

Senior & Founding Pastor Dr David Anderson
 Bridgeway Community Church
 Series: POWER
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POWER:
“The Spirit’s Filling”

Today I want to talk with you about receiving and releasing the power of the Holy Spirit in your life.

Next week, I will share with you how the Holy Spirit intercedes and interprets our prayers to God the Father.

Let’s pray!

I. KEY SCRIPTURE: EPHESIANS 5:15-20

15 Be very careful, then, how you live not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is. 18 Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. 19 Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, 20 always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Ephesians 5:15-20 NIV84)

Here I have 2 glasses. One has alcohol and the other has water in it.

What kind of alcohol is light colored? Tequila or Vodka or Gin, etc.

Wow... How do y'all know? Welcome to Bridgeway :-)

Now, which one of these glasses has the alcohol in it? (Tell someone near you your answer. Chat your answer.)

Would you be surprised if I told you that neither of them had alcohol in them and that they were both water? Would you be surprised if I told you that BOTH of them were alcohol?

Main Point:

**You can’t tell which is which by looking at the 2 glasses with the naked eye, can you?
 You have to “Taste and see” for yourself, don’t you?**

Would anyone like to come up on stage and do a taste test? (JUST KIDDING!)

You're thinking, "*It's 5 O'clock somewhere.*" (Joking!)

The only reason you thought one was alcoholic and the other was not is because I told you so.

But the reality is this, *both could be water. Or both could be alcohol.*

Or check this out, if both were alcohol, one could be tequila and the other could be vodka.

There are many different spirits, and we cannot always tell what spirit it is that is influencing someone, but we KNOW it ain't the Spirit of God!

You cannot tell by looking at the 2 glasses which one had water and which one had alcohol, but would you agree that if someone ABSORBS ENOUGH of the alcoholic contents you would be able to tell whether the drink was alcoholic or not?

How?

Answer:

By their behavior, their words, their eyes, their attitude, their hands (shaking) and feet (stumbling).

How much would someone have to absorb before you could see a difference in those areas?

Answer:

It differs, right? Weight, food intake, medicines, body chemistry

The reality is this, *The Holy Spirit will look and work differently in us, just like alcohol does in each individual.*

It depends on how much of the alcohol you take that will depend on the effect it has on you.

Likewise, it depends on how much of the Holy Spirit you allow to control your life that will depend on the effect it has on you!

If you drink too much wine, people will be able to tell!

You can't hide it!

When some people drink they get happy. Others get angry?

Do you know some people who are Happy Drunks? (They smile big, laugh loudly, or giggle continually.)

Other kinds of drunks...

Angry drunks (they turn mean and want to pick fights)

Frisky drunks (overly sexual, touchy, feely)

Mouthy drunks (they talk your ear off until they're blue in the face)

Sleepy drunks (they can lie down anywhere)

Ask your neighbor, what kind of drunk are you? (Just kidding!)

Man gets pulled over on the highway by a cop. The officer asks for license and registration. He says to the old man driving, "*Did you know your back light was out, Sir?*"

The old man answers, "*No I didn't officer.*"

The wife of the old man is in the passenger seat and she says out loud, "*Oh yes you did, Harry. I've been telling you to get that light fixed for weeks.*"

The officer asked, "*Sir, did you know you were driving 65 mph in a 45 mph zone?*"

The old man responds, "*No, officer, I didn't?*"

The wife says out loud, "*Yes you did, Harry. You said going fast is the only way we're going to make our medical appointment that we're late for.*"

The officer says, "*Was your seatbelt on when I stopped you or did you just put it on?*"

The old man said, "*It was on*". The wife said, "*Harry, you just put the seatbelt on when the officer pulled us over.*"

Harry had had enough and lashed out to his wife and said: "*SHUT UP, WOMAN!*"

The officer looks into the car and says to the wife, "*Ma'am, is your husband always this mean to you?*" To which she responded, "*No, officer, ONLY WHEN HE'S DRUNK!*"

Main point:

Some of us see the Holy Spirit like the old spouse next to us always ready to bust our chops and expose us.

II. THE WORK OF THE SPIRIT

Some of us see the Holy Spirit like the police officer ready to bust us for everything we are doing wrong. And yes, the Holy Spirit does “convict” us. In fact, John 16:8 says, “*When he comes he will convict the world of guilt*” (NIV84).

But for the believer, one of the major roles of the Holy Spirit is to COUNSEL & COMFORT US.

As the Good Counselor we are told that the Holy Spirit will do 3 things for the believer:

1. He will CONVICT US of sin and guilt (John 16:8)
 - “*When He comes, He will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment.*” (John 16:8 NIV84)
2. He will GUIDES US into all truth (John 16:13)
 - “*But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth.*” (John 16:13 NIV84)
3. He will GLORIFY JESUS CHRIST by revealing more of Christ to us (John 16:14-15)
 - “*He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. 15 All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you.*” (John 16:14-15 NIV84)
4. He will GIVE US ASSURANCE that we are children of God forever (Ephesians 1:13, Romans 8)
 - “*The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.*” (Romans 8:16 NIV84)

- *“And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed you were marked in Him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession, to the praise of His glory.” (Ephesians 1:13-14 NIV84)*

Wow! We are God’s possession and the Holy Spirit is the promised deposit, sealing us until the day of redemption!

There is only ONE who can open the seal!!

Jesus!

5. He will GROW US UP SPIRITUALLY as we abide in Jesus Christ (John 15:8; Galatians 5:16-17; 22-23)

- *“This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.” (John 15:8 NIV84)*
- *“So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.” For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want.” (Galatians 5: 16-17 NIV84)*
- *“But the fruit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.” (Galatians 5:22-23 NIV84)*

Let’s REVIEW...

The Holy Spirit (Counselor/Comforter):

1. Convicts us
2. Guides us
3. Gives us Revelation
4. Gives us Assurance of our Salvation
5. Grows us up spiritually

So then, Pastor, if the Holy Spirit operates in the believer’s life like this, *what is this business about the “filling” of the Holy Spirit?*

Let me answer by retelling the story of the old man being pulled over...

I want you to see *how the Holy Spirit works* in the retelling of this story.

The Officer pulls over the Old Man. The Old Man is honest this time and answers:

- “Yes, I knew my **tail light** was broken.”
- “Yes, I knew I was **speeding**.”
- “No, I didn’t have **my seatbelt** on when you stopped me.”
- “Yes, I have been **drinking**.
 - [“I mean, I only had 1 glass of vodka. I thought it was water, but that’s a whole different story. My pastor held up 2 glasses at church and I drank the wrong one...etc. Forget about it”:-)]
- The police officer then tells his partner in the police car to take the car back to the station and he will handle this situation.
- The officer then takes the old man out of the car and straps him in the back seat. He then gets in the driver’s seat himself and says:
 - “I will drive you to your medical appointment and after that I will take you to get your tail light fixed, and after that I will take you home!”
 - *The old man began to cry because he realized that the cop wasn’t there to BUST him, but the BETTER HIM!*

Main point:

FOLKS, the Holy Spirit is there to BETTER us.

I need to tell someone today that the Holy Spirit is there to BETTER you, not to bust you.

The Holy Spirit wants to have full control over us!

The Holy Spirit wants to DRIVE!

- *He wants to DRIVE our behaviors*
- *He wants to DRIVE our passions*
- *He wants to DRIVE our proclivities*
- *He wants to DRIVE our speech and how we talk*
- *He wants to DRIVE how we walk, how we worship, how we give, and how we live!*

Question:

Are you willing to let the Holy Spirit DRIVE?

Somebody say: Holy Spirit take the wheel!

We don't need Jesus to take the wheel.

He owns the entire car!

- *"Jesus, you took my life."*
- *"Now Holy Spirit, you take the wheel."*
- *"Jesus, you have my whole car."*
- *"Jesus, you have my whole heart,*
- *"Holy Spirit, I am giving you control."*
- *"Holy Spirit, I am giving you the wheel."*

Back to Ephesians 5:18...

- *"Do not get drunk with wine which leads to debauchery. INSTEAD, be filled with the Spirit." (NIV84)*

"Be Filled" - Passive & continuous verb

- Meaning *"LET YOURSELVES be continuously filled"* with the Holy Spirit

IV. CONCLUSION

To be filled with the Holy Spirit means to SURRENDER!

HOW ABSORBABLE AM I TO OPEN MYSELF UP TO THE CONTROL AND THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN MY LIFE!?

Like wine, you can taste and see that it is good.

But a taste won't change you.

Some of you have been tasting the Holy Spirit, but you are afraid to drink of the Holy Spirit because you don't want to be out of control.

The Spirit of God is saying to you today, LET ME TAKE THE WHEEL!

When I drive you to the medical appointment, you will discover that I am also the GREAT PHYSICIAN!

When I take you to get that broken tail light fixed you will find out that I am THE GREAT MECHANIC that can fix whatever is broken in your life.

When I take you home you will find out that IN MY FATHER'S HOUSE THERE ARE MANY MANSIONS...

- LET ME DRIVE YOUR LIFE.
- LET ME DRIVE YOUR DESIRES.
- SAY, "*HOLY SPIRIT, TAKE THE WHEEL OF MY LIFE*" ...
 - ...MY MARRIAGE
 - ...MY CHILDREN
 - ...MY HEALTH
 - ...MY FINANCES
 - ...MY SINFUL LUSTS
 - ...MY HABITS
 - ...MY ANXIETIES
 - ...MY FEARS

Loved Ones, when you accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and savior, you will get ALL of the Holy Spirit you will ever need. You cannot get anymore of the Holy Spirit.

The question is NOT, *“How much more the Holy Spirit can I get?”*

The question is, *“How much more can the Holy Spirit get of YOU!?”*

Question:

Are you ready to absorb more of the Holy Spirit in your life?

STAND FOR PRAYER (If you feel comfortable, lift your hands and let's ask the Holy Spirit to fill us...)