

The Old-Time Evangelistic News

Evangelist W. Paul Redmond Sr.

Volume 5, Issue 3

August 2008

Being Filled With The Holy Ghost (Part 3) (Ephesians 5:18)

Last month, we began looking at **The Method of Being Filled with the Holy Ghost-How does it happen?** We considered the first step—by Asking. It seems simple enough, but to be honest I have never heard a preacher say it. Upon looking at the verses that talk about being filled with the Spirit, many of them are connected with prayer. It is no accident! One cannot be filled if they do not pray and ask the Holy Ghost to fill them. We must be men and women of prayer, and we must ask the Holy Ghost to fill us.

But there is a second aspect to the method of being filled with the Holy Ghost. There must be an Allowing. It is interesting to note that all ten times—Luke 1:15; 1:41; 1:67; Acts 2:4; 4:8; 4:31; 9:17; 13:9; 13:52; Ephesians 5:18—that the word filled occurs, it is in the passive voice. In every instance, the subject (the believer) is acted upon by Someone (the Holy Ghost). Something is done to us, and in this case, it is done by the Holy Ghost. But in the case of being filled with the Holy Ghost, we must ask ourselves, “Can a believer not be filled with the Holy Ghost?” The answer is, “Yes.” The nature of the command given in Ephesians 5:18 would mean that there are times when we are not filled with the Holy Ghost. It is when we do not allow Him to fill us that we are not filled. The Holy Ghost is ever ready to fill us, but we must ask and allow Him to fill us.

So, we come to the question, “How do we allow, or not allow, the Holy Ghost to fill us?” There are two verses that will help us to understand how we can allow the Holy Ghost to fill us. The first one is found in Ephesians 4:30—“*And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.*” The first step to allowing the Holy Ghost to fill us is by *Not Grieving* Him. The word

-2-

grieve means “to cause sorrow; to affect with sadness; to throw into sorrow.” What grieves the Holy Ghost? The surrounding verses of Ephesians 4:30 reveal the answer. It is sin. From Ephesians 4:25 to 5:17, many sins are mentioned. Among these are lying, anger, giving place to the devil, stealing, corrupt communication, bitterness, wrath, clamour, evil speaking, fornication, uncleanness, covetousness, filthiness, foolish talking, and jesting. We grieve the Holy Ghost by sinning; this results in not being filled with the Holy Ghost. The Holy Ghost will not fill a dirty vessel. We sin because we want to. Rather than continuing to be controlled by the Spirit, at the moment of temptation, we give in to the flesh, the world, or the devil. When that happens, we must confess our sin, and ask the Holy Ghost to fill us again. The Holy Ghost desires to fill us, but we must be a fit vessel to be filled. We can be a fit vessel by constantly being on guard and resisting temptation. But when we do sin, we must be quick to confess it, so the Holy Ghost can fill us again.

The second step to allowing the Holy Ghost to fill us is by *Not Quenching* Him. I Thessalonians 5:19 says, “*Quench not the Spirit.*” The word quench means “to put out a fire; to extinguish; to suppress; to stifle.” It is interesting to note that the Holy Ghost is pictured as fire in Isaiah 4:4 and Revelation 4:5. But how do we quench, or put out, the Holy Ghost? I think we can best answer that question when we realize what fire can do. First, fire shines or illumines. The Holy Ghost will use the Word of God to show us what is right in our life and what is wrong. It may come through our personal reading of the Word of God, or it may come from the preaching of the Word. But when the Holy Ghost shines on something that is not right and convicts us about it, we quench Him by not getting it out of our lives. We must follow in what He leads, or we will quench Him, and we will not be filled.

Second, fire purifies. Sometimes the Holy Spirit will send trials in our lives to test us and to purify us to make us more fit for His service. When we complain and rebel against His purifying, we quench Him, and we will no longer be filled. We put out the fire of purifying by our sin of complaining. We must confess our sin of complaining, and

allow the Holy Ghost to purify us. Then we must ask Him to fill us again.

It is a continual battle. The Holy Ghost is very sensitive. We must constantly be on guard against grieving and quenching the Holy Ghost. He will not fill us if we do. May we ask and allow the Holy Ghost to fill us by not grieving and quenching Him.

After considering the meaning and method of being filled with the Holy Ghost, now we will think about **The Manifestation of Being Filled with the Holy Ghost—What happens?** I mentioned this in the introduction to this message, but it bears repeating. Being filled with the Holy Ghost **will not** result in speaking in tongues or the performing of miracles. The sign gifts were for the early church and ceased with the completion of Scripture. The history of the church bears that out and so does Scripture. Notice what results when one is filled with the Spirit. The command is given in Ephesians 5:18, and the rest of Ephesians gives the results of being filled with the Spirit. Not one mention is made of speaking in tongues or the working of miracles.

The first manifestation of being filled with the Holy Ghost is that there will be Power in Sowing. Several verses bear this out. Luke 1:15 speaks of John the Baptist being filled with the Holy Ghost. He went forth preaching that the kingdom of heaven is at hand, and proclaiming that the Messiah had come—*“Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world”* (John 1:29). He also preached against Herod’s sin in Matthew 14:4, even though it cost him his life. John is a great example of a Spirit-filled preacher. He preached against sin and pointed men to Jesus. More of us should follow his example.

But there are other examples of power in sowing. Jesus plainly tells the apostles in Acts 1:8, *“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”* Acts 4:8 begins a sermon by Peter to the

Sanhedrin. In Acts 4:12, Peter plainly tells them that Jesus is the only name by whom we can be saved. Acts 4:31 says, *“They spake the word of God with boldness.”* In Acts 9:17, Paul is told that he would be filled with the Holy Ghost. He would spend the rest of his life preaching in the power of the Spirit. In Acts 13:9, we see Paul doing just that. He rebukes one who is opposing the Gospel. These verses show that being filled with the Spirit will result in Power in Sowing.

A second manifestation of being Spirit-filled is Power in Singing. Elizabeth sings a song of praise in Luke 1:41-45. One praise that she utters is *“Blessed is the fruit of thy womb.”* She was speaking of Jesus, the Messiah. Her husband, Zacharias, gives praise to God in Luke 1:67-79. In that glorious song of praise, he begins by saying, *“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people.”* Acts 13:52 records the result of the disciples being filled with the Holy Ghost. They were also filled with joy. I can only imagine how they expressed that joy. Perhaps they sang. Perhaps there were shouts of joy. However they expressed it, I am sure it was wonderful to see and hear. Is your life characterized by joy? It will be, if you are filled with the Spirit.

The final passage that relates to power in singing is Ephesians 5:19-20. Those verses say, *“Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”* It is important to notice the order. Some think that singing will make them Spirit-filled. But the command to be filled is given before singing is mentioned. The ability to praise the Lord in song comes after one is Spirit-filled. In fact one reason individuals and churches are using the wrong kind of music is because they are not Spirit-filled. The Holy Ghost will reveal what is good music and what is bad music. When we are filled with the Spirit, we will sing to the Lord with the right kind of music.

The third manifestation of being Spirit-filled is Power in Serving. Following the mention of music in verses 19-20, the Holy Ghost inspires Paul to spend the next 22 verses talking about our relation-

ships as servants. It might spoil our ego, but we are all servants to one another. In fact, the section begins by saying, “*Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.*” Descriptions of our service as wives, husbands, children, fathers, servants, and masters are all covered. But it all begins by being Spirit-filled. How can we be the right kind of wife, husband, child, father, servant, or master? We can be by being filled with the Spirit.

The final manifestation of being filled with the Spirit is Power in Striving. Ephesians 6:10-18 describes the armor of the believer. We are commanded to have our loins girt about with truth, to have on the breastplate of righteousness, to have our feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace, to take the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit. These pieces of armor are all necessary to fight the fight of faith, but they will be useless, and in fact unavailable, if we are not filled with the Spirit to begin with. Many preachers and laymen have attempted to fight the devil, but did so in the flesh and were defeated. We have the hope and assurance of victory, but only when we fight filled with the Spirit. Remember what the songwriter said, “The arm of flesh will fail you, ye dare not trust your own.” May we determine to be filled with the Spirit, so we can have power in sowing, singing, serving, and striving.

(For Part 1 of this message, please see our June 2008 NewsLetter; for Part 2 of this message, please see our July 2008 NewsLetter.)