

Acts Got Your Tongue?

Acts 2:1-21

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Peter LaRuffa / May 26, 2019

I. You won't have the power to do what God has called you to do without being filled with the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:4 "And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit..."

Just as Jesus promised, the Holy Spirit was sent to the Apostles to enable them to be His witnesses (Acts 1:8; John 16:7-8).

Ephesians 5:17-21 "Therefore do not be foolish, but **understand what the will of the Lord is**. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, **but be filled with the Spirit**, addressing one another in **psalms and hymns and spiritual songs**, singing and **making melody to the Lord** with your heart, **giving thanks** always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, **submitting to one another** out of reverence for Christ."

When Paul wrote Eph. 5:18, the construction of the sentence indicated this was not a one-time event. Rather, believers are to be "continuously being filled" with the Spirit.

4 Things You Need In Order To Be Filled with the Holy Spirit Continuously

1. You need to **have an understanding of God's will** for your life.(Eph. 5:17; Col. 3:16)
2. You need to **sing of God's goodness** to Him and others. (Eph. 5:19)
3. You need to **cultivate thankfulness to God regularly**. (Eph. 5:20)
4. You need to look for opportunities to **put others before yourself**, just like Jesus did for you. (Eph. 5:21)

II. You can bank on the Holy Spirit giving you the "in-the-moment" grace you need to be the witness Jesus has called you to be!

Thankfully, the Holy Spirit isn't a "one-trick pony." His power isn't "one size fits all." He doesn't give "cookie-cutter counsel." Instead, He meets you where you are, with what you need, for His glory and the good of His people.

- A. In Acts 2, He gave the Apostles the ability to speak in languages they didn't know as a sign to unbelievers.

Acts 2:4-6 "And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language."

- B. In Acts 4, He gave Peter boldness & the right words to say to the high priests.

Acts 4:8,13 “Then Peter, **filled with the Holy Spirit**, said to them...Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus.”

C. In Acts 6, He equipped Stephen to minister to widows.

Acts 6:5 “...and they chose Stephen, a man **full of faith and of the Holy Spirit...**”

D. In Acts 7, He restored Saul’s sight at his conversion.

Acts 9:17 “So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, ‘Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and **be filled with the Holy Spirit.**’”

E. In Acts 13, He gave Paul the words to say and struck the false prophet with blindness.

Acts 13:9-11 “But Saul, who was also called Paul, **filled with the Holy Spirit**, looked intently at him and said, ‘You son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, full of all deceit and villainy, will you not stop making crooked the straight paths of the Lord? And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you will be blind and unable to see the sun for a time...’”

III. You can bank on the Holy Spirit doing what He does best in your life and mine—enabling us to understand, apply, and share Christ the Word!

A. The gift of languages in Acts 2:7ff paved the way for Peter to preach the Gospel in Acts 2:14.

B. The boldness in Acts 4:8 enabled Peter to preach the Gospel in Acts 4:12.

C. The ministry to widows in Acts 6:5 preceded the Word of God increasing, the number of disciples multiplying, and many priests being saved in Acts 6:7.

D. Saul’s sight restored in Acts 9:17ff preceded his proclaiming Jesus in the synagogues in Acts 9:20ff.

E. When Paul struck the false prophet with blindness in Acts 13:11, those that were listening believed and was “astonished at the teaching of the Lord” in Acts 13:12.

The Word of God is unstoppable!

Questions for Community Group and/or Personal Application:

1. Imagine you’re one of “the twelve.” How do you think you’d feel as you stood in that Upper Room again?
2. Read Eph. 5:18-21. What do you think about God’s command to “keep being filled” with the Holy Spirit?

3. Review the things Pastor Peter said we need in order to regularly be filled with the Holy Spirit. Which one should you focus on to cultivate a more consistently Spirit-filled life? What other things would you add to this list?
4. How has God the Holy Spirit equipped you at a time when you desperately needed Him? Recall an instance(s), and thank Him for His provision.
5. Pray specifically for a way in which you hope the Holy Spirit would fill you in order to be an effective witness for Christ.