1-6, 14-18, 37-39, Ephesians 5:18-19**

Fall Afresh

**Song-**

**Holy Spirit Rain Down**

*Holy Spirit, rain down, rain down Oh, Comforter and Friend  
How we need Your touch again Holy Spirit, rain down, rain down  
  
Let Your power fall Let Your voice be heard*

*Come and change our hearts As we stand on Your word*

**Introduction**

Today begins the third week **or** the 18th day of our 40 Days of Preparation. The theme for this 3rd week is “Be Filled with the Spirit.” My prayer for today is that we do not just have a teaching **about** being “Filled with Holy Spirit” but that we have an encounter and a taste of the fullness of the Spirit

**Let’s begin by looking at a familiar passage of Scripture as our Text for today- But just before we do let’s make our Bible Declaration.**

**Ephesians 5:18–21 (ESV)** **18**And do not get drunk with wine, for that is **debauchery (dissipation/wasteful**), but be filled with the Spirit, **19**addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, **20**giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, **21**submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Debauchery is defined as behavior that is excessively indulgent and depraved

~~Using this text let’s answer 4 questions:~~

1. ~~What is being filled with the Spirit?~~
2. ~~Can everyone who is born again be filled with the Spirit?~~
3. ~~Why do we need to be filled with the Spirit?~~
4. ~~How is someone who is born again filled with the Spirit?~~

**1….What does it mean to be filled with the Spirit?**

In comparing and contrasting **being drunk with wine** with **being filled with the Spirit**, the Apostle Paul answers this question. When someone is drunk with wine or any other intoxicating drink they become **under the influence or control** of that drink. Their **behavior** changes, **emotions** become edgy, **mental processes** are affected, and their **decision-making** ability is tweaked. As they begin to fill up on wine, the wine begins **leading and controlling**  them. **So, by comparison being filled with the Spirit is to be under the influence or leading or control of the Spirit**.

**Luke 1:67 (NKJV)** 67Now his father **Zacharias** was **filled with the Holy Spirit**, and **prophesied**, saying: - manifestation of the spirit

**Luke 4:1 (ESV)** **1** And Jesus, **full of the Holy Spirit**, returned from the Jordan and was **led** by the Spirit in the wilderness.

**~~Acts 4:31 (ESV)~~****~~31~~**~~And when they~~ **~~(Peter, John, and their companions)~~** ~~had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and~~ **~~they were all filled with the Holy Spirit~~** ~~and continued to speak the word of God with~~ **~~boldness~~**~~.~~

**~~Acts 13:50–52 (NKJV)~~**~~50~~~~But the Jews (in Antioch – my add) stirred up the devout and prominent women and the chief men of the city, raised up~~ **~~persecution~~** ~~against~~ **~~Paul and Barnabas~~**~~, and expelled them from their region.~~ ~~51~~~~But they shook off the dust from their feet against them, and came to Iconium.~~ ~~52~~~~And the disciples were~~ **~~filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit~~**~~.~~

**2…. But can everyone who is born again be filled with the Spirit?**

Who is this written to?

1. **Ephesians 1:1 (ESV)**Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, **To the saints** who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus:
   1. Saints are believers, set apart unto God by the new birth. We may not act like saints at times but positionally we are.
   2. **2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV)** 21For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.
2. What is significant about “be filled” – Greek language has subtilties that we do not have in English
3. **Be filled** – *pleroo* /play·**ro**·o - 2nd person **plural** verb, in the **Present tense** (continued action, something that happens continually or repeatedly, or something that is in the process of happening), **Passive voice** (happens to you), **Imperative mood** (command), be filled and refilled, to consistently make full, to fill up, to fill to the full continually –
4. **Be filled** was often used of the **wind filling a sail** and thereby carrying a ship along as in “moved by the Holy Spirit” (**2 Pet. 1:21-NKJV**) … men spoke from God as they were “carried along by the Holy Spirit”- **ESV**.[[1]](#footnote-1)
5. **The passive voice** indicates that this is not something we do but we allow to be done in us .
6. The problem is not that the Holy Spirit does not want to fill us. The Spirit resides in us in all of His fullness. **Being filled with the Holy Spirit means the Spirit has more of me**. The question is am I making room for him. Have I opened up myself.
   1. A negative example/Unclean Spirit: **Matthew 12:44 (ESV)** **44**Then it says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came.’ And when it comes, it finds the house **empty**, swept, and put in order. – There was room to come to
   2. Not only is this verb plural, present tense, passive voice, **imperative mood**
7. Paul by the Holy Spirit issued a “**command**” not a “suggestion” or an “option.” We are **commanded to let ourselves be filled and refilled continually** with the Spirit
8. Every Christian is to be filled with the Spirit all of the time. If you are not you are out of God’s will.

**4. ...Why do we all (Spirit-filled and not-yet Spirit filled alike) need to be filled with the Spirit everyday**

1. Jesus was and we are to follow after Him - **Romans 8:29 (ESV)** **29**For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be **conformed to the image of his Son**, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.
   * 1. **~~Luke 4:1 (ESV)~~** ~~And~~ **~~Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit~~**~~, returned from the Jordan and was~~ **~~led by the Spirit~~** ~~in the wilderness~~
     2. **~~Luke 4:14 (ESV)~~****~~14~~**~~And Jesus~~ **~~returned in the power of the Spirit~~** ~~to Galilee, and a report about him went out through all the surrounding country.~~
2. ~~Jesus told us to take up our cross daily~~
   1. **~~Luke 9:23 (ESV)~~****~~23~~**~~And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and~~ **~~take up his cross daily and follow me~~**~~.~~
3. Paul commanded the Saints at Ephesus/the church to be filled with the Spirit –
   * 1. **Ephesians 5:18 (ESV)** **18**And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit
4. We need power and the manifestations (gifts) of the Spirit
   1. **Acts 1:8 (ESV)** **8**But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”
   2. **1 Corinthians 12:7–11 (ESV)** **7**To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good … **11**All these are **empowered by one and the same Spirit**, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.
   3. **1 Corinthians 2:9–12 (ESV)** **9**But, as it is written, What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him”— **10**these things **God has revealed to us through the Spirit**. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. **11**For who knows a person’s thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends **the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God**. **12**Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that **we might understand** the **things freely given us by God**.

5. **HOW** do we get filled, refilled and overflow **daily** with the Spirit (Eph 5:18, John 6:63).

1. **Ephesians 5:19-21 (ESV)** **19addressing one another** in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, **singing** and making melody to the Lord with your heart, **20giving thanks** always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, **21submitting** to one another out of reverence for Christ.
2. John 6:63 (ESV) **63**It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.
3. Four steps
4. Confess and repent of any known sins and walk in obedience
   * + - 1. **Psalm 66:18 (ESV) 18**If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.
         2. **1 John 1:9–10 (ESV)** **9**If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
         3. **Isaiah 1:19 (ESV)** **19**If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land;
5. If you have never been filled ask the Lord to fill you or ask him to fill you again
   * + - 1. **Luke 11:13 (ESV)** **13**If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”
         2. **James 4:1–3 (ESV)**  **2**… You do not have, because you do not ask.
6. Believe that if you asked you received – Mark 11:24,23
   * + - 1. **Mark 11:24 (ESV)** **24**Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.
         2. **Mark 11:23 (NKJV)** 23For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says.
7. Begin speaking the word and worshipping with thanksgiving and humility
   * + - 1. **Acts 2:4 (ESV)** **4**And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. –

Remember you have to open and close your mouth in faith. The Holy Spirit will not do that for you.

* + - * 1. **Ephesians 5:18-19 (ESV)** 18… be filled with the Spirit 19addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart,

**Short Story – do we know what we have**

A story is told of a man who loved old books. He met an acquaintance who had just thrown away a Bible that had been stored in the attic of his ancestral home for generations. "I couldn't read it," the friend explained. "Somebody named Guten-something had printed it." "Not Gutenberg!" the book lover exclaimed in horror. "That Bible was one of the first books ever printed. Why, a copy just sold for over two million dollars!" His friend was unimpressed. "Mine wouldn't have brought a dollar. Some fellow named Martin Luther had scribbled all over it in German."

*Our Daily Bread*, June 7, 1994.

I am not sure if this a true story but what it illustrates is truth nonetheless.

**2 Corinthians 4:7 (NKJV)** 7But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.

Closing Song

**“Spirit of the Living God"**, Daniel Iverson, *The UM Hymnal,* No. 393

*Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.  
Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me.*

1. [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](https://ref.ly/logosres/esv?ref=BibleESV.2Pe1.21&off=63&ctx=he+will+of+man%2c+but+~men+spoke+from+God+l) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), 2 Pe 1:21. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)