

LESSON SEVEN: HOW TO BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT

SESSION TWO

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 second of three sessions dealing with the topic of living the Spirit-filled life. In the previous session, Pastor Rogers talked about **why** we are to live Spirit-filled lives—it is necessary for **obedience** and to fulfill our God-given **responsibilities**, including those related to worship and marriage. Pastor Rogers continues now to discuss additional God-given responsibilities that require 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

In the previous session, Pastor Rogers talked about **why** we are to live Spirit-filled lives—it is necessary for **obedience** and to fulfill our God-given **responsibilities**, beginning with those related to worship and marriage. In our session today, Pastor Rogers continues to discuss additional responsibilities that require Spirit-filled lives, including work, spiritual warfare, and effective witness.

OUR KEY PASSAGE

Ephesians 5:18-1 “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

- How do you think being filled with the Spirit serves to impact our daily lives? Provide some practical examples to discuss.

- How do you think **not** being filled with the Spirit can impact our daily lives? Provide some practical examples to discuss.

PRESENTATION OF VIDEO CLIP OF: “How to be Filled with the Spirit”

AMPLIFICATION AND DISCUSSION

Every day that you live without being filled with the Spirit is a wasted day. —**Adrian Rogers**

Amplification: For many people, going to work every day under the authority of unbelieving employers, or working surrounded by other employees who possess domineering spirits or unethical work habits, can be a trying experience. The stress of such working conditions is amplified significantly when the employers, or the other employees, claim to be Christians. Yet, when Paul wrote in Ephesians 6:5 two thousand years ago, “... be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh,” circumstances were much worse. Much of the commerce in those days was accomplished by slave labor. The bondservant (slave) had no personal rights, and there were few, if any, laws designed to safeguard their treatment. Their masters could work them as many hours and as hard as they wanted. There were no wage protections, benefits, or unions to oversee the slave’s care or concerns. Though life today is much better, the stress created by a demeaning employer or difficult peers can still quickly cause us to “get in the flesh” in our attitudes and conversations. The solution to this dilemma is to be filled with the Spirit. Only the love that God has for the lost can effectively carry one through such circumstances.

For Discussion: How do you feel when your employer demonstrates ungodly conduct (foul language, unfair treatment, unethical business practices, etc.) How should you, or have you, dealt with such situations?

Amplification: For the Christian, meaning one who has truly surrendered his life to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, spiritual warfare is an everyday reality. Though it is unseen, the spirit world it is nevertheless very, very, real. Scripture makes it clear that our daily battles are primarily spiritual: “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places” (Ephesians 6:12). The only way to survive the spiritual warfare that rages around us is to allow the Holy Spirit of God to fight our battles for us. When we are filled with the Spirit, we are able to fight “spiritual hosts of wickedness” through the Holy Spirit. If we engage in spiritual battles while we are abiding “in the flesh,” we will lose every time. The Apostle John wrote these comforting words, “You are of God, little children, and have overcome them [the spirits of this world], because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world” (1 John 4:4). The key to understanding this verse is, “He who **is in** you.” To claim the name of Christ but to fail to be filled with the Spirit is like a soldier charging into battle with no ammunition. Only when we are filled with and walking in the Spirit are we able to overcome “he who is in the world.”

For Discussion: What kind of spiritual battles have you fought? Did you recognize these battles as spiritual at the time? What did you do right? What did you do wrong?

Amplification: Pastor Rogers said we need the Holy Spirit in our witness life. In this area, the Holy Spirit performs two functions. First, He empowers us to share the truths of our faith. To attempt to witness to a lost person while not filled with the Spirit is like spitting into the wind; the words just bounce right back in our faces. The old adage, “Witness in the power of the Holy Spirit, and leave the results to God,” still holds true. As Pastor Rogers said, “Anything you can talk a person into, someone else can talk him out of.” It is not persuasive words but the Holy

Spirit of God that teaches truth and brings conviction. Paul said, "... my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power" (1 Corinthians 2:4).

The second function of the Spirit as we share our faith is to serve as an internal witness to truth. "... And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth" (1 John 5:6). When we are filled with the Holy Spirit of God, we are equipped to recognize false teaching, false prophets, and false doctrine. This is not a matter of how we may **feel** about something; it is a matter of the Holy Spirit in us discerning truth, especially the truth of Scripture.

For Discussion: How would you say being filled with the Spirit has impacted your witness? Where have you benefitted from being Spirit-filled, and where have you maybe failed by witnessing in your own power, or by attempting to use persuasive words?

Amplification: The third and final reason we are to live Spirit-filled lives is because of our God-given opportunities. Without the filling of the Holy Spirit we will never know the Lord's will for our lives, or His will in any given circumstance. Our time on this Earth is short. Each life is but a vapor in the economy of God's time. James writes, "... For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away" (James 4:14). Therefore, all believers must make the most of their lives for the Kingdom of God while they are able. To miss what the Lord would have you do during your life will not take away your salvation, but it will lessen the rewards that could have been otherwise available. Remember the parable of the talents in which the Lord expects a return for what He has given to His servants. Recognizing and seizing God's opportunities for our lives only comes through a Spirit-filled life.

For Discussion: How has the Holy Spirit provided direction in your life? Have there been times when you have responded to His promptings, and what was the outcome? Have there been times when you failed to respond, and what were those outcomes?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

This week in your personal devotions, confess any missed opportunities you may have had to serve Him or times you failed to respond to the Holy Spirit's prompting. In faith, accept His love and forgiveness, then ask Him to help guide you in your obedience, obligations, and opportunities.

GROUP PRAYER REQUESTS

Suggested group prayer – "Lord, we will hope in You continually, and we praise You for Your righteousness. Help us to go in Your strength, speaking of Your love and salvation all the day."

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES TO STUDY

John 15:5 "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing."

Living the Spirit-filled life means we are living a life connected to Jesus and that we are abiding in Him. As you meditate on this verse, consider what kind of fruit you are producing. Is there more you could do by more conscientiously abiding in Him?

Acts 5:32 "And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him."

Sharing one's faith can be intimidating, especially if it is done out of obligation and without the filling of the Holy Spirit. Being Spirit-filled empowers us to state boldly the truths of God.

Ephesians 6:19 “...and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel,”

The following verses should be committed to memory and placed deep in the heart for all who are either employed, or for those who hold responsibility over others.

Ephesians 6:5 “Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ;”

Ephesians 6:9 “And you, masters, do the same things to them, giving up threatening, knowing that your own Master also is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.”

As believers, we are constantly engaged in an invisible battle against forces of evil. As you study the following verses, check to be sure you are covered in the **whole** armor of God.

Ephesians 6:10-18 “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with **truth**, having put on the breastplate of **righteousness**, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the **gospel of peace**; above all, taking the shield of **faith**, with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the **word of God**; **praying** always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.”

1 John 4:4 “You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.”

Additional Reading Resources

- Andrew Murray, “The Master’s Indwelling,” (Chicago; New York; Toronto: Fleming H. Revell, 1896)
- L.S. Chafer, “He that is Spiritual,” (Moody Press: Chicago, 1918)
- P. E. Little & J. F. Nyquist, “Know what you believe,” (Westmont, IL: IVP Books, 2009)

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VIDEO PRESENTATION NOTES

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