

## **Be Filled with the Holy Spirit**

Pentecost Sermon June 5, 2022

**Scripture Reading:** Acts 2:1-21

**Golden Verse:** *"Be filled with the Spirit."* Ephesians 5:18

If I would ask you now to share with me three of the main goals you could achieve with some help, in order to live a much happier life, what would you say? What would be those three achievable goals?

This morning God places a very special one in front of us when he says: "Be filled with the Holy Spirit" and you will experience that you have everything for your happiness. The only way we can be really happy is if we are filled with the Holy Spirit.

Picture yourself on a sweltering summer day in front of a crystal-clear forest brook, being tired and thirsty. Somebody passes you an empty cup saying: Fill up your cup with fresh water, and drink! This is how we can be filled with the Holy Spirit. God calls us this morning to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

### **What does this mean and how does it happen?**

I know that the concept of the Holy Spirit can be quite confusing, and we might have a hard time imagining how it works as the third person of the Trinity.

Let me try to illuminate the whole Pentecostal event with an analogy. Just think of a hydroelectric power plant. A huge dam wall holds back a huge amount of water. A terrifying force is held back by the walls. In such a lake, huge energies are accumulated, which will produce electricity, enough to ignite many thousands of lights, trains, and machines. But all this is only possible if the doors of the dam are open and the retained water will rush into the turbines, bringing the generator into the rotation, creating tremendous electric energy that can then be converted into power, heat, and light. This power is delivered via suitable wires to cities, farmhouses or factories.

From the first Christmas to Easter and Ascension Day, a tremendous amount of heavenly energy was accumulated on earth: God's redeeming grace. The birth, death, and resurrection of Jesus are the great divine events that have brought something quite powerful and new into this world. This amount of energy is enough to overcome all sin, radically recreate a human life, and even destroy the power of death. On Pentecost, the doors of the dam opened, and the Holy Spirit, the electric power, is transformed into heat and light in every house, factory, and

workshop. Between Christmas and Easter, the great work of saving the world took place, and Pentecost mediates between God and you, as a human. The Holy Spirit wants to fill you up, then to use you to carry this power, this energy, to share with others to change their lives.

The Holy Spirit is the same God who reigns over the universe as Creator, who came among us as the Saviour in the human person of Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus called the Holy Spirit “MY SPIRIT”. It is a transferable life force of God who revealed Himself in Jesus. We can be filled with this Holy Spirit, filled with the Spirit of Jesus, with His influence, with His blessings, with His energy. Being filled with the Spirit means: being filled with the Spirit and spirituality of Jesus. This is the highest degree of our connection with God.

The first and lowest degree is when we realize that there is a God. There are people who do not believe there is a God. But as a result of a sermon, or of an accident that took them to a turning point, they acknowledge there is God above us. This can be called faith, but it is only the beginning of faith. The Holy Spirit touched them and showed them there is a God.

Going forward from this general belief, the next degree is when people recognize the love of Jesus and they understand the love and forgiveness and the promise of an eternal glorious life in His they received from Jesus.

But there is more – being filled with the Holy Spirit is the moment when the Power of God is now moving into our lives as a new landlord.

So once again: in the first degree, we know that there is a God, and that’s a great thing too. In the second degree, we acknowledge that God is with us, and that’s a much bigger recognition.

But there is also a way higher degree, recognizing that God is not only WITH us but also IN us. God is in us; Jesus is in us. This is a hardly imaginable reality. It is a mysterious and incomprehensible thing, but it is a reality. God laid his heart for us in Jesus.

And now God wants more than that. God wants to put HIS heart in you and in me, in our brain cells, in our blood, in our eyes, in our words, in our actions. He wants all the heavenly energy of Jesus to ignite in us like light; to work in us as a force; radiate from us like a blessed warmth, the warmth of love. This is why He opened the heaven at Pentecost and poured out the Spirit of Jesus into the world.

**Pentecost means God is here.** The God we have come to know in Jesus is here in the power of His Holy Spirit. He wants to be in us. That is why God tells you to be filled with the Holy Spirit and occupied by the divine Spirit of Jesus at this is day of Pentecost.

But, you may ask, how is it possible that you still feel so little of the Holy Spirit's effects? Why is still so cold and dark even in the hearts and lives of Christian believers? Why are we still experiencing so much spiritual fatigue and weakness? Well, it is quite certain that it is not the divine power plant that has run out of energy, but there is something wrong with us. We have to understand that God does not want to waste the energy of His Spirit. It is not enough just to sing on this day: Spirit of the Living God fall afresh on me.

**The Holy Spirit would come but requires two preconditions.**

The Holy Spirit wants to take full control of us. He wants to take possession of everything: he wants to fill every detail of our personality and life with himself, more and more. The Holy Spirit will not fill us up until we are offering our whole being to the service of God. Be filled with the Holy Spirit. Please take a moment and find out if there might be anything in your life that you did not give to His service.

The other prerequisite is that you and I have to be ready for God to use us the way He wants. The Holy Spirit wants to present Jesus to the world through us. He wants Jesus to be portrayed in us so that His blessed life, His love, and His goodness can be seen and felt wherever we live.

On the first Pentecost, people who were listening to the apostles heard from their voices love, care, and kindness. Our life should speak about joy, peace, forgiveness, and trust.

Dear Sisters, dear Brothers, today is Pentecost, a day to celebrate not only because it stands on the calendar, but also because the Holy Spirit of God is here. Let's pray now to the Lord with the readiness to embrace Jesus Christ and for His Spirit and to offer ourselves for His service, and let it be as we were singing: ask for the Holy Spirit.

*Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.*

*Melt me, mould me, fill me, use me.*

*Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Amen.*