



Christian Life Fellowship
Becoming fully devoted followers of Christ



What If We All Were Filled With The HOLY SPIRIT?

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Rev. David Koch

Introduction:

This month we have looked at what CLF might look like if we all prayed Biblically and if we all tithed and gave Biblically. As I was praying about this sermon, I began by thinking I would just speak to you about what CLF might look like if we all witnessed. However, during my study and prayer times about this sermon, I felt God wanted me to broaden the topic and focus. So rather than ask what it might look like if we all witnessed, I would like to ask you what it might look like if we were all filled with the power of the Holy Spirit.

Think about that with me this morning. I believe that if we were all filled with the Holy Spirit, it would impact not only our witnessing but it would impact everything about us. I would dare to believe that if we were all filled with the power of the Holy Spirit that CLF would be radically, incredibly different, the communities where we live would be incredibly different, our nation would be different and so would our world. Unbelievers would become believers. We would be seeing more sick people healed. We would be sending out more missionaries. We would be planting new churches.

You might say, Pastor Dave, you're a dreamer. Well, all I can go on is what happened in the upper room when the 120 disciples followed the instructions Jesus had given to them. Mighty things can happen when a few people are impacted and empowered with the Holy Spirit. On the Day of Pentecost, suddenly there were 3,000 followers who were empowered in a way that went beyond anything they had ever known or been able to do in their own strength.

When Jesus instructed His disciples to go to Jerusalem and wait there for the Holy Spirit to be poured out on them, He told them that when the Holy Spirit came upon them, they would be His witnesses. **Acts 1:8** **"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes to you. Then you will be my witnesses to testify about me in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."**

I. Jesus knew we would need help.

If we didn't need help or a helper, Jesus never would have promised and sent the Holy Spirit. The

promise of the helper was one of the most revealing statements that Jesus made. He knew that it was impossible to do what He was asking us to do in our own strength. The answer to our need for help was the person and power of the Holy Spirit. We do

our part, but the empowerment and direction and dynamic that impacts people comes from God. That takes the pressure from us. I believe that when we attempt to do God's work in our own strength we will wear ourselves out and we will fall flat on our faces without the help of the Holy Spirit. We can't even live a Christian life without the help of the Holy Spirit.

John 16:13-15 - "When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not be presenting his own ideas; he will be telling you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future... He will bring me glory by revealing to you whatever he receives from me. All that the Father has is mine; this is what I mean when I say that the Spirit will reveal to you whatever he receives from me." As well as giving power to witness, heal and deal with demonic powers, Jesus said the Holy Spirit would guide us into all truth, telling us what He has heard including things about the future.

The witness is about Jesus not us. Our witness should be that we've found God's word to be true. Jesus is who He claimed to be. He has changed my life and He wants to change yours too. It is about His life, His forgiveness, His healing, His eternal home, His kingdom. The Holy Spirit will bring glory to Jesus. He never grasps for his own glory. Everything about the Holy Spirit brought glory to God. **John 15:26** - "But I will send you the Counselor the Spirit of truth. He will come to you from the Father and will tell you all about me."

The help of the Holy Spirit is available to young and old, men and women, rich and poor. In fact, an old prophet by the name of Joel spoke this about the Holy Spirit. **Joel 2:28-29** - "Then after I have poured out my rains again, I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your old men will dream dreams. Your young men will see visions. In those days, I will pour out my Spirit even on servants, men and women alike."

II. Jesus' answer to our need is the Holy Spirit.

We are not helpless; we are not powerless. The chant that was shouted by the throngs in Washington this past week was, "YES WE CAN!" It is a very

powerful and optimistic phrase. In other words, nothing is formidable. There is no boundary, no obstacle and no challenge that is beyond us. I am glad for hope and optimism and thinking positively. However, when it comes to advancing God's kingdom, we need more than a positive phrase to equip us to get the job done. We do need to keep reminding ourselves that with God nothing is impossible. WITH GOD!! Don't take God out of the equation. I trust that we can all embrace the dream that Christ had for this world that none should perish but all should come to repentance. I trust with the help of the Holy Spirit we can say, "YES WE CAN!" And nothing can stop us!

With the power of the Holy Spirit, we can! We can witness, we can take the gospel to other communities, we can send out missionaries, we can plant churches, we can see our loved ones saved, we can lay hands on the sick and they will recover and we can see America come back to the one true Almighty God. The power that Jesus left us is not just the power of positive thinking or the power of united effort, but it is the power of God's Holy Spirit. There is nothing that is more powerful than God's Spirit. Let me remind you it was the power of the Holy Spirit that raised Christ from death. It was the power of the Holy Spirit that brought the blind sight and the deaf hearing. It was the power of the Holy Spirit that convicted people of their sin so they would turn to God. The word "power" here is translated as miraculous force. You will receive that force or power after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you.

III. The Lord worked with them.

What if God was working with each of us? What would it look like? What would happen to us and to those we care about? In the Gospel of Mark we read that is exactly what happened after Jesus ascended to heaven. The disciples did their part and the Spirit of God did His part. The Lord worked with them. **Mark 16:20** - "And the disciples went everywhere and preached, and the Lord worked with them, confirming what they said by many miraculous signs."

There is cooperation between a believer and God. I surrender to God and He uses me. I have some tools at home that are only useful if I pick them up and

use them. You and I are like tools with a will and brains. We can be useful to God if we yield to Him and surrender to His touch, power and authority. However, we can also be unresponsive, unwilling and thus unusable in His hands.

There are several ways to communicate, but one of the most powerful ways is verbally through speech. When we speak, our ideas and thoughts inspire, build up, heal, encourage or inflict pain, distress, anger, frustration and destroy. When the power of speech, witnessing, testifying, telling others, and the power of the Holy Spirit are coupled together, that becomes dynamic. God will use whatever we yield to Him. If we yield our body, our mind, our heart, our speech, God will use it.

IV. How can I be filled with the Holy Spirit?

Ask God to fill you with His spirit. In the book of Acts it is obvious that when people were filled with the Holy Spirit, they began to speak in other

Conclusion:

I would dare say to you, we need the power of the Holy Spirit. God knows we need Him and He has provided Him for us to get the job done. The Lord wants to work with us in cooperation; all we need to do is ask, receive and use the power that He gives us to be His witnesses.

If we would all be filled with the Holy Spirit, CLF would change overnight. Your head would spin at what God would do. We would all become dynamic witnesses to the power of Christ living in us and people would get saved, healed, delivered and on and on I could go. Sowhy not? What keeps us from asking and receiving? What keeps us from using the power that is available to change our world? I began asking you this question the first Sunday of January. "What if we all prayed Biblically?" Two weeks ago I asked, "What if we all gave Biblically by tithing 10% of our income to God's work?" Today, I am concluding by asking, "What if we all were filled with the Holy Spirit and became his witnesses?"

As we conclude today, there is a small yellow paper in your bulletin. I'd like you to take it out and if you would like someone to find Christ this year, I would like to you insert their name on that piece of paper. This says you will pray for them and do everything you can to witness to them this year. We are going to receive an offering of souls this morning. We have a box here that is on the altar. As we receive this offering this morning, bring your paper forward and place it here in this box. We will leave this box in the sanctuary at the foot of the cross as a reminder to pray, give and witness that these people might find Christ.

languages and tongues that they hadn't learned. That was the initial evidence that they had been empowered. In **Luke 11:11-13** - we read this about God giving the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him. **"You fathers—if your children ask for a fish, do you give them a snake instead? Or if they ask for an egg, do you give them a scorpion? Of course not! If you sinful people 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?"**

Determine why you want the power of the Holy Spirit in your life. I believe God will fill anyone who has the proper motivation for desiring the gift. Don't just ask once; keep asking until you receive from God. Ask God to show you anything in your life that would keep you from receiving such a wonderful gift from Him and be willing to deal with whatever He might show you.