

# BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY GHOST

What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 1st Corinthians 6:19.

Every individual should have the Holy Ghost dwelling in them. Our body is the temple of God. The apostle Paul said, Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are. (1st Corinthians 3:16-17) In the face of these strong statements it is easy for the honest heart to see that God desires to come into the heart and life of each person (individually) and abide with them. Jesus spoke of the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, that would abide with you forever; (John 14:16)

Many religious teachers would have you believe that the Holy Spirit given on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4) was only for the apostles and was to be taken away in a certain time. This cannot be true! One reason why it isn't so is because no where does the Bible say such! Another reason is because the Holy Spirit was given to others all down through the Book of Acts and even in this age in which we live. When Peter was defending his mission to the Gentiles as recorded in Acts the tenth chapter, he told the Jewish brethren, "And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning . . . Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as he did unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God? (Acts 11:15-17)

If you will open your Bible to the tenth chapter of Acts, you will see honest hearts accepting God's plan and being filled with His Spirit. Notice as Peter tells them that "Jesus Christ is Lord of all" (Acts 10:36). He tells them that through Jesus' name men could have the remission of sins... (Acts 10:43). While he was preaching Jesus to these Gentiles, God poured out the Holy Ghost on every one that heard the word! Peter recognized they had received the Holy Ghost "For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God . . . (Acts 10:45-46) This is too plain for honest people to overlook! These Gentiles accepted the preaching of Peter in their hearts and God gave them the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. Peter knew that speaking in tongues was the evidence and he heard them speak with tongues! This is why he mentioned water baptism and recommended that they be baptized, "which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we . . ." (Acts 10:47) He later commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

Paul speaks of Christ dwelling in our hearts by faith . . . (Ephesians 3:17) He spoke again of "Christ in you, the hope of glory." (Colossians 1:27) When the Bible speaks of the Holy Ghost, Holy Spirit, Spirit of God, Spirit of Christ, Spirit of truth, Comforter . . . All of these terms are one and the same! When the disciples (120) were filled with the Holy Ghost on the day of Pentecost and spoke in other tongues as the Spirit gave the utterance . . . (Acts 2:1-4). This "Spirit" that filled them on that day was the Spirit of the man that was with them a few days before! Jesus told them plainly that "he (Holy Ghost) dwelleth with you, and shall be in you." (John 14:17) Jesus said, "I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you." (verse 18) The Holy Ghost is not a strange third person in the Godhead, He is the Spirit of the Lord Jesus Christ to give comfort and teach us all things He has said unto us.

Jesus wants you to be filled with His Spirit (Holy Ghost) that you might have power for service. He said, Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you . . . (Acts 1:8) In a world of sin and unbelief, surely God's people need power today! We need a teacher as never before to help us understand the deep and hidden things of the Almighty. Jesus promised that the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost shall teach you all things . . . (John 14:26). Of course we must still do the learning, but if we have the Holy Spirit, we have a teacher that will show us things to come. (John 16:13) We also have a teacher who speaks! He came speaking on the day of Pentecost and thank God He still speaks through lips of clay when He comes to abide! He is the same today, yesterday and forever . . . Bless His name forever!

Peter spoke by inspiration on the day of Pentecost and told the Jews who were pricked in heart that they would receive the "gift of the Holy Ghost" if they would "Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins." (Acts 2:37-38) He assured them that "the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call." (Verse 39) Just as sure as God calls you, He will give you the Holy Spirit! He will give the Holy Ghost to them that obey him . . . (Acts 5:32). To receive the "gift of the Holy Ghost" and to receive the Baptism of the Holy Ghost is the same. Read and compare the two following verses . . . (Acts 2:38 and Acts 10:45)

The first ones to receive the Spirit in His fullness were the disciples on the day of Pentecost (Mary the mother of Jesus was one of them). (Acts 1:14-15) This was a tarry service as they waited for the promise of the Father. Jesus had told them to tarry in the city of Jerusalem, until you be endued with power from on high. (Luke 24:49) We see them in the upper room as they were continually praising and blessing God. (Acts 1:13-14; Luke 24:52-53). They were filled with joy as a result of Jesus

lifting up his hands and blessing them . . . (Luke 24:50-52). No doubt on this occasion they experienced the blessing of sanctification with the Blood (Hebrews 13:12) but they were not filled with the Holy Ghost! When they were filled with the Holy Ghost, every one of them spoke in other tongues as the Spirit gave the utterance. (Acts 2:1-4) The same results will follow a Spirit filled life today!

Our God spoke of a blessing to come to God's people that would be a "refreshing" and would cause the weary to rest." (Isaiah 28:10-12). If you will read these verses carefully, you will see that Isaiah is prophesying of a time that God would speak to his people with stammering lips and another tongue! Who can believe the Bible and set this aside? The God of heaven spoke this and then during His ministry on earth He spoke of believers saying, "they shall speak with new tongues." (Mark 16:17)

If you don't have this wonderful experience of being filled with the Holy Ghost and speaking in tongues, Why not ask Jesus to give you the Holy Spirit. Pick up your Bible right now and read Luke 11:13. Turn to Acts eight and read how the people of Samaria had been baptized in water in the name of the Lord Jesus but Peter and John came down and prayed for them to receive the Holy Ghost! Notice how Paul preached Jesus to the disciples of John and they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus and then received the Holy Ghost. (Acts 19:1-7) John said Jesus would baptize with the Holy Ghost and fire...(Matthew 3:11) Why not seek Him and have others who believe the truth to tarry with you until you are filled? God said, Ask and it shall be given! You will need this power to stand the test and to be able to go back with Jesus when He comes.

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