

“Filled With the Holy Spirit”
Acts 6:1-7
(Preached at Trinity, February 23, 2005)

I'm supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord's Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I'll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. We've been looking at **Acts 6** which describes the institution of the office of deacon. There was a dispute among the Grecian Jews that their widows were being treated fairly in the daily serving of meals. The Apostles, not willing to leave their calling to prayer and the ministry of the Word, told the church to select seven men who would give themselves to the daily distribution of food.
2. These were men who would serve as officers in the church of Christ. It was essential that they be men of the highest qualification. **Verse 3** describes these qualifications.
Acts 6:3 – “Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.”
 - Of honest report
 - Full of the Holy Ghost
 - Full of Wisdom
3. Last time we focused on the first of these qualifications – “Of honest report”
NAS **“But select from among you, brethren, seven men of good reputation”**
 - A. This describes the deacon's character – that which is observed by others. He must be a man of integrity.
 - B. The best description of this character is found in **1 Timothy 3:8**. Last time we focused upon these various qualities.
1 Timothy 3:8-12 – “Likewise *must* the deacons *be* grave, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre; ⁹ Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience. ¹⁰ And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being *found* blameless. ¹¹ Even so *must* *their* wives *be* grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things. ¹² Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well.”
4. Tonight I want to direct your attention to the second of the qualifications stated in **Verse 3** – “Full of the Holy Ghost”
Tonight I want us to examine what it means to be full of the Holy Spirit.
 - I. First we need to understand what it is not
 - A. It is not the same thing as the Baptism of the Holy Spirit
 1. The Baptism of the H. S. is a one time non repeatable act that occurs at the time of our salvation.
 - a. We can be Baptized with the Holy Spirit only once
 - b. It is the initial indwelling of the Holy Spirit
 2. The Baptism with the Holy Spirit is the act of Christ by which He fills us with His Spirit and places us into His body – it occurs at conversion

1 Corinthians 12:13 – “For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether *we be* Jews or Gentiles, whether *we be* bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.”

Galatians 3:27 – “For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”

3. The baptism with the Holy Spirit unifies the body of Christ
Ephesians 4:1-6 – “I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, ² With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; ³ Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ *There is* one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; ⁵ One Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ One God and Father of all, who *is* above all, and through all, and in you all.”
4. Pentecost was the initial outpouring. The same Holy Spirit that had been with them was now in them
John 14:16-17 – “And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; ¹⁷ *Even* the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.”

B. The filling of the Holy Spirit is also not the same as the sealing of the Holy Spirit which is also a one time act which takes place at conversion

1. When we were saved we were sealed by the Holy Spirit setting us apart as belonging to Christ. This is also a one time act that takes place at conversion
2. The HS in a believer is God's seal upon the believer that God has accepted him - We are His
2 Corinthians 1:21 – “Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, *is* God; ²² Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.”
Ephesians 1:13 – “In whom ye also *trusted*, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴ Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.”

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit and the sealing of the Holy Spirit is not what is meant here

II. We find the “Filling of the Spirit” used two different ways in Scripture

- A. As we have saw in **Chapter 4**, it is sometimes used to describe a special endowment of the Spirit in order that a person might be equipped to accomplish a particular task - This took place even before the day of Pentecost
 1. Numbers 11:25 - The Spirit came upon the 70 elders –
Numbers 11:25 – “And the LORD came down in a cloud, and spake unto him, and took of the spirit that *was* upon him, and gave *it* unto the seventy elders: and it came to pass, *that*, when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied, and did not cease.”
 2. 1 Samuel 10:6 - Samuel told Saul that the Holy Spirit would come upon him.

- 1 Samuel 10:6** – “And the Spirit of the LORD will come upon thee, and thou shalt prophesy with them, and shalt be turned into another man.”
3. Elisabeth, mother of John the Baptist was filled with the Holy Spirit
Luke 1:41-42 – “And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost: ⁴² And she spake out with a loud voice, and said, Blessed *art* thou among women, and blessed *is* the fruit of thy womb.”
 4. Zacharias, the father of John the Baptist was then filled so that he prophesied
Luke 1:67-69 – “And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Ghost, and prophesied, saying, ⁶⁸ Blessed *be* the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people, ⁶⁹ And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David;”
 5. In **Chapter 4** we saw Peter and John boldly speaking before the Sanhedrin. After being gravely threatened they returned to the brethren and began praising God and praying for boldness to preach the Word.
Acts 4:29 – “And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word,” Their prayer was heard of God and He granted their petition by filling them with the Holy Spirit that they might preach with boldness.
Acts 4:31 – “And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.
 6. This is also the use of the term in **Acts 4:8** – Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit giving him boldness to speak before Annas the high priest and Caiaphas.
Acts 4:8 – “Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel,”
 7. Throughout the long history of the church men have spoken of being given great power in preaching especially during times of revival –
 8. These are all cases in which men are filled with the Holy Spirit and given power for a particular purpose for a particular time.
- B. Scripture also speaks of being filled with the Holy Spirit as a condition or state of being.
1. Jesus was full of the Holy Spirit
Luke 4:1 – “And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness,”
 2. Barnabas - **Acts 11:24** – “For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord.”
 3. This is what we find in this passage. These men demonstrated by their lives that they were filled with the Holy Spirit.
 4. Nowhere are we commanded to be baptized by the Holy Spirit but we are commanded to be filled.
Ephesians 5:18 – “And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;”

- III. What does it mean to be filled with the Holy Spirit? What are the fruits of being filled with the Holy Spirit?
- A. The first fruit of being filled with the Holy Spirit is a life consistently conformed to the will of God
1. The Holy Spirit's presence conforms our minds, hearts, wills
 2. Many try to see the filling of the Spirit as a liquid filling a vessel. We must not see this materially. We are talking about being saturated by the Holy Spirit's influence
 3. This is the essence of Paul's command in **Eph. 5**
Ephesians 5:18 – "And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;"
 - a. Just as wine gains control over the mind so does the Holy Spirit
 - b. He changes our entire lives - a controlled life – **Eph 5:18 – 6:9**
 - (1) He teaches us to submit to one another
 - (2) He places husbands & wives in proper relationship
 - (3) He sets the proper standard for children
 - (4) He sets the proper relationship between masters and servants - proper understanding of authority
 4. We can see the fruit of the Spirit in **Galatians 5**
- B. The person filled with the Holy Spirit has a great love for the things of God
 A passion for prayer and communion with Christ
 A zeal for evangelism
 They are given to holy conversation
 They see this world as only temporary – they are on the road to glory
- IV. How does one become filled with the Holy Spirit?
- A. Being filled with the Holy Spirit demands being emptied of self, a confession of sin and dying to self-will
1. Remember the Holy Spirit is a Person, not a substance
 It isn't like pouring in a liquid
 2. We are talking about the third Person of the Trinity controlling every aspect of us - If we are full of Him then we are governed by Him, not by Satan, world, flesh
- B. We must not grieve Him - See Eph. 4:30
Ephesians 4:30 – "And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption."
1. *How do we grieve Him?*
 - a. By yielding to anything opposed to Him
Galatians 5:17- "For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit"
 After Paul makes the statement, "and grieve not the holy Spirit" he continues:
Ephesians 4:31-32 – "Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: ³² And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."
 - b. By quenching the Spirit by resisting His control, His promptings
1 Thessalonians 5:19 – "Quench not the Spirit."

2. We must resist sin - desire holiness
 - a. (how serious are you? Walk around your house)
 - b. If we are serious about honoring Him you must stay in His Word
Personal study, group study, preaching.
- C. By asking - It is not an experience or second blessing but we need help in submitting unto God in all things
 1. Being filled with the Holy Spirit is a continuing on going work as we cast ourselves upon God for assistance, recognizing His strength even in the presence of our own weakness.
 2. We should pray that God might fill us with His Spirit that we might be used of Him.
God is gracious to hear such prayers
Luke 11:13 – “If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall *your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?”

Conclusion:

1. To be filled with the Holy Spirit is to be emptied of yourself.
The great people God has used are those who have come to the end of themselves and God imparts to them great power.
Matthew 19:26 – “But Jesus beheld *them*, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.”
2. God’s people are filled with His Spirit when they are actively serving Him. May we go forth boldly, filled with His Holy Spirit, and living under His control.