



Filled to Overflow

Acts 2:1-14 | Ryan Pfeiffer | January 18, 2026

INTRO. Last week we saw Church as a group of people gathered around Jesus. This week we learn to gather around Jesus means to be filled w/ His Spirit. Jesus himself promised... Acts 1:5 in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit. This topic of the Holy Spirit can be controversial and even bring up past pain.

Tyler Staton, *The Familiar Stranger*— *"It must break the heart of Jesus that the very Spirit he was so eager to give has become unknown, feared, and divisive."*

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

FOCUS. Who is the Holy Spirit? What does it mean to be filled? How can we be filled?

WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT? 2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.

Notice Luke says like a violent wind and seemed to be tongues of fire..
This imagery of Wind and Fire is deeply Old Testament...
In the OT the word for Spirit is ruach... meaning wind, breath, spirit...

- **Wind**- Gen 1:1 the ruach hovered over creation... Gen 2:7 ruach is the breath of life in Adam... Gen 8 God sends a ruach to push back the flood-waters judgement.
- **Fire**- a symbol of God's presence... Ex 3:2 Burning bush Ex 19:18 Fire/ Sinai. 2 Chr 7 the fire of God's presence fills the temple! (Church as the Temple of God!)

The Spirit is the third person of the trinity... Father, Son, Spirit. 1. The Holy Spirit is God 2. The Spirit is eternal/Holy 3. Spirit is omnipotent, omnipresent and omniscient. 4. The Spirit is a person. 5. The Spirit has His own mind/ prays for us 6. Has emotions (grieved) 7. Has His own desires & will.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT? 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Have you ever been filled with anger/ fear/ worry or joy/ peace/ love? But what does it mean to be filled w/ the person of the Holy Spirit?

"Filled" πληροῦμαι (pimplēmi) verb that means "to fill"—the sense of being filled completely, either literally (a space- v2 'whole house') or figuratively (a person being filled/controlled/influenced). Filled is a volumetric metaphor = the influence of HS's presence/ power

Acts shows us 3 dimensions to the filling of the Spirit:

Z = Inward Dimension. These disciples go from being filled with fear to joy! V28 you will fill me with joy in your presence. (Peter quoting Ps 16).

- The Holy Spirit comes to supernaturally dwell within us. 1 Cor 6:19 your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you.
- The Holy Spirit brings forth character of Jesus. Gal 5:22 Turn in Bible!

Y = Upward Dimension. The disciples are empowered to praise God out loud
Look v11... we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!
Disciples aren't trying to get attention! Unafraid to show devotion to God!

1. The Holy Spirit opens our awareness of God! Deepens our connection!
2. The Spirit helps us pray, and worship and hear from God!
3. Romans 8:26.

X = Outward Dimension. The disciples are empowered to share Jesus!
The church is not a Social Club... It's the Family of God! V9-11. 15 regions!

- Notice Spirit draws people to the believers... v6 a crowd came together...
- Spirit also empowers them to reveal Jesus to the crowd!
- Thru miracles.. personal testimony... scripture... and love...

HOW CAN WE BE FILLED? 38 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The most succinct way to be filled with the HS is to repent.

Repent in Grk μετανοέω (metanoeō). Change one's mind... to turn to God.

It carries with it not only the change of mind but change of life, choices.

First for believers it speaks to a constant re-aligning with God's will...

- Sometimes we are going the wrong direction in our thinking, living...
- Sometimes we are in the right direction but God wants to direct us higher!

Mark 8- Peter "you are Christ"... yes!! But now understand the Cross of Christ!

Acts 1 disciples are called to wait for the Spirit... we see the essential tools for repenting are:
Fellowship... Praying... Scripture.

You can be filled continually... again and again...

Second for not-yet-believers it speaks to returning to God thru faith in Jesus!

To align your whole life with the life of Jesus.

1. To accept that you (along with everyone else) have a sin problem.
2. To see Jesus death on the cross as the solution to being forgiven/ healed
3. To call upon Jesus by an act of faith to forgive and save you.

v21 (Joel 2) And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'

The Church must always be a place where people can be saved!

4. When you are forgiven you are filled with the Holy Spirit.

V38 You will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

V39 The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.

Scripture References for the Holy Spirit

Trinity (Father, Son, Spirit)

- **Matthew 28:19** – “in the name of the **Father** and of the **Son** and of the **Holy Spirit**”
- **2 Corinthians 13:14** – grace (Jesus), love (God), fellowship (Spirit)

1) The Holy Spirit is a *Person*

(He speaks, teaches, can be lied to, relates personally)

1. **John 14:26** – “He will teach you... bring to your remembrance...”
2. **Acts 13:2** – “The Holy Spirit said...”
3. **Acts 5:3-4** – you can **lie to** the Holy Spirit

2) The Spirit is *God (divine) / Eternal / Holy*

Spirit is God

- **Acts 5:3-4** – lying to the Holy Spirit = lying to God
- **2 Corinthians 3:17** – “**the Lord is the Spirit**”

Eternal / Holy

- **Hebrews 9:14** – “through the **eternal Spirit**”
- **Ephesians 4:30** – “the **Holy Spirit** of God”

3) The Spirit has His own *mind / prays for us*

- **Romans 8:26** – the Spirit helps our weakness / intercedes
- **Romans 8:27** – God “knows **the mind of the Spirit**... the Spirit intercedes...”

4) The Spirit has *emotions (can be grieved)*

- **Ephesians 4:30** – “Do not **grieve** the Holy Spirit of God”

5) The Spirit has His own *desires and will*

- **1 Corinthians 12:11** – Spirit distributes gifts “**as He wills**”

- **Galatians 5:17** – “the desires of the Spirit...”
- (also strong) **Acts 16:6-7** – the Spirit **forbids/allows** direction in mission

6) The Spirit is omnipotent, omnipresent, omniscient

Omnipotent (all-powerful)

- **Romans 15:19** – “by the power of the Spirit of God”
- **Luke 1:35** – “the Holy Spirit will come upon you... power of the Most High...”

Omnipresent (everywhere)

- **Psalms 139:7** – “Where shall I go from your Spirit?”

Omniscient (all-knowing)

- **1 Corinthians 2:10-11** – Spirit “searches everything... even the depths of God”