



The Forgotten God

What does it mean to be filled with the Spirit?

#npforgottengod

Week 3
3 of 5

March 15, 2020

Bottom Line: The Spirit in you and in control makes a noticeable difference.

Icebreaker: What's the worst you have ever embarrassed yourself? How long did it take you to be able to laugh about it?

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

No one who ever lived is more magnetic or more attractive than an authentic Christ-follower. An authentic follower lives what he believes: speaks the truth, loves generously, admits failure quickly, acknowledges weakness without hesitation, knows who he is and accepts who he is. Because that kind of authenticity is mostly absent, the watching world has largely stopped believing our claims. Consistent authenticity can only be possible through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit.

Most Christians know little of the life that is Christ-like and abundant. Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit, the Helper, would come and empower us to live a life that is not dependent on our circumstances. It is His presence, His supernatural power that makes the noticeable difference. Because our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit and He lives in us, we are called to honor Him. This perspective changes everything. It brings integrity into my life. When I am inhabited by the Holy Spirit, I am able to accomplish what I could never do on my own.

Paul tells us that being filled with the Spirit is the opposite of being drunk on wine. Being filled with the Spirit is a life of absolute balance and self-control. The Spirit leads to careful, thoughtful deeds. Instead of your energy being wasted, your energy is used and directed. The Holy Spirit gives you the meaning and courage you need for life. So, when Paul says, "Don't be drunk with wine but be filled with the Spirit," it is an urgent command, not a suggestion. I can't be filled when I have unconfessed sin or am resisting God's will. But when I am ready and I ask, the Spirit fills me with Himself. It is always in the present tense—I must keep being filled.

How will my life be different when the Holy Spirit fills me? I will be teachable, joyful, grateful, and humble. I will live a life that is unexplainable except for the supernatural work of the Spirit within me. I will be an authentic follower.

THINK IT OVER >>>

What impacted you most from the message?

I don't know anyone who is more magnetic and attractive than an authentic Christ-follower. Who comes to mind when you hear that?

God's Spirit is the power behind authenticity. It has nothing to do with our circumstances. That's what makes it so phenomenal. Reflect and discuss from your own experience.

Keys are to the car what conversion is to the Christ-follower. Explain what that means.

What fuel is to a car, the Spirit of God is to the authentic Christ-follower. Explain.

When you remember that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, it changes your behavior. How have you experienced that to be true?

The awareness of the Holy Spirit brings integrity to my life. Why? How?

LOOK IT OVER <<<

Why do you believe Paul chose wine and drunkenness to talk about the filling of the Holy Spirit?

Debauchery is a lack of concern or thought for the consequences of an action, or a senseless or reckless deed. If that is what alcohol leads to, what would be the opposite Paul intended us to deduce would come from the filling of the Spirit?

People use alcohol to try to find meaning and courage for life. Being filled with the Holy Spirit means that He Himself gives you meaning and courage. How have you found that to be true?

Being filled with the Spirit of God is given in a passive voice, meaning that it is something done to us. We can't do the filling. God does it. Has this happened for you? If so, what have you discovered about staying full?

If you are filled with the Spirit, share a testimony about how He has helped you be teachable, joyful, grateful, or humble.

NEXT STEPS

1. Ask God to fill me with His Spirit.
2. Surrender to Him.

EVALUTION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

Bottom Line: The Spirit in you and in control makes a noticeable difference.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at newpointe.org/daily:

Monday: 1 Corinthians 2:14

Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Wednesday: Galatians 5:22-23

Thursday: John 16:13-14

Friday: Acts 2:1-4, 6, 10-12

Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.

(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)