

Revive Us

Individual Studies

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Adapted from:

Revive Us: A Heart Ready for Revival
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Personal Study 1 – Week 4

To Be Filled

If you had to choose one thing you could not live without, what would it be? Why?

Was your answer oxygen? We all literally can't live without oxygen, yet it is not often how we answer that question. We might mention things like our spouse, house, car, job, children, phone or even coffee. The same principle is true in our spiritual lives. We can't live without the Holy Spirit, but many of us live every day like we don't need Him.

In the day-to-day, how much do you rely on the power of the Holy Spirit?

If Jesus showed up and moved your home tonight, what would be the outcome? Would you be more confident? Would you be bolder in sharing your faith? Would you ask for help more often? If you are a follower of Christ, you have something just as good: the Holy Spirit lives in you.

God Gives His Spirit to Those Who Ask

What do the following verses teach you about the Holy Spirit?

1 Corinthians 12:12-13

Romans 8:9

Ephesians 1:13

Ephesians 5:15-18

Luke 11:13

*You were baptized with the Spirit at salvation
You are filled with the Spirit after salvation*

There is no two-step process to receiving the Holy Spirit. At salvation the Holy Spirit is given as a deposit and indwells in you. Yes, it is also true that you and I desperately need to be filled with the Holy Spirit daily. Even though Holy Spirit lives in you, you still need to be filled by Him (Ephesians 5:18). The work of the Holy Spirit is what brings true revival. We gain a deeper understanding of this means by diving into the original language of the New Testament – Greek. Upon examination, a better translation for “being filled” is “being controlled” by the Spirit.

BEING FILLED IS:

- An imperative command that requires continuous action.
- For every Christian.
- From God (In other words, you can't fill yourself with God's Spirit – God does it)

Yesterday's filling is not good for today. Today's filling is not good for tomorrow. What does it look like to continually seek the Spirit? What practices keep us in touch with His power?

Power never comes before prayer. Acts 1-2 tells us the disciples prayed for ten days, then they were filled with Spirit. Later, when the believers raised their voices to God in prayer together, Acts 4:31 tells us, “the place where they were assembled was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God boldly.”

Every great movement of God begins by not moving.

God's Spirit Fuels Those Who Ask

Has there ever been a time in your life when you would say you were on fire for Jesus? If not, why not? If so, what was different about you then?

In Luke 3:16, John the Baptist said that Jesus would “baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.” In Acts 2:3, the Holy Spirit’s coming manifested in a visible reality described as “flames of fire.” What do these descriptions teach us about the Spirit’s filling in our lives?

Scripture refers to the Holy Spirit’s presence on earth in terms of fire to reveal some important truths to us about His power in our lives. One description of fire is that it’s consuming. Fire emanates light and heat. Light dispels darkness. When set on fire by Jesus, everyone around you can see it.

The Spirit’s fire consumes

If the Spirit’s fire consumes, then why do we experience seasons when we would not describe ourselves (nor would others) as being on fire for Jesus?

What is the relationship between being on fire for Jesus and surrender?

Fire burns at different levels of heat. Fire can occur and exist on a small ember or a large flame. With care, it can be contained or it can take off in any direction. The same is true of the Spirit's power in our lives. The Spirit's fire consumes, but you can choose whether or not to surrender to it. Do you want to be full of self or do you want to be full of the Spirit? It's his power, but it's your choice.

What do the following verses teach about that choice? What are some ways you can reject the Spirit's consuming power?

1 Thessalonians 5:19

Ephesians 4:30-31

What can you infer about revival from these verses?

The great news is that the Spirit does not leave us. As a believer in Christ, Ephesians 1:13 says you are "sealed" with the Holy Spirit living in you. However, the Spirit's voice can be silenced and His presence drowned out by our action or inaction.

The Spirit's fire can be quenched.

Based on Ephesians 4:31, are there some choices you've made recently that have grieved the Holy Spirit?

In all honesty the Holy Spirit can be grieved, quenched or drowned out for years while you are unaware. Look at the first word of Ephesians 4:31 – Bitterness. Bitterness shows itself in anger, annoyance, resentment, jealousy, impatience, and irritability. That means you grieve the Spirit and quench His power in your life when you:

- Hold resentment toward someone for something in the past
- Lose your temper
- Are jealous of another family member, church member, or church
- Allow a political comment to make you lose your cool
- Speak with a condescending attitude toward your spouse
- Yell and fume as someone cuts you off in traffic

And the list goes on

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:7-8. Why do those choices quench the Spirit's work in your life?

The Holy Spirit is holy. Therefore, he can't work in unclean vessels. This is why we surrender to the Spirit's work in our lives. He will not adjust to you – you must adjust to Him. The Holy Spirit is bribed, coerced, nor manipulated. He won't be pushed or prodded.

Are your words and actions in the day-to-day primarily determined by other people or by the Holy Spirit in you? Why?

*It doesn't matter who you please
If you displease God.*

How can considering the ways we grieve the Holy Spirit be an act of surrender?

What would change in your life this week if you began to consider how you could live in step with the Spirit (Galatians 5:16)?

As we become sensitive to how we're grieving the Holy Spirit, we will have fewer arguments, divorces, addictions, road rages, fights, and church splits – to name a few things. This growth in awareness and love for the Holy Spirit's leading will change how we talk to our spouses, disciple our children, do our work, respond to our parents, drive our cars, and converse with our enemies.

If we worried about how the Holy Spirit of God responds to us as much as we worried about people, we'd walk with a supernatural awareness and power.

*When you start worrying about grieving
The Holy Spirit, it changes everything.*