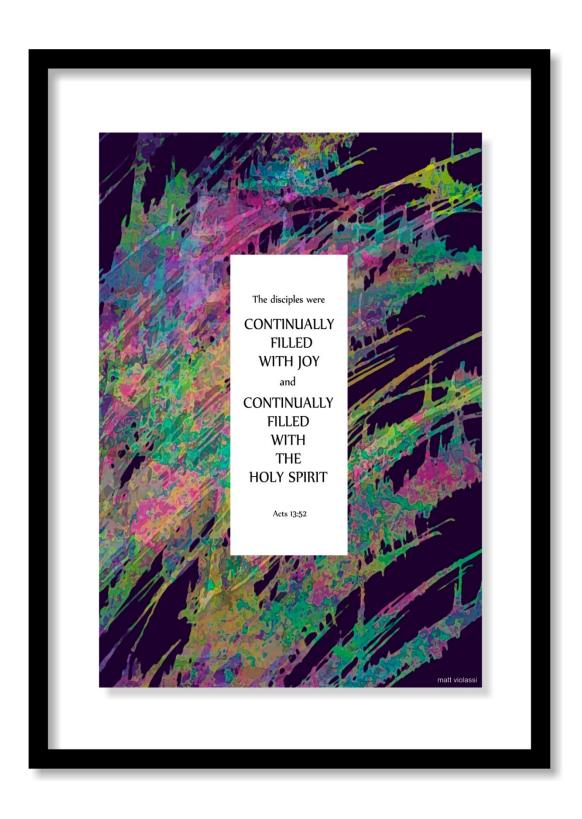
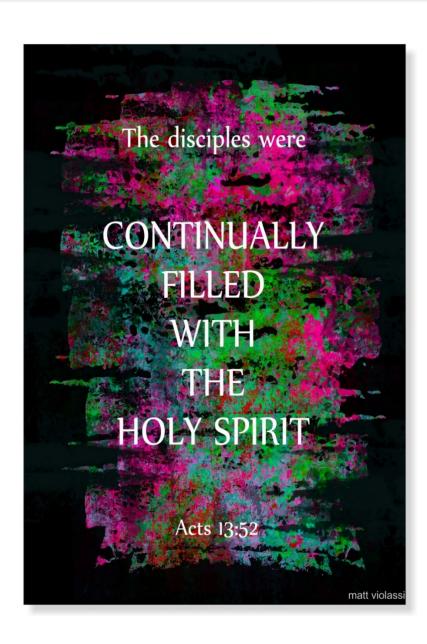
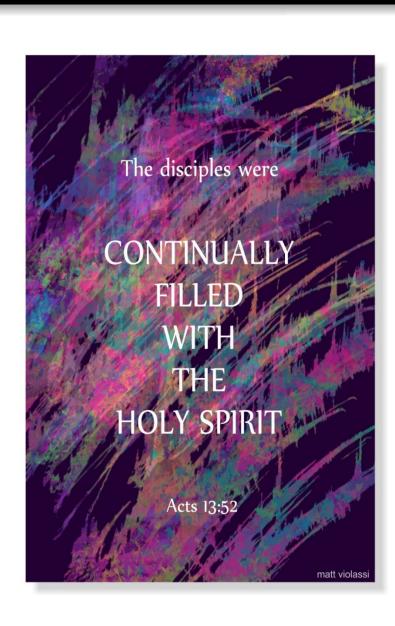


ON BEING FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Bible clearly teaches that continually being filled with the Holy Spirit was the New Testament believers' common experience and practice:







The Apostle Paul instructs and exhorts believers to <u>keep getting filled with the Holy Spirit</u>. Some churches believe and teach "one-and-done" - that you are filled at believing in Christ or when you are baptized. I do not believe this is good and accurate doctrine because it can bring only partial lifestyle spiritual fruit in a person. Yes, we receive the Spirit at believing. We might even get filled with the Spirit at one of these times or another. But it is not a one-time experience.

Let's stay Scriptural - even if we don't understand things, or we have not yet experienced certain things.



Why would the New Testament writers highlight certain differences in some Christians (if "one-and done" was true?) - if there weren't differences?

"Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to . . . "

"Then his father, Zechariah, was filled with the Holy Spirit . . . "

" . . .who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit . . . "

"But Stephen was filled with the Holy Spirit . . . "

"Instead, brothers and sisters, select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task . . . "

"Stephen was filled with the Holy Spirit . . . looked toward heaven. . . "

This brings us to several questions.

First, might be, "Why would I want to do this?"

If you never have been <u>FILLED</u> with the Holy Spirit, then this concept might be hard to comprehend. (You can honestly ask yourself in your "knower" - "Do I honestly feel <u>filled with God, today?"</u>)

Imagine being <u>FILLED</u> WITH GOD. Being <u>FILLED WITH JOY</u> comes along with this. Who would not want to be <u>FILLED</u> WITH JOY, and want to live in this state?

We are told/commanded to "walk as Jesus walked." (1 John 2:6) We are Act like Him. Talk like Him.

Trying to live the "Christian walk" . . . BEING A TRUE CHRISTIAN <u>TODAY</u> . . . daily . . . Is a lot <u>easier</u> and more <u>world-impacting</u> if we are FULL OF GOD versus NOT FULL OF GOD. We have God's mind on things, in a better way, throughout the day - while in this much-heightened spiritual state.

This is why we want to do this.

Being <u>FULL OF JOY</u>, is a nice side consequence or blessing. This is what everybody is searching for and trying to obtain, anyway!

The next question might then be "How do I get filled with the Holy Spirit?". . .

No one can get filled with the Holy Spirit on their own - on their own efforts. . . Their own striving . . . Their own energies . . . It is a gift from God.

I have mentioned this concept to God - how I sure wish there is some kind of button I could push and hold-down, or spring lever handle I could pull and hold-down, until I felt really filled with the Holy Spirit and filled with joy.





But since we can't do this on our own. . . The simple answer is <u>ASK</u>.

ASK HIM. ASK God. "Ask, and you shall receive."

God gives the Holy Spirit. Jesus said, "So if you, despite being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?" (Luke 11)

I try to get filled with the Spirit every day. Many times I ask and perceive from the Lord, "Be Filled." Many times I find myself asking the Lord, "I feel like have a lot more room in here (in this body)...I don't feel "Filled." Then I seem like I get to a place where I feel pretty full & contented.

I believe when we are <u>really</u> full, we might find ourselves knocked-out and incapacitated - as seen in some Holy Spirit meetings where people are laying around all over the floor.

These can be a genuine and real experiences - where people can't even get-up, even if they wanted to.

We cannot depend on a meeting or retreat or conference or concert - in being filled with the Holy Spirit. It might take "waiting on the Lord" privately for an extended period of time, to get filled with the Spirit. I might take "calling out to God" and "Crying out to God" for an extended period of time . . . It might take fastings . . . It might take "giving it all" and following Him once again . . . It might be cleaving and clinging to Him as a lifestyle. . . That is the journey that is left to us.

But He says to keep asking and knocking, in anything . . . And it will happen.

One thing for sure, and no one can much debate it - <u>We need to be filled with God as much as we can every day</u>. <u>All the time, really</u>.

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PENNY

About 15 years ago while working on the job, I stopped in at a remote, small town McDonalds for a coffee. When I pulled-up to the drive-up window to pay, a woman about 40ish opened her little window to take my money. She seemed like a poor, single mom. I immediately noticed this beaming glow in her eyes - great peace seemed to be emanating from her. I wanted to stop and talk to her to find out what she had - <u>BECAUSE I WANTED IT.</u> She must be a believer in God, I thought. The line of cars behind me was pressing me, so I couldn't say much.

I purposely went to that drive-through the next week. There she was. I asked her, "I don't mean to make you feel uncomfortable, and I'm not trying to be weird or anything, <u>but, do you believe in God?</u>" She was a little startled and asked, "Yes, but why do you ask?" I said, "Because your eyes and face seemed to glow and emanate God and His peace." She said, "You know, a lot of people say that. . . I don't know why." I commended her. I think I told her, "Whatever you are doing - keep doing it! That phenomena could be a great Christian witness!"

When I first became a Christian, I clearly remember 2 Christians, who seemed to particularly radiate "God" from their faces - like was seen with Moses after He had met with God ("they saw that his face was radiant" - Ex. 34). Moses had to put a veil on his face (perhaps so he would not unnecessarily strike fear in people?) Stephen had this same testimony ("they saw that his face was like the face of an angel." - Acts 6).

I wanted what these guys I saw at church had. ("The eyes are the lamp of the body.")

What a great Christian witness, too, I thought!

In the Spirit, Jesus's face beams like the full sun, "and His face was like the sun shining in its strength." (Rev.1)

Being Full of the Holy Spirit, being Full of God, especially if our faces are radiating "God" - is a hard "witness" to beat.

The word "PENNY" stands alone on a line, on the page of my Prayer List spiral notebook and IPhone.

PENNY

God & I know what it means. . .

Please, God . . .

Today . . .

You win them, through me. <u>You</u> speak through this body of mine. . . in Spirit, *with full power* . . . <u>and with Words - if you need them</u> . . .

YES or NO, GOD? Will you do this today? (Fill me with the Holy Spirit. Emanate like Penny seemed to have been.)

His answer has frequently been,

"Yes, but MOST DON'T WANT ME. . . . Most Christians DON'T WANT ME."

(God commenting on not being be too concerned about witnessing, and striving to save others.)

Whoa. How sobering . . . Seems so true.



Imagine being inside a washing machine, spinning-around violently and being harshly agitated, all soaking wet with suds and bleach, while the machine being on a "wash cycle." . . . How tumultuous, painful, and horrifying!

Several years back, God showed me most Christians in the U.S. are in this state . . . twirling around in great agitation like being in a washing machine while it is running.

There is a better and easier way . . . <u>This was not His best for us</u>.

GETTING FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT EVERY DAY - AS A TOP-PRIORITY <u>ALMOST ACCOMPLISHES ALL</u>!

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