

Back to Basics part 4
“The Power of the Holy Spirit in Your Life”
Acts 1-2

Intro

As we continue our **Back to Basics** series, we are in a sense learning the ABCs of Christianity and the essence of what it means to be a follower of Jesus. **Today is a very important topic: The Holy Spirit.** I don't think there is any more important teaching for any Christian to grasp that what we learn today, because the filling of the Holy Spirit is what we need for everything else in the Christian life.

We need the Holy Spirit for everything in our life: seek God, love God, be baptized, love others, share our faith, meditate on the Word, have a God-honoring marriage, be the right spouse, be a godly parent, be a God-honoring employee you name it, we cannot do it on our own. We need the ministry of the Holy Spirit to be active in our lives or else we will live defeated, frustrated, burned-out, fruitless Christian lives. But with the Holy Spirit's power and help, we can live joyful, victorious, supernatural lives.

Just to reinforce how important the ministry of the Holy Spirit is, look at what others have said concerning the Holy Spirit:

Quotes on the Holy Spirit as indicated on the handouts from 101

Now I realize that just the mention of the Holy Spirit may cause some of you to get a little nervous. Perhaps you have had some bad experiences with groups that have emphasized the Holy Spirit or you were raised in a church that was afraid to talk about the Holy Spirit. Maybe you can relate to this testimony:

Ruth Fortun or Cliff's testimony

TS Alright, so let's learn about this Holy Spirit. We will begin very basic and move to the more advanced stuff. As you can see on your sermon notes, the questions we are going to answer today are: who is the HS? ...

Who is this Holy Spirit?

He is the 3rd person of the Holy Trinity. The Bible says God is one God and manifests Himself in 3 persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

Prop: ABC

Mt. 28:18-20

Ex. H2O; H2O Can manifest as solid, liquid or gas but in essence it is still H2O. One God in 3 persons

The Holy Spirit is the invisible presence and power of God.

(He was present at creation.

Gen. 1:2 says the Spirit was hovering over the waters.

He was active in the OT, He was active in Jesus' ministry; He empowered Jesus to do miracles; **Eph. 1:19** says it was the Holy Spirit's power that God used to raise Jesus from the dead; and this same Holy Spirit wants to work in your life today!

His ministry is so important that Jesus said in

Jn. 16:7 that it is to our advantage that when He left the Holy Spirit would come. And oh did He come and oh did He work in the lives of those early disciples, and oh does He work today. Jesus could only be at one place at one time, but the Holy Spirit can be in and with all Believers at all times.

Chall. Are you experiencing the Holy Spirit in your life?

TS The 2nd question we want to answer today is:

What does the Holy Spirit do?

Oh, he does so much: He works to open our eyes to our need for Christ, He glorifies the Lord Jesus, He helps us understand the bible, He helps us pray, He convicts us of sin, He gives guidance, He imparts gifts so we can serve, and so much more.

But the **most important thing** to understand here is that the Holy Spirit wants to empower our lives. He is the power source in the Christian life. The Holy Spirit is the divine presence and power of God which enables us to live the Christian life, because in **Jn. 15:5** Jesus said that apart from Me you can do nothing.

Gal. 2:20 says it is no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me, and the Christ in us is the Holy Spirit, because we know from

Acts 1:8 you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. He comes to give us power to live.

When does He come to us?

Rom. 8:9 and **Eph. 1:13** that the moment you receive Christ you receive the indwelling Holy Spirit. God comes to indwell your spirit and take residence in your spirit through His Holy Spirit. This is why

1 Cor. 6:19 says a Christian is a temple of the Holy Spirit!!!

You see, we are spirit, soul, and body

3 Circles (spirit, soul, body)

And when we receive Christ, we receive the Holy Spirit into our Spirit

3 Circles with Holy Spirit now in the spirit circle

And what God wants for us is for the Holy Spirit who indwells us, who is resident in us to become president and to fill us and control us and work in every area of our life.

3 Circles with Holy Spirit in spirit circle affecting/shining/pointing through the other circles

The Holy Spirit is like the battery in a flashlight. He is in us from the moment we get saved, but we sure need that battery to stay charged and be turned on every minute of every day!

Ex. Battery and flashlight

This is why the bible says in

Eph. 5:18 to be ye continually filled with the Holy Spirit. This is a command; it is for every believer. It is contrasted with being drunk. Just as the alcohol controls the person drunk, God wants His Spirit to control us.

Chall. Are you filled?

Now, that is the most important thing to understand here: that He comes to empower our lives, to help us do what we cannot do on our own

(There are many other things the Bible says about what He comes to do? Turn please to **John 16**

1. He came glorify the Lord Jesus Christ. Jn. 16
2. He came to reveal the Lord Jesus. Jn. 16:8, 14
3. He convicts of sin, righteousness and judgment
4. He helps to bring us to faith in Christ. He is the One who works to open people's eyes.
5. He helps us to understand the Bible. Jn. 16:13-14
6. He helps us to become more like Jesus and help us in the sanctification process.
7. He is called the Counselor which means He wants to help us with any need or problem we have. **Jn. 16:7**
8. He produces the fruit of the Spirit in our lives. Gal. 5
9. He gives us gifts that can be used to serve God and bless others. 1 Cor. 12
10. He leads and directs our lives. Ro. 8:14 "those led by the Spirit are sons of God"
11. He helps us to hear the voice of God. Jn. 10 "my sheep will hear my voice."

And let us not forget that God does not change. We are talking about the same Holy Spirit that was present at creation Came upon David and enabled him to slay Goliath...that helped the nation of Israel time and time again win great battles descended upon Jesus at His baptism Helped Jesus do miracles such as cure the sick and raise the dead ... raised Jesus from the dead ... that filled the early disciples and empowered their lives and even enabled them to do signs and wonders for the glory of God That same Holy Spirit is available to us today. God is no respecter of persons and wants to fill your life.

Chall. If you are trying to live for Jesus in your own strength, you will be defeated and frustrated and tired. God does not want you to live for Him in your own power. He wants

to empower your life through His Holy Spirit. See if you can related to this next testimony:

Kent Summerfield's testimony

Let me give you an example that I think very accurately describes the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Ex. Resources in the earth deposited but we have to “mine them” out ... word from Maggie (explain about programming team and what Maggie got). When God formed the earth He deposited into the earth water and minerals and jewels, gold, etc. It is all there, and we have to tap into our mine-out those resources in order to benefit from them. And the more we mine out, the more help we get, whether it be just basic needs like water or even other more luxurious benefits like gold and silver. The more you learn to tap into these resources the better off you will be.

Phil. 2:12 When the bible says to “work out your salvation with fear and trembling” the word “work out” is a mining term. To draw out what is already there.

One more thing about this analogy: Sometimes a “gusher” pops up from the earth: like a volcano or where a gold mine is discovered. These are a bit rare but they do occur. There are “gushers” with God, too. Those times when we are just overcome with the presence and power of God, perhaps we are prayed over and God does some really special things or where God comes over us and we are given certain gifts or a vision or a really powerful word. Or we step out in faith in ministry and God just powerfully anoints us.

The bottom line is that we have to tap into the ministry of the Holy Spirit. One word picture that the Bible gives is “rivers of living water.”

John 7:37-38

TS Let's turn to the book of **Acts** and see what happened. Just like last week with baptism, the book of Acts is so important in this back to basics series because in Acts we see exactly what was most important to the early church. If it was good enough for the early church in Acts it is good enough for me, how about you??? By the way, most of your bibles entitle this book “Acts of the Apostles”. I think it is better to call this book “the Acts of the HS”

So, what I want to do now is similar to what we did last week and just march through the **book of Acts** and see what we can learn about the Holy Spirit and how He worked in the lives of these early disciples, and as we go through these passage, ask yourself: “Why would God not want this to happen today ... in my life?” Notice also the many different and exciting ways the HS works.

What do we learn about the Holy Spirit in Acts?

To set this up, remember what Jesus said in

Luke 24:49 wait for the Holy Spirit

Acts 1:2 Jesus gave instructions through the Holy Spirit

Acts 1:5 baptized with the Holy Spirit = to be immersed with the Holy Spirit ...oh that we might all be immersed with the Holy Spirit. That's what I want, how about you?

Acts 1:6-8 ... Jesus tells them they will be filled ... and then He leaves (remember Jn. 16 when He said it is to our advantage that He leaves...we are about to find out why)

Acts 1:16 HS spoke through David

Acts 2:1-4 they are filled with the Holy Spirit and speak in tongues. Sometimes unusual things happen when the Holy Spirit shows up

Acts 2:17f Holy Spirit coming and bringing prophesy, dreams, etc. What results? Supernatural manifestations; signs and wonders.

Acts 4:8 Peter filled again. Why? Because he needed a fresh filling for what God was calling him to do. And we need a fresh filling everyday for what God has called us to do. Fresh fillings for fresh assignments

Acts 4:23 (Peter), **31** Peter filled again and spoke boldly – often boldly proclaiming the Gospel is what follows being filled! Wow. 3x. Why? Because we leak!!! Not literally, it is more like we need re-charging.

Ex. Battery needing to be re-charged. Prop? Battery

Acts 5:3 conviction of sin ... lie to the HS ... HS produces holy living!

Pers. Recently the Spirit was working on me ... apologized to a former coach.

Acts 6:1-5 deacons needing to be filled with the Holy Spirit

Acts 6:8 Stephen ... signs and wonders. This is a common phrase used in Acts. *My tract*

Acts 6:10 Spirit by whom he spoke

Acts 7:51 people resisting the Holy Spirit

Acts 7:55 Stephen is filled with the Holy Spirit as he died. What a way to go!

Acts 8:14-17 placed their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit

Acts 8:29 Spirit leading Philip to share with the eunuch. He we see the

Acts 9:17 Ananias telling Paul he was to be saved and filled with the Holy Spirit. We need both today as well. If good enough for the early church, good enough for me. If good enough for Paul, good enough for me! How about you?

Acts 9:31 encouraged by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit does so many wonderful things, doesn't He? Oh how we need Him!!!

Acts 10:38 Jesus anointing was due to the Holy Spirit. Wow. And we can have this same Spirit today!

Acts 10:44–45 HS coming on people (remember the immersion deal: baptized in the HS)

Acts 11:12 Holy Spirit told Peter to go: again, spontaneous leading of the Holy Spirit

Acts 11:15 Holy Spirit came on those who heard. We need this when we witness to people. Rest in this. People will not change unless the Holy Spirit comes on them.

Acts 11:28 Agabus predicted a flood through the Holy Spirit

Acts 13:1-9 HS said ... Paul filled with the HS

Acts 13:52 filled with joy and the Holy Spirit

Acts 15:28 seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us. Subjective guidance.

Acts 16:6 kept by the Spirit from preaching. He can lead forward and He can hold you back.

Acts 20:22-24 once again guidance by the HS

I love the many ways the HS works in Acts and works today as well.

TS Now I want you to hear from someone in the church here who has really been growing in the Holy Spirit

Kelly Fernandez' testimony

(I told you last week we must put aside our traditions and our upbringing and what this person or church says and see if it lines up with the Word of God. Look at what happened when these early believers were filled: signs and wonders and miracles. God hasn't changed. Why should this surprise us???)

(Ex. New Christian with no background: locked up with only his bible for 3 months. He will come out wanting to get baptized, ready to go out and share his faith, and ready to

trust and believe God for miracles. Signs and wonders will not be weird to him but rather expected.

How can we be filled with the Holy Spirit?

Based on **Eph. 5:18** and the examples in **Acts**: To be filled means to be controlled and empowered. To have Christ live His life through us. To have that which indwells us to be activity in and through us. It is a supernatural thing we are talking about. Oh that God would give us revelation today, to see this, want this and receive this.

How can we be filled? Here is what is involved: yield and ask and believe. Just like with salvation. You must yield/repent, believe, and receive and you do this by praying and asking Christ to come into your life. Same here. Yield and receive.

Here is a key verse:

Luke 11:13

13 If 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!"

Now, as we have learned, we aren't asking to get the Holy Spirit in the sense that we don't have Him, because

Ro. 8:9

Eph. 1:13

Teach us that we have the indwelling HS when we get saved, but as Christians we need to ask the Holy Spirit to fill and control and direct our lives. Ask God to immerse you in His Spirit so that His Spirit takes over!

Here is what it looks like very practically:

- a. **Begin** your day by yielding, asking and believing: Lord, I yield to you, fill me today with your Holy Spirit and I am going to believe that you are doing this....
- b. You are going into an **important meeting** at work, pray "God, I surrender to you; take control of my life and fill me right now with Your HS" and then walk into that meeting with confidence and expectation of what God is going to do.
- c. You are at **home** with fussy children and you are getting frustrated and angry, stop, confess your frustration with the Lord, confess sin if need to, and say "God I am weak right now but you are strong. Take control and fill me with your Spirit for this moment."
- d. You are coming **home from work** and you are tired, pray "Lord, I am tired, I am weak, and this is just another good reminder of how much I need you. Fill me with your Spirit so that when I get home, I am empowered by You to minister to my family...to love my wife... to be a joy to my children."
- e. You are in a situation in which you feel led to **talk about Jesus** but you are scared, so you pray "God, fill me with your HS right now that I might say and do what you want me to."

- f. You are **driving to church**, pray “Lord, I yield to you. I ask you to fill me with Your HS that I might worship you in spirit and in truth.”
- g. You **stumble and fall** into sin during the week, rather than get down on yourself and defeated, you confess it to God, tell him you are sorry, receive His forgiveness, and then ask Him to fill you, to change your desires and to give you the power to not do it again.

Such basic stuff but so profound. So life-changing. Begin to apply this and let me know what happens. I pray that all of us have a holy discontentment, whereby we always want more of God, to experience more of the fullness of the Holy Spirit. And as we have seen in Acts, don't be surprised if the Holy Spirit does some unusual or uncomfortable things in your life. Be open. Give Him plenty of room to work!!!!

Conclusion

Aren't you thankful for the Holy Spirit today? What would we do without Him? We have learned today that He is the 3rd person of the Trinity; that He comes to empower our lives and enable us to live the Christian life; we saw many of the wonderful ways He works in Acts, and we have seen what we must do to be filled.

Chall. Are you ready to pray and ask God for the fullness of the Holy Spirit? Before I have you do that, we are going to go into a time where we really ask God to search our hearts and we deal with any sin or blockage that there might be in our lives.

2 Songs:

Pray: me lead a prayer that we all repeat out loud

Response time:

If you wish to be filled with the Holy Spirit, I invite you come to the front right now and get prayed over. For some of you this will be the first time, for others it will be a re-filling; you might want to come up front because you just want to experience more of God ... or for God's power in some specific area of your life: your marriage, your parenting, your witness, some sin area, some addiction you need victory over....

I will pray over you and then if anyone feels led, you come and pray over these as we worship the Lord