



Knowing God Through The Holy Spirit

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By Rev. David Koch

Introduction:

This morning we are going to complete our series on the Holy Spirit. We have explored who the Holy Spirit is ... the third Person of the Godhead. The Holy Spirit is important to the believer, assuring us that Jesus' blood sacrifice was accepted by God the Father. He seals us and is part of the covenant of redemption. This morning we are going to complete this series by looking at how you and I can be filled with the Holy Spirit.

There are three things that the word of God indicates when it comes to being filled with the Holy Spirit.

I. The believer needs to ASK

Luke 11:11-13

"Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? ¹²Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? ¹³If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

It is a given that when we ask for the Holy Spirit, the Father will not deny this precious gift. He is God and He has kept His word and will continue to do so. If he says ask and your Father will give the Spirit, then this is a promise that He will fulfill.

The Lord wants us to value the gift that He gives to us. He has already sent the Spirit. When something is desired, it is more appreciated when it is acquired. We need to have our heart set on being filled with His Spirit, on being filled with eternal treasure, not temporal things of this age that will pass. Are we craving the things of God that are eternal, or the things that are temporal?

II. The believer needs to accept the gift of the Spirit

The Holy Spirit has already been given. We need to accept and receive what the Father has given with thanksgiving and gratitude.

When I give a gift to someone, I give it because I love them. I have taken time and chosen something that I think they need or would appreciate, and something that would be useful to them. It is something that is of value.

That is part of giving a gift. The other part is that the one, who I've given the gift to, has to receive the gift I've given them.

Unless they take the gift and use it, it will not bless them. It will not help them, or enrich them at all.

Usually one thinks of possessing a gift. When it is given, that gift is mine to use as I best see fit. It belongs to me. But in the case of God's Holy Spirit, the gift God gives validates that the vessel to which God has given the Spirit, is possessed

by God. God is the giver of gifts, and He sees how best to use the vessel which the gift inhabits.

When a gift is given, the rights of use are turned over to the new owner. When we give ourselves to God and ask Him to fill us with His spirit, we yield ourselves to God.

III. The believer needs to YIELD

Romans 6:13

Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness.

I tell people when they want the filling of the Holy Spirit, to seek the one who will fill them and not seek for the experience of filling itself. When it comes birthday or Christmas time, I would hope my sons wouldn't just come to me saying...give me this, I want that. I would hope their desire would be to be near me, to have relationship with me as their dad. If the only reason they come to me is for a gift, then if they tire of the gift, there is nothing left. But if the relationship is first, the gift is a powerful indication of the special relationship we share.

I don't want us to think in terms of *power* this morning, but of *presence*. When we ask for Him to fill us, we are asking Him to put within us His Spirit. He fills us with Himself.

If a pan could speak.....you were in the process of preparing for supper. What would you do if a pan said to you....Don't put me there. I don't want to be on that burner. Don't put those vegetables in me. Don't put that oil in me, don't use me that way. You would tell that pan that it belongs to you, and it is fulfilling its purpose to help you prepare for dinner. It just has to yield itself to your hand and be filled with whatever you as the cook determine will be something good to eat.

When we talk about being full of the Holy Spirit, it benefits us as a believer, the gifts that He gives that are available to us, but as important as that filling is for us, it is not nearly as important as the result, which should be a greater manifestation of His presence in our world.

I like what Cort said recently at small group. When we are filled with the Holy Spirit, it's not that he comes in, but we let Him out. God does not give us more until what we have overflows. There has to be an outlet for God's Spirit, or we cannot receive more from Him. In no way can we contain the Holy Spirit. He will be in us, but He is given so the Father is glorified. In order for that to happen, we have to let Him overflow or fill us to the point that others around see His influence in our lives.

John 7:37-39

On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. ³⁸Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him." ³⁹By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

Since that time this gospel has been written, the Spirit has been given because Jesus has been glorified.

The meaning of this statement that Jesus makes:

This festival of the Jewish people was called the Feast of Tabernacles. It was a festival in which they remember the provision of God for them during the time their forefathers wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. This is the last of the fall festivals in the Jewish year. Not only did this feast represent how God provided in the past, but how He provides in the present, and will provide in the future.

During this feast time, all the male Jews were required to make a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. During the festival, the priests were to offer 70 bulls in sacrifice. These were offered on behalf of the 70 nations that descended from NOAH, the ancestors of all the gentiles of the world, that one day they might know the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

The object lesson that is demonstrated in the Feast of Booths, is that while we are in temporary dwelling places, God provides for us the life and breath, and provision for all we need through this journey called life.

THE GREAT DAY OF THE FEAST - On this 8th day of the feast, this was a day that the Jewish people came to the temple carrying palm fronds, willow and myrtle branches, carrying citron fruit and praying for God to usher in the rainy season.

The fruit harvest of had come to an end and now they needed the rain for the next growing season, the grain.

On this great day of the feast, the high priest would gather living water from the pool of Siloam that was fresh and not stagnant into golden vessels. The musicians would blow the temple shofars, and these golden vessels would be carried up to the holy altar. There the water was poured out with new wine, as priest and people prayed for God to send the latter rains.

It was at this service as the water and blood of grapes was poured and the people prayed for God's Spirit and the latter rain, that Jesus stood up and said loudly "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.

Initial evidence of that filling and letting Him out of our being, is a heavenly language that is spoken, one that we don't understand. Our tongue is one of the most difficult members to control. Do you have a hard time controlling your language? God's word says that what comes out of our mouth is from our heart. The heart is the place where relationship with God is developed. IT is the place of our innermost thoughts. It is the place of motives.

Matthew 12:34

How can you who are evil say anything good? For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks.

The things you and I say come from the thoughts, motives and overflow of our heart. I want good things, things that build up, things that glorify God to come out of my mouth, so that begins in the heart.

CONCLUSION: How can I be filled with the Holy Spirit?

- I. Be a believer that asks
- II. Be a believer that accepts the Holy Spirit
- III. Be a believer that yields to the baptism with the Spirit

With the work of the Holy Spirit, we can be one with God. The language of English, or Spanish that we understand, and speak, has limitations. The language that comes from our heart is spoken directly to God Himself. When the believer yields His heart and tongue to God, there is a heavenly language that comes from the heart and is communicated to God.

There is always evidence when a gift is given. At Christmas, on birthdays, when a gift is given, there is wrapping paper, boxes, bows; the gift given becomes useful after it is taken out of the box or container it is in.

The evidence of a Spirit filled life then is fruitfulness from the filling of the Holy Spirit that God has placed in these vessels. These gifts become useful as they are manifested through the believer.

IV. The Believer needs to be baptized

John spoke of being baptized with the Holy Spirit when he talked about baptizing believers with water for repentance.

Matthew 3:11

"I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire."

We know that Jesus came after John, and He was the one that John was speaking of here.

For there to be baptism, the one being baptized has to yield himself to another who will do the baptizing. At that time, one yields to another's control. So it is when we ask to be filled with the Holy Spirit. We allow the Spirit of God to control. We give Him the rights to use us in whatever way He sees fit.