

LESSON SEVEN: HOW TO BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT

SESSION ONE

TO THE LEADER/FACILITATOR

To help you be more effective in leading your small-group discipleship study, we have prepared the **General Leadership Guide** to help steer you through the basics of facilitating a small-group study. If you have not already done so, please read the Guide.

ABOUT THIS SESSION

This is the first of three sessions dealing with the topic of living the Spirit-filled life. In this session, Pastor Rogers begins to discuss the **reasons** why we are to live Spirit-filled lives. In subsequent sessions, he will continue to expound on those reasons, along with discussing the **requirements** of the Spirit-filled life and the **results** that come from living a Spirit-filled life.

PREPARING TO LEAD/FACILITATE THIS SESSION

Read through the **Session Guide**, and watch the video in advance of the session. Review the **Additional Scripture to Study** at the end of the **Guide**, along with the suggested **Personal Application**. Make sure you print out enough copies of the **Student Handout** which mirrors this **Leader's Guide**.

CONDUCTING THE SESSION

At the beginning of the session, read the **Introduction** to your group, then open discussion by asking the **Reflection Questions** before viewing the video segment. After viewing the video together, you may want to ask for comments before next leading your group through the **Amplification and Discussion** section. Feel free to add your own commentary if needed, but be cognizant of time and do not personally dominate the session. As you read through the **Amplification** section, engage your group by using the provided **Discussion Questions** to stimulate additional dialogue.

As you prepare to conclude the session, review the **Personal Application** for the week and encourage participants to engage in the suggested activity, as well as to read and study the **Additional Scriptures to Study** section. The **Additional Scriptures to Study** section contains questions or reflections intended to guide participants in their respective personal studies. This is best presented as a positive activity designed to help everyone in the group to grow spiritually through the week (as opposed to being presented as homework).

Allow participants to share prayer requests and lead your group in prayer using any of the suggested formats in the **General Leadership Guide**. Remember to provide an atmosphere of confidentiality within the group as participants share.

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INTRODUCTION

Many Christians, meaning those who have genuinely placed their faith and trust in Jesus Christ, tend to go through their lives without ever understanding or truly knowing the power of the Spirit-filled life. Even mature saints can find themselves spiritually floundering at times when the pressures of life distract or overwhelm them. In this session, Pastor Rogers explains the power available to every believer through the presence of the Holy Spirit of God, and discusses why they should avail themselves of this God-given blessing.

OUR KEY PASSAGE

Ephesians 5:18-19 “And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.”

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- In your opinion, what does it mean to be “filled with the Spirit?”
- Are there any particular evidences of someone being filled with the Spirit? What do you think they are?

PRESENTATION OF VIDEO CLIP OF: “How to be Filled with the Spirit”**AMPLIFICATION AND DISCUSSION**

When we are filled with the Spirit, the Christian life will not be a burden, but a blessing. —**Adrian Rogers**

Amplification: Sadly, many Christians never fully appropriate the spiritual power given to them at the point of their salvation. They may appreciate a changed life and have a new sense of ethical or moral conduct by which to live, but too often that can easily confine the Christian life to rules or expectations that they feel they must somehow live up to. In time, those rules or expectations become burdensome and can frustrate one’s walk. In truth, it is impossible to successfully live the Christian life without the power of God as manifested through the presence of His Holy Spirit in the individual life of the Christian. Pastor Rogers’ story of the shiny new automobile that a man buys without understanding the power of the engine that comes with it is an apt illustration of the Christian who fails to understand and appropriate the power of the Holy Spirit in his life.

For Discussion: In what ways do you believe living a Spirit-filled life can make a difference in the decisions you make, the activities in which you engage, or the people with whom you choose to associate?

Amplification: The Bible doesn’t just suggest that we **should** be filled with the Spirit. In the original Greek language it **commands** that we be filled by using the imperative mood (meaning it is a direct order). Not only that, but the unique complexity of the Greek actually translates, “be being filled with the Spirit,” which denotes that this is an ongoing and continuous process. We can be filled with the Spirit in one moment, but if we are not careful, in an instant we can find ourselves drained of our spirituality like a leaky vessel. Consider what happens to your spiritual life and attitude when someone cuts you off on the freeway! Further, the command is in the passive voice which means that someone else performs the action of the filling, meaning the filling comes from God, Himself. We cannot fill ourselves with the Holy Spirit of God, we can only acknowledge our need of Him, and accept His filling by faith.

For Discussion: Pastor Rogers stated that from his experience as a pastor, people trying to “do the work of God” in their own strength without being Spirit-filled can cause great harm in the church. What do you think about that idea; do you agree, or disagree? Can you give any examples?

Amplification: The first reason to be filled with the Spirit is because it is a matter of obedience; it is a biblical command of God. The second reason to be filled with the Holy Spirit is to be able to fulfill our God-given obligations. Not only do we need to know what those obligations are, but we need the power of the Holy Spirit in order to properly fulfill those obligations. We need to be filled with the Spirit in order to properly worship. Jesus said, “God is Spirit, and those who worship Him **must** worship in spirit and truth,” (John 4:24). Paul later writes, “For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh” (Philippians 3:3). Worship is often confused with church attendance, or even singing during church, but it is much more than that. True worship is communing with God by our spirits connecting with His Spirit. When that happens, we begin to understand His unfathomable

love, mercy, glory and power. As Pastor Rogers noted, “Perhaps you have been in a boring church service, but never a boring worship service ... real worship is invigorating!”

For Discussion: What would you say matters most to God concerning personal, and corporate (church) worship? What can you do to help promote a proper spirit of worship in your personal life, as well as in your church or group?

Amplification: Another obligation highlighted by Pastor Rogers was the need to live the Spirit-filled life in our marriages. Neither the man, nor the woman in a marriage can adequately fulfill the God-directed obligations of marriage without the help of the Holy Spirit. Neither can effectively understand the sacrificial role owed to the other, nor sufficiently fulfill the role apart from the filling and power of the Holy Spirit. Our fallen natures are too self-centered to allow a meaningful and cohesive relationship between two uniquely different created beings (a man and a woman) without the presence of the Holy Spirit dominating the relationship.

For Discussion: In what ways do you think the Holy Spirit can, by dominating the lives of a married couple or a couple yet to be married, positively impact the relationship? How would the absence of the Spirit in either the life of the man or the woman, or both, negatively impact the relationship?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

This week in your personal devotions be still before the Lord and just worship Him for Who He is.

GROUP PRAYER REQUESTS

Suggested group prayer – “Help us to fully understand what it means to live Spirit-filled lives. Help us to seek You and to obey You in all we do.”

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES TO STUDY

When Jesus spoke the words to the woman at the well in Samaria, keep in mind that both the Samaritans, as well as the Jews were very religious people who faithfully practiced a form of worship in their separate temples. Make sure your worship is not based on a routine formal practice or cultural tradition but truly emanates from the heart.

John 4:23-24 “But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

Philippians 3:3 “For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.”

Physical circumcision is superseded by a circumcision of the heart, where one worships God in the Spirit, rejoicing in Christ Jesus as Savior and Lord, and who holds no confidence in his/her own ability to live the Christian life.

James 4:17 “Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.”

James reminds us that it is not just what we do wrong that is sinful. Failing to do what we should is sinful and pits us against God. It is important to live a Spirit-filled life so that we can know what we should do and have the power, or spiritual authority, to accomplish it.

ADDITIONAL READING RESOURCES

- Henry and Richard Blackaby, “Spiritual Leadership,” (B & H Publishing Group, 2011)
- J Oswald Sanders, “Spiritual Leadership; Principles of Excellence for Every Believer,” (Moody Press, 1967)
- Lewis Sperry Chafer, “He That Is Spiritual,” (Moody Press, 1918)

AMPLIFICATION AND DISCUSSION

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