

A Cup Overflowing – A study of the Christian life

Lesson 10:

A Christian Life is...

A Spirit-filled Life

“Filled with the Spirit”

● First time it’s used: Exodus 31

Then the LORD said to Moses, ²“See, I have chosen Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, ³and I have *filled him with the Spirit of God*, with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts – ⁴to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, ⁵to cut and set stones, to work in wood, and to engage in all kinds of craftsmanship.”

“Filled with the Spirit”

- First time it’s used: Exodus 31
- Other examples:
 - Joshua – Deuteronomy 34:9
 - Micah – Micah 3:8
 - John the Baptist – Luke 1:15
 - Elizabeth – Luke 1:41
 - Zechariah – Luke 1:67
 - The twelve – Acts 2:4
 - Peter – Acts 4:8
 - The congregation – Acts 4:31
 - Saul – Acts 9:17
 - Paul – Acts 13:9
 - Disciples – Acts 13:52

Non-miraculous manifestations

● Peter – Acts 4:8-12

Then Peter, *filled with the Holy Spirit*, said to them: “Rulers and elders of the people! ⁹If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a cripple and are asked how he was healed, ¹⁰then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. ¹¹He is ‘the stone you builders rejected, which has become the capstone.’ ¹²Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.”

Non-miraculous manifestations

- Peter – Acts 4:8-12
- The congregation – Acts 4:31

After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all *filled with the Holy Spirit* and spoke the word of God boldly.

Non-miraculous manifestations

- Peter – Acts 4:8-12
- The congregation – Acts 4:31
- Saul – Acts 9:17

Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord – Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here – has sent me so that you may see again and *be filled with the Holy Spirit.*”

Non-miraculous manifestations

- Peter – Acts 4:8-12
- The congregation – Acts 4:31
- Saul – Acts 9:17
- Disciples – Acts 13:52

And the disciples were *filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.*

Non-miraculous manifestations

- Peter – Acts 4:8-12
- The congregation – Acts 4:31
- Saul – Acts 9:17
- Disciples – Acts 13:52
- None of these references had any context of any miraculous gift or special power that was bestowed by the Spirit.

“be filled with the Spirit” Ephesians 5:18

● General instruction or specific exhortation?

- The entire context is Eph 4:1-6:20.

- He uses the phrase “just as” (NIV) 6 times.

one body and one Spirit $\xrightarrow{\text{just as}}$ you were called to one hope
forgiving each other $\xrightarrow{\text{just as}}$ in Christ God forgave you
live a life of love $\xrightarrow{\text{just as}}$ Christ loved us
husbands love your wives $\xrightarrow{\text{just as}}$ Christ loved the church
no one hated his own
body, but he feeds and $\xrightarrow{\text{just as}}$ Christ does the church
cares for it
slaves obey your masters $\xrightarrow{\text{just as}}$ you would obey Christ

“be filled with the Spirit” Ephesians 5:18

● General instruction or specific exhortation?

- The entire context is Eph 4:1-6:20.
 - He uses the phrase “just as” (NIV) 6 times.
- Key verses in this passage: 4:22-24.
- He says I am to
 - put off my old self, which is being corrupted with its deceitful desires,
 - be made new in the attitude of my mind,
 - put on my new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

“be filled with the Spirit” Ephesians 5:18

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 - He uses the phrase “just as” (NIV) 6 times.
 - Key verses in this passage: 4:22-24.
 - He says I am to put on my new self.
 - In another passage, Paul tells us *how* we come to “walk in newness of life”. Remember?
 - This “newness of life” is no “chump change”...

Transformation

“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” (Rom 12:2)

“And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.” (2 Cor 3:18)

● transformed = metamorphoo

It is a law of our nature that we are molded, in our moral feelings, by the persons with whom we associate, and by the objects which we contemplate. We become insensibly assimilated to those with whom we have social contact, and to the objects with which we are familiar. We imbibe the opinions, we copy the habits, we imitate the manners, we fall into the customs of those with whom we have daily conversation, and whom we make our companions and friends. Their sentiments insensibly become our sentiments, and their ways our ways. It is thus with the books with which we are familiar. We are insensibly, but certainly molded into conformity to the opinions, maxims, and feelings which are there expressed. Our own sentiments undergo a gradual change, and we are likened to those with which in this manner we are conversant.

Transformation

“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be *transformed* by the renewing of your mind.” (Rom 12:2)

“And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s glory, are being *transformed* into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.” (2 Cor 3:18)

- transformed = metamorphoo
- imperative, present, passive

Transformation

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- transformed = metamorphoo
- imperative, present, passive: “You must allow yourselves to be morphed into the image of Jesus.”

“Now the Lord is the Spirit, and
where the Spirit of the Lord is,
there is freedom.”

2 Corinthians 3:17

Next week...

- A Christian Life is: *A Word-filled Life*

Notes for *A Christian Life is Spirit-filled Life*

Slide 2:

- The first reference to anyone being filled with the Spirit is in Exodus 31:3. The context is that of God choosing artisans and craftsmen to fashion items for the tabernacle. The items had to be perfect, and perfectly conformed to the perfect pattern. The only way anyone could create such an item was to have been filled with miraculous power from God, through the Spirit.

It would be dangerous hermeneutics indeed to take a passage such as this, and draw the conclusion that just because the first example of someone being filled with the Spirit was miraculous, it must mean that all such examples of being “filled with the Spirit” are similar in their miraculous nature.

Let’s take a look at other situations in scripture when people were filled with the Spirit...

Slide 3:

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- This list is fairly extensive, but not intended to be exhaustive. It is, I believe, representative.

[Go through the list simply listing the individuals and the scriptures. We will look at some of them specifically in the next couple of slides.]

Slide 4: We’re going to look at 4 examples, then we’ll discuss what it is in these examples that indicates a filling with the Holy Spirit.

Slides 5-7: <none>

Slide 8:

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- In the case of Peter and the congregation (both examples in Acts 4), the Spirit enabled them to boldly proclaim their faith, in spite of certain opposition and persecution. **Could** the Spirit have used miraculous means to carry this out? Of course, but there's nothing in the context to indicate that he *did*. It may be mere assumption to say he did *not*, but the evidence does seem to lean that way.

In the case of Saul, we're told that one of the express purposes Ananias visited him was so he would be filled with the Spirit. Ananias didn't say what the evidence would be that Saul was indeed filled with the Spirit, but we know what Saul did immediately afterward – the scales fell from his eyes, he could see, he was baptized, he ate & regained his strength, and after spending several days with the disciples in Damascus, he went out preaching Jesus as the Son of God. Nothing miraculous here.

We're not told a lot about the situation in which the disciples were filled with the Spirit in Acts 13:52. What we *do* know is that the word of the Lord was spreading widely (v. 49) and that there was much opposition among the Jews (v. 50). This may indicate that filling them with the Spirit gave them boldness to face the opposition and to continue in their faith, much the same as the incident in Acts 4:31.

Slides 9-10:

We've seen several examples of individuals and groups of people being filled with the Spirit. If we're going to talk about a *Spirit-filled Life* – one that is “filled with the Spirit” – we need to examine what it means for us to be filled with the Spirit.

- This statement of Paul to the Ephesians... Was this a general instruction, meant to apply to all Christians for all time, or was it a specific exhortation that he gave to a specific group of individuals, and did not extend beyond that context?
- The context of verse 18 is all of chapters 4 through 6.
 - “just as” – His point with the similes is to compare life in the body (one body & one Spirit; forgiving each other; life of love; love your wives; care for your body; slaves, obey your masters with respect, fear, and sincerity) with perfection, or the ideal (one hope; God forgave you; Christ loved us; Christ loved the church; Christ cares for the church; and we obey Christ with respect, fear, and sincerity).
 - The key verses in this passage (chapters 4-6) are verses 4:22-24. The message in these verses sums up the passage.
 - I am to
 - put off my old self – My old self is so corrupted with deceitful, selfish, and otherwise sinful desires that I *cannot* have the “mind of Christ”. (1 Cor 2:16)
 - be made new – I'm not supposed to just work on my old self, and try to self-mold it into a Christ-like creature, but I need to have a new attitude of mind.
 - put on my new self – I am to be *totally transformed* (Rom 12:2) into a new creature – my **new self** – *created to be righteous & holy*.

Slide 11:

Next-to-last bullet...

- Rom 6:4-11

⁴We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

⁵If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. ⁶For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin – ⁷because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.

⁸Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. ¹⁰The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.

¹¹In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

- For the last bullet, click to the next slide...

Slide 12:

- That looks like met-a-MOR-foo, but it's really pronounced met-am-or-FO-o. It means to change from one form into another, the way a caterpillar changes into a butterfly. This is the same word that Matthew and Mark used to describe Jesus on the mountain with Moses & Elijah – the word is translated “transfigured” in those passages. (Matt 17:2, Mk 9:2)

Slide 13:

- This quote from the Barnes' Notes commentary on 2 Cor 3:18 describes very well the process that takes place. It is by developing our friendship – our *relationship* – with Christ that we are transformed into his likeness.

Slide 14: <none>

Slide 15:

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- This is an imperative verb, present tense, passive voice – This is something we must do, yet it is not we that do it; it is being done to us. This is not something that “will be done”, indicating a future action that takes place in an instant. It is something that is gradual, and is continuing to take place “with ever-increasing glory”.

“...be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” Doesn’t this bring to mind what Paul wrote to the Ephesians? “You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires, to be made new in the attitude of your minds, and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.” Eph 4:22-24

Slide 16:

- What a beautiful thought with which to sum up today’s lesson! This brings to mind our key verse from 5 weeks ago – “It is for freedom that Christ has set us free.” (Galatians 5:1) And also this one: “...if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.” (John 8:36)

When we, through the metamorphosis of our “old self” into our “new self” (Eph 4:22-24), allow ourselves to be “filled with the Spirit” (Eph 5:18), we will be free indeed!