

## Lesson 2: Filled with the Holy Ghost (Part 2)

### Introduction

In the last lesson, we learned what it means to be filled with the Holy Ghost. In short, we saw that the Holy Spirit changes us, guides us, and empowers us to do things we would otherwise be unable to do. It means that we permit the Holy Ghost to achieve everything in us, which Christ sent Him to do. It means that we live in an honest, intimate relationship with God.

Please write again the 6 functions of the Holy Ghost in our life.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

In this lesson, we will learn how we can be filled with the Holy Ghost.



### John 3:1-17

One night, Nicodemus secretly visited Jesus because he knew Jesus had something that was missing in his own life. Surprisingly, Jesus didn't even respond to Nicodemus' initial statement. He just spoke directly about what Nicodemus was missing.

What is the prerequisite for entering the kingdom of God? (verses 3-8)

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What question does Nicodemus ask? (verse 9)

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That is exactly the question we are dealing with in this lesson. Jesus told Nicodemus that he had to be born again through the Holy Spirit in order to enter the kingdom of God. And Nicodemus asked: How can these things be? How can I be filled with the Holy Ghost?

How did Jesus answer this question? (verses 14-17)

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Jesus said that if we want to receive the Holy Spirit, we have to look to Him, which means to believe in Him. When the Israelites looked at the snake in order to be saved, they were admitting that they could not heal themselves. Their only recourse was to completely trust in what God alone could do for them. In the same way, we

can only receive the Holy Spirit when we completely surrender our lives to Jesus' lordship. This alone is saving faith in Jesus Christ.

**Why aren't many Christians filled with the Holy Ghost?**

Many Christians never experience the indwelling of the Holy Ghost. Their Christian experience typically consists of habits and personal efforts. Why is this? There are several possible reasons. Firstly, it could be a lack of knowledge about what it means to be filled with the Holy Ghost. Unfortunately, many live in ignorance about God's wonderful help through the Holy Spirit.

Secondly, it could be unbelief and a lack of trust in God. Some people actually doubt that God will fulfill His promises. We need to remember that our unbelief makes God very sad. Human parents want their children to trust them. How much more does God yearn that we entrust Him with our whole lives, so that He can change us through the Holy Ghost?

Thirdly, it could be a lack of commitment and holding on to known and deliberate sins. If we cannot fully commit ourselves to God, out of fear that He could lead us on a path contrary to what we want, then God can't fill us with the Holy Spirit. And if God makes us aware of a certain sin in our lives, but we hold onto it, then we will experience a spiritual short-circuit.

Fourthly, it could be due to the fact the person has erroneous points of view. The Holy Ghost wants to lead us into all truth. Every error that we retain hampers the work of the Holy Spirit in us.

Fifthly, it is possible to be so occupied by the rat race that we think we can't find time to meet with God in the quiet. But it is during this quiet time that God fills us.

Next, we will look at some conditions that the Bible says are necessary for someone to receive the Holy Ghost. These requirements are not additional things, but are rather an expression of our commitment to Christ.

**1st condition**



**Believing in Jesus Christ= Commitment to Christ**

How do the following verses explain the conditions for receiving the Holy Ghost?

John 7:37-39: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Acts 19:1-7: \_\_\_\_\_

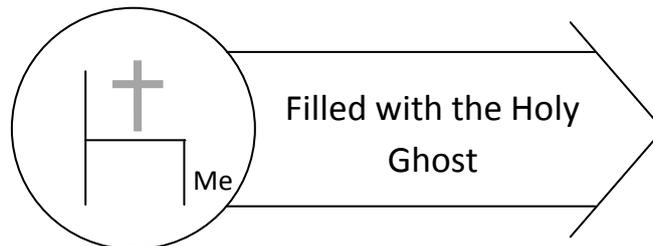
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Galatians 3:2,14: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Conversion and baptism with the Holy Ghost**

We have seen what Jesus wants to accomplish in our lives through the Holy Spirit. But He can only do these things if we give Him permission to work in us. Therefore, a prerequisite for being filled with the Holy Ghost is a conscious decision to allow the Holy Spirit to do in us everything that Jesus sent Him to do. This decision is synonymous with our commitment to Christ. When we accept salvation in Jesus Christ through faith, and ask Christ to reign over our hearts, we will be filled with the Holy Ghost. When Christ lives in our hearts, He always brings the Holy Spirit along (compare with Ephesians 3:16-17). This means that baptism of the Holy Ghost is not a separate experience in the life of a Christian. In John we read: "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." (John 1:12-13) And Paul writes: "But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God." (Romans 8:9,14-16) Those who have become righteous through faith have also received the Holy Ghost.



**2nd condition An honest desire for a Spirit filled life.**

In John 7:37-39, Jesus didn't only speak about faith. He also spoke about thirst. This tells us that we need an honest desire to be filled with the Holy Ghost. When we don't have this desire, we can ask God for it and He will give it to us. (Philippians 2:13).



How do these words of David and Jesus express the desire to have this type of encounter with God?

Psalm 42:1-3: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 5:6: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Quote #1**

“Christ has promised the gift of the Holy Spirit to His church, and the promise belongs to us as much as to the first disciples.... Only to those who wait humbly upon God, who watch for His guidance and grace, is the Spirit given. The power of God awaits *their demand* and reception. This promised blessing, claimed by faith, brings all other blessings in its train. It is given according to the riches of the grace of Christ, and He is ready to supply every soul according to the capacity to receive.” (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 672)

**3<sup>rd</sup> condition**

**Repentance**



Which requirement for receiving the Holy Ghost did Peter mention?

Acts 2:38: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

It is the Holy Spirit that shows us our sins and leads us to repentance. Just because He is working on a person doesn't mean that he/she is already filled with the Holy Ghost. The only way we can expect the Holy Ghost to live in our hearts is if we respond to the working of the Holy Spirit by allowing Him to lead us to repentance.

**4th condition**

**Obedience to God**



How did Jesus and Peter describe the connection between obedience and receiving the Holy Ghost?

Acts 5:32: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

John 14:15-17: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

We can only be obedient through the power of the Holy Spirit. Likewise, we can't experience the fullness of the Holy Spirit when we make a conscious decision to be disobedient to God. Let us not forget that the Holy Spirit will be given to those who, out of love, want to keep His commandments. Why should God give a person the power to be obedient, when they don't even want to use it?

**5th condition**

**Ask for the Holy Spirit**



When does God endow us with the Holy Ghost?

Luke 11:11-13 : \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Quote #2**

“The Holy Spirit, the representative of Himself, is the greatest of all gifts. All “good things” are comprised in this. The Creator Himself can give us nothing greater, nothing better. When we beseech the Lord to pity us in our distress, and to guide us by His Holy Spirit, He will never turn away our prayer.” (*Thoughts from the Mount of*

*Blessing, p. 132)*

**Quote #3**

“The lapse of time has wrought no change in Christ’s parting promise to send the Holy Spirit as His representative. It is not because of any restriction on the part of God that the riches of His grace do not flow earthward to men. If the fulfillment of the promise is not seen as it might be, it is because the promise is not appreciated as it should be. If all were willing, all would be filled with the Spirit. Wherever the need of the Holy Spirit is a matter little thought of, there is seen spiritual drought, spiritual darkness, spiritual declension and death. Whenever minor matters occupy the attention, the divine power which is necessary for the growth and prosperity of the church, and which would bring all other blessings in its train, is lacking, though offered in infinite plenitude.

Since this is the means by which we are to receive power, why do we not hunger and thirst for the gift of the Spirit? Why do we not talk of it, pray for it, and preach concerning it? The Lord is more willing to give the Holy Spirit to those who serve Him than parents are to give good gifts to their children. For the daily baptism of the Spirit every worker should offer his petition to God. Companies of Christian workers should gather to ask for special help, for heavenly wisdom, that they may know how to plan and execute wisely.” (*The Acts of the Apostles, p. 50*)

**God has promised!**

God has promised us that He will give us the fullness of the Holy Ghost, when we fulfill the requirements. We can depend on God’s promises. John encouraged the believers with these words: “Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.” (1 John 5:14-15) We can trust God to keep His word. He is just waiting to open the heavens and give us His bounteous blessings. When we fulfill the requirements and ask God for the Holy Ghost, then we can immediately thank Him for having received the Holy Spirit. It doesn’t have anything to do with our feelings, because our feelings can easily mislead us.

David also reminded God of His promise when he was searching for a deeper relationship with Him. He wrote: “When You said, “Seek My face,” My heart said to You, “Your face, LORD, I will seek.” (Psalms 27:8)

**Living day by day with the Holy Spirit**

How often should we ask for the Holy Ghost? Is one time enough for the rest of our lives or does God want us to communicate with Him time and again? There are two sides to the answer! On the one hand, we may believe that God fulfilled His promise when we surrendered our life over to Him. But the work of the Holy Spirit is a work that happens day by day. Paul wrote: “Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.” (2 Corinthians 4:16) And how is the inner man renewed day by day? Paul asked God: “that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man.” (Ephesians 3:16)

The work of the Holy Ghost is a continuous work. He can only accomplish this when we make a conscious decision day by day to remain Jesus’ disciples and pray daily for the Holy Spirit. When we ask for the Holy Ghost on a day-by-day basis, we aren’t saying that God hasn’t kept His promise in the past. Praying daily for the Holy Spirit means that we ask God in prayer: “Lord, fill me today with your Holy Ghost. Accomplish in me today everything you want through the Holy Spirit. Empower me, lead me and change me today!”

The illustration of inhaling and exhaling can help us understand how we can continually be filled with the Holy Ghost. When we exhale, the used air leaves our bodies. When we inhale, we bring fresh air into our lungs. Spiritually speaking, we exhale the impurities of our life when we acknowledge our guilt and confess our sins to God. We inhale when we consciously ask God to work in us through the Holy Spirit. Paul wrote to the believers in Ephesus: “be filled with the Spirit!” (Ephesians 5:18) These words apply to us as well – day by day.

**Asking for the Holy Spirit**

Now that you understand what it means to be filled with the Holy Ghost, what He wants to accomplish in you, and what requirements you have to fulfill in order to receive the Holy Spirit, you may ask God to endow you with this blessing. A prayer of faith claiming God’s promise for the Holy Ghost could look like this:

*“Father in heaven, in the name of Jesus I come to you. I know I can’t follow you under my own power. You know all my failures. I sincerely ask that you give me the power to live according to your will. You have told me to: Be filled with the Spirit! I am ready for you to fill me. I sincerely request that you do this, because you have promised that you want to give us the Holy Ghost much more than an earthly father wants to give his children good things. I thank you with my whole heart because I know that I have prayed according to your will and that you have already filled me. Please use me today according to your will.”*

