

Sermon-January 13th, 2019

Grace Street Fellowship, Dr. Jim Burgin, pastor

SERIES: New Year's Compass #2

RESOLUTION: "I will be filled with the Spirit."

Scriptures – 1 Corinthians 3:16; Ephesians 5:18; Galatians 5:22

"Instead, be filled with the Spirit." Ephesians 5:18

OPENING

1. Hesitant or Scared

- a. When you see a *cool* product on a website, but that website requires your contact information before you can explore, how do you respond?
- b. When you are boiling water on the stove, do you walk away to do something else, or do you stay close to protect from what might happen?
- c. Are you Hesitant when it comes to the Holy Spirit?

2. Missing God's Power

- a. We know that gas heaters in our homes are powered by a pilot light. Sometimes, you have no power, because the pilot light is out. But what if the pilot light works, but we don't turn the heat on, because we don't understand it.
- b. Have you ever had difficulty starting your car, and you tried everything to fix it until you finally realized you were out of gas?
- c. Have you ever tried to discover why a vacuum cleaner or power tool wasn't working, to no avail, until you realized the chord wasn't plugged into the wall or the batteries were dead?
- d. Sometimes we live our lives without power, because we live without the filling of the Holy Spirit.

SERMON SERIES

1. New Year's Compass – Spiritual Resolutions that we can keep.
2. Resolution #1 - I want to come to the end of me. (Avoid Selfishness) This is a constant battle.
3. Resolution #2 – I want to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

ARE WE A SPIRIT-FILLED CHURCH?

1. One part of God's Kingdom family believes that being "filled with the Spirit" is identical with "speaking in tongues."
2. Sometimes people will ask you if Grace Street is a "Spirit-Filled" church. What they want to know typically is Does our church "speak in tongues" as part of the normal discourse of our Sunday morning worship services. The answer to that is "no."
3. On the other hand, are we a church where the Holy Spirit is present and has his way? The answer to that is "yes," We can sense God's presence here every Sunday, and that is the presence of the precious Holy

Spirit in our midst. Our passage from 1 Corinthians today indicates that as the Spirit fills each of us, but that the Spirit also fills our congregation when we worship.

CURRENT UNDERSTANDINGS WHICH MISS THE MARK

1. Speaking in Tongues only for the New Testament Era – These folks are called “cessationists,” because they believe that the gift of speaking in tongues has ceased. 1 Corinthians 13:10 says that when the perfect comes, these gifts will pass away. The argument is that with the completion of the Bible, we don’t have need of certain gifts any longer, such as prophecy, or apostles, and this applies to speaking in tongues. But 1 Corinthians 13:8-12 teaches that the gifts will cease when the perfect comes, a more likely reference to Christ’s second coming (which Paul believed to be near), and where the only things remaining will be faith, hope, and love. Plus, the experience of modern Christians is too real to dismiss.
2. Speaking in Tongues is Necessary for Salvation. This is called the “Full-Gospel” movement. This group believes that speaking in tongues is evidence of your salvation. Any churches that don’t connect the two are considered “half-gospel.” Illustration: We had a man who attended our church for a bit who wasn’t well. He was ill, but his mission in life was to castigate any pastor who taught the heresy that you could be saved, but not speak in tongues. This man wrote me many caustic letters, which I kept. I also had some people in our family who told me I wasn’t saved, because I didn’t speak in tongues.
3. Speaking in Tongues happens when a Christian is filled with the Spirit. This is the reason many Christians shy away from the whole concept of being filled with the Spirit. “Speaking in tongues” scares them, and they think that they will “speak in tongues” if they are filled with the Spirit.

People who hold this view don’t equate “speaking in tongues” with salvation, but with immaturity, or with a sense of being blocked from the fullness of Christ 1 might experience. Paul teaches us a few things through 1 Corinthians 12:

- a. Gift of the Spirit: When a person is saved, they receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit moves into the life of every believer, so that no Christian can say, “Jesus is Lord,” without the Spirit. And no one with the Holy Spirit can curse Jesus Christ;
- b. Gifts of the Spirit: Every believer has spiritual gifts, but no believer has all the spiritual gifts. The Spirit gives gifts to different believers based upon the needs of the body. Speaking in tongues is one of those gifts, as is wisdom, knowledge, etc., but not every believer has this particular gift. Therefore, being filled with the Spirit of God won’t produce in someone a gift which the Spirit hasn’t given. The filling of the Holy Spirit makes each gift more effective, but you have to have the gift first.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT?

1. Your Gift Works Best – When you are filled with the Spirit, your gift works effectively. The filling maximizes your spiritual gift. Illustration. Some of us have the natural gift of discernment, but this isn’t the same as a Spiritual gift of discernment. Years ago, a pastor was recommended to be on the board of Mission Arlington. This man was charming, and seemed like a good candidate, but Tillie ultimately had to walk him off the property of Mission Arlington. This surprised a few people. Many years later, this pastor was put in jail for use of drugs, philandering with women, etc. I have the natural gift of discernment and can discover facts by listening & watching carefully. However, I don’t have the supernatural gift. The supernatural gift of discernment allows you to see the heart of someone or something immediately, but it doesn’t work effectively if you aren’t filled with the Spirit. And it is deployed/employed most when God needs the gift to be used.

2. You Experience the Spirit's Fruit - Galatians 5:22 tells us that the fruit of the Spirit are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. The filling of the Spirit brings out the Spirit's fruit, and it is sweet indeed. For example, Nehemiah 8:13 says that "the Joy of the Lord is our strength. The Lord's joy in us and through us fills us up – not joy or happiness manufactured on our own. When we have the Lord's joy, that is how and why we can rejoice in all circumstances, and that we grieve, but not as people who have no hope.

HOW CAN I BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT?

1. Our heart is God's Home – 1 Corinthians 3:16 tell us that We are God's temple. He lives in our heart. The word for Temple isn't the word for the outside of the building, but "Naos" the word for the inner sanctuary, the Holy of Holies. The priests could enter the "Holy place," but only the High Priest could enter the Holy of Holies. There the Ark of the Covenant rested, and the angels covered the covenant. On the Day of Atonement, Yom Kippur, the High priest offered sacrifices for all the people. He wore a bell on his ankle, and had a rope tied around him, so that if he passed away unexpectedly, they could pull him out. It was a place of sacred intimacy with God.
2. Open your heart to be filled. – Trust Him. Ephesians 5:18 lets us know that this is a command. It isn't an option for any of God's children. Interestingly, it isn't something we can do for ourselves. We are commanded to be filled, but we can't fill ourselves, so we have to receive the filling of God. Illustration: when someone comes over to your house, do any of you sweep things behind a closed door, then shut the door. Is God allowed into every room of your house? Open the doors and let him in. Ask Him to fill you.
3. Make it Daily – When we sin, it is like poking a hole in a water bucket, allowing the water to leak out. It is the same way with the filling of the Spirit. Therefore, take stock, repent, and start every day with a request for God to fill your heart. We fill the car with gas before we drive it, not afterwards, right?
4. Repent – when you sin, repent immediately. If you aren't aware of any obvious, direct, or immediate sins, ask the Lord to search your heart, and to show you anything which displeases Him. Then, confess it immediately. When you fall, start over.
5. Submit – bow your knee to Him in every area of your life. Then, watch what God will do.

CONCLUSION

CS Lewis said it this way: "Imagine yourself as a living house. God comes in to rebuild that house. At first, you understand what he is doing. He is getting the drains right and stopping the leaks in the roof. No surprise. But then, he starts knocking down walls. You thought you were getting a nice cottage, but then you discover that he is building a palace. What's more, He is coming to live in it Himself. Wow.

INVITATION