

# Small Group Study

## Our Mission

To build a Christian community by making fully devoted disciples of non-religious and nominally religious people



## Discussion

### Your Kingdom Come: “Empowered by the Spirit”

## Scripture

Have a volunteer read the following scriptures:

### Joel 2:28-29 (NLT):

*28 Then, after doing all those things,  
I will pour out my Spirit upon all people.  
Your sons and daughters will prophesy.  
Your old men will dream dreams,  
and your young men will see visions.  
29 In those days I will pour out my Spirit,  
even on servants—men and women alike.*

### Acts 1:1-8 (NLT):

*1 In my first book I told you, Theophilus, about everything Jesus began to do and teach 2 until the day he was taken up to heaven after giving his chosen apostles further instructions through the Holy Spirit. 3 During the forty days after his crucifixion, he appeared to the apostles from time to time, and he proved to them in many ways that he was actually alive. And he talked to them about the Kingdom of God.  
4 Once when he was eating with them, he commanded them, “Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift he promised, as I told you before. 5 John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”  
6 So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, “Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?”  
7 He replied, “The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*

## Introduction

When a person accepts Christ into their life, the Holy Spirit does several things:

- The believer is indwelt by the Holy Spirit, i.e., the Holy Spirit in whole takes up residence within the believer. (John 14:7; Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19; Galatians 4:6; 1 John 2:27; 3:24)
- The believer is sealed with and by the Holy Spirit. This is the believer’s assurance of “eternal security.” (2 Corinthians 1:22; 5:5; Ephesians 1:13, 14; 4:30)

### Ice Breakers

Use ONE of the questions to help people open up and to focus your meeting. It is very helpful to go around in a circle with the leader going first. (Remember if you have new members or guests you should take time to introduce everyone.)

1. What is one amazing thing that God has done in your life?
2. Share a time when you were really excited about something.
3. Ask any person in the group a question that you’d like to know (try to refrain from embarrassing them.)

- The believer is granted one or more spiritual gifts by the Holy Spirit, which is/are to be used in God's service. (1 Corinthians 12:4-11)

### WHAT IS THE FILLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The words "fill" or "full" as they relate to the Holy Spirit and the believer come from the Greek word *pleroo*, which in essence means to be completely influenced and empowered by. In effect it is a condition that exists when the Holy Spirit is allowed (a conscious act of will and trust by the believer) to control a believer both inwardly (his thoughts and motives) and outwardly (his actions).

Various words are used in the New Testament that represents this concept of the fullness of the Holy Spirit:

- Filled by the Spirit (Luke 1:15; 4:1; Acts 2:4; 6:3; 7:55; 11:24; 13:9, 52)
- Led by/of the Spirit (Luke 4:1; Galatians 5:18)
- Walk in the Spirit (Galatians 5:16; 5:25)
- Moved by the Spirit (2 Peter 1:21)
- Walk in Christ (Colossians 2:6)
- Christ dwell [be at home or "full residence"] in your heart (Ephesians 3:17)

### WHAT CAN WE EXPECT TO EXPERIENCE?

We will experience God in our midst. This may take the form of any of the following:

- We will often minister in power through teaching and preaching
- Heal the sick, cast out demons
- Move in signs and wonders
- See the lost saved
- Speak in tongues and prophesy
- Receive direct, supernatural guidance through dreams, visions, and words from the Lord

### HOW DOES THE BELIEVER ACHIEVE THE FILLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

Although there is no clearly definable formula expressed in any one place in God's Word ("*The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.*" -John 3:8), a study of Scripture reveals four distinct factors which apply to the process:

1. Confess any known sin. (*Since sin impedes the filling of the Holy Spirit, so it is important that a Christian confess any sin that they are aware of in their own life.*)
2. Ask the Holy Spirit, to fill you.
3. Receive His presence by faith and step out to minister in faith
4. Expect his Spirit to do kingdom works

### SOME TESTIMONIES OF FILLINGS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT..

**John Wesley** (founder of the Methodist denomination), Journal, Jan 1, 1739: "*Mr. Hall, Hinching, Ingham, Whitefield, Hutching, and my brother Charles were present at our love feast in Fetter Lane with about 60 of our brethren. About three in the morning as we were continuing instant in prayer the power of God came mightily upon us, insomuch that many cried out for exulting joy and many fell to the ground. As soon as we were recovered a little from the awe and amazement at the presence of His majesty, we broke out with one voice, 'We praise Thee O God, we acknowledge Thee to be Lord.'*"

**Dwight L. Moody** [famous evangelist of the late 19th Century; also founded Moody Bible Institute and Moody Press]: "*I began to cry as never before, for a greater blessing from God. The hunger increased; I really felt that I did not want to live any longer.* [D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones comments, "He had been a Christian, and not only a Christian, but a minister, and in charge of a mission for some time; he was getting conversions, but still he wanted more."] *I kept on crying all the time that God would fill me with His Spirit. Well, one day in the City of New*

*York – Oh! What a day, I cannot describe it; I seldom refer to it. It is almost too sacred an experience to name. Paul had an experience of which he never spoke for 14 years. I can only say, God revealed Himself to me, and I had such an experience of His love that I had to ask him to stay his hand.”*

**Charles Finney**, [famous evangelist of the 19th Century], *“But as I turned and was about to take a seat by the fire, I received a mighty baptism of the Holy Ghost. Without any expectation of it, without ever having the thought in my mind that there was any such thing for me, without my recollection that I had ever heard the thing mentioned by any person in the world, the Holy Spirit descended upon me in a manner that seemed to go through me, body and soul. I could feel the impression, like a wave of electricity, going through me. Indeed, it seemed to come in waves and waves of liquid love.... I can recollect distinctly that it seemed to fan me, like immense wings; and it seemed to me, as these waves passed over me, that they literally moved my hair like a passing breeze. No words can express the wonderful love that was shed abroad in my heart. I wept aloud with joy and love; and I do not know but I should say, I literally bellowed out the unutterable gushings of my heart. These waves came over me, and over me, one after another, until I recollect I cried out, ‘I shall die if these waves continue to pass over me.’ I said, ‘Lord, I cannot bear any more,’ yet I had no fear of death.”*

**Billy Graham:** Stephen Olford, English Baptist Preacher writes of praying with Billy Graham as a young man. *“I gave him my testimony of how God completely turned my life inside out – an experience of the Holy Spirit in his fullness and anointing. As I talked, and I can see him now, those marvelous eyes glistened with tears, and he said, ‘Stephen, I see it, that’s what I want. That’s what I need in my life.’”* Olford suggested they “pray this through,” and both men fell to their knees. *“I can still hear Billy pouring out his heart in a prayer of total dedication to the Lord. Finally, he said, ‘My heart is so flooded with the Holy Spirit,’ and we went from praying to praising. We were laughing and praising God, and he was walking back and forth across the room, crying out, ‘I have it. I’m filled. This is the turning point in my life.’ And he was a new man.”*

## Questions

Please feel free to adjust this study to fit your group’s needs and to listen to the direction of the Holy Spirit. It is not necessary to use all of the questions.

1. Before hearing this week’s sermon and reading the introduction to this week’s study, what was your understanding of the “filling of the Holy Spirit”? How has your understanding changed, if at all?
2. Have you known people who claimed they received a “filling of the Holy Spirit” after conversion? In your evaluation, has the result in their lives been positive? What happened as a result of their experience?
3. Wayne Grudem in his *Systematic Theology* writes, “Someone might object that a person who is already “full” of the Holy Spirit cannot become more full—if a glass is full of water no more water can be put into it. But a water glass is a poor analogy for us as real people, for God is able to cause us to grow and to be able to contain much more of the Holy Spirit’s fullness and power. A better analogy might be a balloon, which can be “full” of air even though it has very little air in it. When more air is blown in, the balloon expands and in a sense it is “more full.” So it is with us: we can be filled with the Holy Spirit and at the same time be able to receive much more of the Holy Spirit as well. It was only Jesus himself to whom the Father gave the Spirit without measure (John 3:34).” Why is it do you think that we don’t feel the need to be continually and repeatedly filled with the Holy Spirit?

4. During ministry (prayer) time tonight, start with a minute or two of silence and invite people to confess their sins in silent prayer. You might invite the group to pray on their knees in reverence before God. At the conclusion of that time, ask the group if anyone would like to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Those who do can take turns sitting in a seat in the middle of the room while the rest of the group lays hands on them and prays for the Holy Spirit to fill them. Instruct the group that it is ok to invite the Holy Spirit's presence and wait. (Matt 6:7-8: *And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.*) Instead, you might just pray, "Your kingdom come," or "Come Holy Spirit fill this person."

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God bless,

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