

Be Filled
Acts 1:1-7
10.14.18
Dave Lomas

“Everywhere I go I find that God’s people lack something. They are hungry for something. Their Christian experience is not all that they expected and they often have recurring defeat in their lives. Christians today are hungry for spiritual fulfillment. The most desperate need of the nation today is that men and women who profess Jesus be filled with the Holy Spirit.”

- Billy Graham

Matthew 12:26-28

“If Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then can his kingdom stand? And if I drive out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your people drive them out? So then, they will be your judges. But if it is by the Spirit of God that I drive out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.”

John 14:12

“Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.”

Acts 1:1-7

1 In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach 2 until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. 3 After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. 4 On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. 5 For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

6 Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are
you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”
7 He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or
dates the Father has set by his own authority.”

Acts 2:2
Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came
from heaven and filled the whole house where they were
sitting.

Acts 2:4
All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to
speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Acts 4:8
Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: “Rulers
and elders of the people!”

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.

Acts 6:3
“Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them…”

Acts 6:5
This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism.

Acts 6:10
But they could not stand up against the wisdom the Spirit gave him as he spoke.

Acts 7:51
“You stiff-necked people! Your hearts and ears are still uncircumcised. You are just like your ancestors: You always resist the Holy Spirit!”

Acts 7:55
But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.

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.”

Why Early Christianity Was So Effective:

- Highly multiethnic
- Very committed to poor
- Non-retaliatory
- Pro-life
- Original Christian sex ethic
- From Larry Hurtado’s *Destroyer of the gods: Early Christian Distinctiveness in the Roman World*

Acts 1:4, 8
“Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised… you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses.”

“There is no reason whatsoever to believe that what was true of those earliest Christians is any less true of Christians in this century. Surely contemporary crises are no less great, the challenges to one’s strength, wisdom, patience, and love are no less demanding of resources beyond human

resources than they were in the first century, and followers of Jesus today are no more sufficient for all these in and of themselves than were his followers yesterday. Furthermore, God's program of enabling people to bust the bounds of their human limitations and achieve the impossible is still in place and still effective—that program that involves filling people with his Spirit, filling them with supernatural power."

- Gerald Hawthorne, *The Presence and the Power*

Ephesians 5:18
Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit…

What does it mean to "be filled by the Spirit?" One definition:
"A constantly repeatable, deepening experience of God's Spirit, who brings a greater revelation of the person and work of Christ, a blazing love for Christ, a greater and more effective empowering witness to Christ, and a transforming conformity to the character of Christ."

- Simeon Ponsonby, *More*

Ephesians 3:17-19
And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of

Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge —that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

John 7:37-39
On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.” By 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.

Andrew Murray’s Four Practical and Verbal Steps to Being Filled by the Spirit:
Say, “I must be filled”

- Knowing that God commands it and you need it
- Believing that it is God’s desire and promise
- Willing to surrender all to make room
- Declaring the promised gift of God, purchased by Christ