

LESSON SEVEN: How to Be Filled With the Spirit

SESSION THREE

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 third and final session dealing with the topic of living the Spirit-filled life. In the previous two sessions, Pastor Rogers explained the many **reasons** why we are to live Spirit-filled lives. In this session, he discusses the **requirements** for a Spirit-filled life, along with the **results** of 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 sessions, Pastor Rogers introduced the many reasons why we are to live Spirit-filled lives. He organized them into three categories; our obedience, our obligations, and our opportunities. In this final session, Pastor Rogers discusses the **requirements** for a Spirit-filled life, and the **results** that come from a Spirit-filled life.

OUR KEY PASSAGE

Ephesians 5:18-20 “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, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another in the fear of God.”

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- What does it mean for you to be filled with the Spirit – what does that look like in a practical sense?
- In your opinion, what do you believe is required of you to be filled with the Spirit?

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

It is not your responsibility to persuade God to fill you with the Holy Spirit, but to permit Him to do so. God wants to fill you with the Spirit. He longs for you to live with power and victory. —**Adrian Rogers**

Amplification: Many people seek out Christianity because they have an inherent desire to be good people and to associate with other good people. They attend the church that “meets their needs” in terms of music, programs, childcare, and messages that give them comfort. Amir Tsarfati, a born-again Jew, and evangelist who lives in Israel, made a harsh observation about modern-day churches in his book, “The Last Hour” (Chosen Books, 2018), when he said, “Many churches are no longer about searchers looking for Jesus; instead, they offer a comfortable, happy place to semi-believers who are looking for good people who like to do good things.” What might be the cause of this situation? Pastor Rogers emphasized the point that the first requirement for living a Spirit-filled life is a **complete commitment** to Jesus Christ. Jesus had multitudes who followed Him during His earthly ministry. They liked being fed (Matthew 14:13-22; Mark 6:30-46; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:1-15), they liked being healed (Matthew 8:2-4; Mark 1:40-45; Luke 5:12-16), they liked having the dead raised (Luke 7:11-17; Matthew 9:18-26; Mark 5:21-43; Luke 8:40-56; John 11:17-44), but when it came to being committed to Him and what He taught, they fell away in droves. So much so, that He even asked his own disciples once, “Do you also want to go away?” (John 6:67). Commitment is hard, it is costly, but it is the first requirement to truly know the Spirit-filled life.

For Discussion: What do you think churches, and Christianity in general, would look like if they were made up of people genuinely committed to Jesus Christ and filled with His Spirit? How would that impact church activities and programs, families, local communities, and even the world?

Amplification: Pastor Rogers shared the illustration known as, “My Heart, My Home,” which demonstrates how we tend to limit the Holy Spirit’s involvement in our lives. The point is that there are “rooms,” or areas in our lives that we want left alone and untouched by God. It could be our finances, it could be our sex lives, it could be hurts we are unwilling to forgive, or a host of other things we choose not to surrender to the Lord. These hidden things, these “secret rooms of our hearts,” that we are unwilling to allow God to enter and clean, hinder our ability to be Spirit-filled. There is a misconception evidenced by our behavior that suggests we can be partially filled with the Spirit. It manifests itself by thinking, “I have changed my attitude on certain things, or I am doing good things and participating in church, so I am living in the Spirit.” This is a false understanding of spirituality because it relies on works, not faith. It is by faith, the commitment to trust God for **all** aspects of our lives, that we can enjoy the true presence of the Holy Spirit.

For Discussion: “Secret rooms” tend to be very personal. If you feel comfortable, share with your group any victories you may have had in allowing the Holy Spirit to clean up areas of your life. If comfortable, share with your group where you may still be struggling.

Amplification: The second requirement for living the Spirit-filled life is **continual control**; meaning who, or what will you choose to have control over your life? Life is full of choices. Like forks in a road, we are faced with countless decisions to either “turn to the left,” or “turn to the right.” Satan actively tries to distract us from “the right path” by offering counterfeit enticements intended to mimic the blessings God wants us to have. In the Garden of Eden, Satan

told Adam and Eve that their “eyes will be opened, and you will be like God” (Genesis 3:5) to substitute their walking with the Lord in the Garden. Today Satan may use the influence of drugs and alcohol as an exchange for the Spirit-filled life. Satan is constantly throwing counterfeit lures in front of us to keep us from God’s blessings. We must be steadfast in our **complete commitment** to follow Christ, and we must choose to give Him **continual control** of our lives.

Further, it is imperative that we **consciously claim** the Spirit of God by faith, in the same way we consciously claimed Jesus as Savior by faith at the point of our salvation. We have the assurance of the presence of the Holy Spirit by the Lord’s own words (John 14:26; 15:26; 16:7), so we need not proceed with an attitude of trying to persuade God to give us the Spirit; we simply need to appropriate what He has already made available.

For Discussion: Why do you think it is so easy for mankind to be enticed away by counterfeit spiritual experiences? Consider the history of the Israelites, cultic movements, or even some churches that emphasize unbiblical manifestations of the Spirit.

Amplification: The Spirit-filled life allows God to work through us as we engage the world around us. As Pastor Rogers pointed out, we all have three basic relationships in our lives; our relationship to God, our relationship to the circumstances around us, and the relationship we have with others. Man was made unique at creation in that he was given a spirit, which is that part of us that communes with God. Scripture tells us our spirits remain dead due to sin, but at the point of salvation when our sins are forgiven and we are redeemed, our spirits are “quickened” (made alive) by God’s Spirit (Ephesians 2:1-5). Only when God’s Spirit genuinely unites with our spirits can we truly worship and enjoy Him (John 4:23,24). That is also when we can see the world and others as God sees them. Danger comes when we focus more on our circumstances (a horizontal view), than we focus on God (a vertical view). Being Spirit-filled helps us to keep our focus vertical and to see God working, even in the most difficult of times. Closely associated with our relationship to circumstances is our relationship to others. As we walk in the Spirit, we assume the attributes of Christ and we desire to serve others as He did.

A building may have electricity circling throughout its internal wiring, but lights can only come on when someone decides to turn on the light switch. In much the same way, the Holy Spirit of God is invisible, but ever present and available to empower the lives of those who have trusted Christ: “The Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you” (John 14:17). But the filling of the Spirit, walking in the Spirit, and the Spirit-filled life, are accomplished only when we yield our total beings to Him so that He might enable His power to work in and through us.

For Discussion: Why do you think it is that so many “Christians” seem to go about their lives without being filled with the Spirit? What is the cause, and how can that be corrected?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

This week in your personal devotions, take time in prayer to sincerely yield yourself to the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. Open “every room” of your heart and allow Him to enter and have preeminence over all aspects of your life.

GROUP PRAYER REQUESTS

Suggested group prayer – “Lord, without You we can do nothing. As a vine attached to a branch, we need Your daily sustenance to survive and thrive in this fallen world. Fill us with Your Spirit, teach us, and lead us in the way we should go.”

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES TO STUDY

John 14:17 “the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.”

Consider the depth of meaning of the promise that the Lord has sent His Holy Spirit to dwell in us. How wonderful a gift of love and personal concern that is for us!

1 Corinthians 6:19 “Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?”

This above passage in 1 Corinthians is a constant reminder of how we are to keep our bodies, hearts, and souls consecrated (separated) unto the Lord. We are to be holy, as He is holy.

As you review the key passage for this series of sessions, take time to note its application to your personal life. You may want to journal your thoughts on what you may need to do to meet the requirements of this passage (complete commitment, continual control, conscious claiming), and you may want to carefully evaluate whether you are reaping the results (proper relationship with God, to circumstances, and with others).

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ADDITIONAL READING RESOURCES

- Henry Blackaby and Richard Blackaby, “Spiritual Leadership: Moving People on to God’s Agenda,” (Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman, 2001)
- J. Oswald Sanders, “Spiritual Leadership: Principles of Excellence for Every Believer,” (Chicago: Moody Press, 1967)
- St. Ignatious of Loyola, “The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola,” trans. Elder Mullan, (New York: P. J. Kenedy & Sons, 1914)

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VIDEO PRESENTATION NOTES

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