

Removing the Barriers to the Infilling of the Holy Spirit

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[contents of slide presentation]

1 Removing the Barriers to the Infilling of the Holy Spirit

2 Why do we need the Holy Spirit?

- The world staggers like a fainting giant from one profound crisis to another.

3

Christianity is also in crisis: many Christians have a power outage. The Bible foretold this:

4 2 Timothy 3:1-4:

In the last days perilous times will come. People will

- love themselves,
- love money, and
- love pleasure
- more than they love God,
- having a form of godliness but denying its power.

5 The power source is the Holy Spirit

Jesus “commanded” the disciples not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait . . . For

You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me . . . to the end of the earth.” Acts 1:4, 8

6 Therefore the Spirit was the subject of Paul’s constant prayers

Eph 3:17-19:

“that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—

“to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”

7 What a promise!

“You may be filled with all the fullness of God.” Ephesians 3:19

8 How can that be?

How can the fullness of the infinite God come into a finite human being?

9 The very next verse assures us:

God “is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think according to the Power [Holy Spirit] that works within us.” Eph 3:20

10 How can a finite human “be filled with all the fullness of God”?

- Here is my understanding:
- It is true that a finite being cannot contain the fullness of God.
- But the text does not say that humans can contain the fullness of God.
- It says they can “be filled with all the fullness of God.”
- If the fullness of God is poured into a human container, it will certainly overflow the container – and that overflow is the essence of witness.

11 How can a finite human “be filled with all the fullness of God”?

- It is true: you cannot contain all the fullness of God.
- But the fullness of God will not just fill you– there will also be a huge overflow—and the overflow is the source of your witness. When the Spirit overflows you the blessing extends to everybody around you.
- That is God’s intention for the normal Christian life, at least part of what it means to be “filled with the Spirit.”

12 But suppose I lack faith?

13 Removing the Barrier of Unbelief

The gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it. Heb 4:2

14

- Every barrier that keeps Christians from being filled with the Holy Spirit can be removed through the power of God’s word.

15

- “There is nothing that Satan fears so much as that the people of God shall clear the way by removing every hindrance, so that the Lord can pour out His Spirit upon a languishing church. . . .” 1SM 124

16

- Every temptation, every opposing influence, whether open or secret, may be successfully resisted, "not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts" (Zechariah 4:6). 1SM 124-125

17 Removing the Barrier of Disobedience

- Acts 5:32: “We are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him.

18 Other barriers to the infilling of the Holy Spirit

- Disobedience
- Unrepentance
- Cherished sin
- Failing to abide
- Ignorance of God’s will

19 The Barrier of Ignorance—Not knowing God’s will

20 The Barrier of Ignorance—Not knowing God's will

How can we be fully obedient when we often don't know exactly what is God's exact will for us?

21 Pray!!! •

22 The Barrier of Ignorance—Not knowing God's will

James 1:5:

"If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him."

23

- "If anyone chooses to do God's will, he will find out whether my teaching comes from God . . ." John 7:17 NIV

24

- John 7:17 promises that if we are first willing to do His will, He will enable us to find out what His will for us is.

25 Powerful Promise!

- "Those who decide to do nothing in any line that will displease God, will know, after presenting their case before Him, just what course to pursue. And they will receive not only wisdom, but strength. Power for obedience, for service, will be imparted to them, as Christ has promised." *Desire of Ages* 668.

26

- When we don't know His will, when we can't see what to do next, He promises to reveal it in answer to prayer.

27 Every difficulty is a call to prayer

- "The path of sincerity and integrity is not a path free from obstruction, but in every difficulty we are to see a call to prayer.
- "There is no one living who has any power that he has not received from God, and the source whence it comes is open to the weakest human being." *Desire of Ages*, 667

28 All His biddings are enablings.

- "As the will of man co-operates with the will of God, it becomes omnipotent. Whatever is to be done at His command may be accomplished in His strength. All His biddings are enablings." COL 333

29 The Barrier of Failing to Abide

- 1 John 3:6, 9: "Whoever abides in Him does not sin. . . . Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His child remains [abides] in Him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God."
- Paraphrase: No one goes on sinning while actively, consciously,

intentionally abiding in God, because those who are born of Him and abide in Him, are continually being reborn in His image. But when we neglect to actively and continually abide in Him, then we sin.

30 The Barrier of Failing to Abide

- Luke 2:42-50 records one instance when Joseph and Mary got careless and lost track of the boy Jesus.
- “By one day's neglect they lost the Saviour; but it cost them three days of anxious search to find Him. So with us; by idle talk, evilspeaking, or neglect of prayer, we may in one day lose the Saviour's presence, and it may take many days of sorrowful search to find Him, and regain the peace that we have lost. DA 83

31 John 6:53-55

⁵³ Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you.

⁵⁴ Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.

⁵⁵ For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink.

32 John 6:56-60

⁵⁶ Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains [abides] in me, and I in him.

⁵⁷ Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me. . . .

⁶⁰ Many of his disciples said, "This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?"

33 John 6:61, 63, 66

⁶¹ Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, "Does this offend you? . . .

⁶³ The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are Spirit and they are life. . . .

⁶⁶ From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him.

34

- This was a “hard teaching” in the first century and it still is in the 21st.

35 The Ultimate Barrier to the Fullness of the Holy Spirit

36 The ultimate barrier to being filled with the Holy Spirit is being filled with self

- Every time we face a conscious temptation we have a choice— to crucify self by denying its sinful desires, or to crucify Christ. If we exalt self, we crucify the Savior. If we crucify self, we exalt the Savior.

37 The ultimate prerequisite to being filled with the Holy Spirit is

being emptied of self

“Just as soon as we present our emptied nature to the Lord Jesus and His cause, He will supply the vacuum by His Holy Spirit. . . . We do not want more of God any more urgently than He wants all that there is of us to be consecrated to His service.” *In Heavenly Places*, 155

38 What determines how much power one receives?

- “If all were willing, all would be filled with the Spirit...
- Those who constantly receive fresh grace,
- will have power
- proportionate to their daily need and
- their ability to use that power.
- Instead of looking forward to some future time of miraculous fitting up for soul winning, they are yielding themselves daily to God, for Him to use today.
- Daily they seize the opportunities for service.
- Daily they witness wherever they may be.

Acts of the Apostles, 50, 55

39 How much power one receives depends on Need and Capacity

- “Need” means how much spiritual power is required for your present activity. God doesn’t give more power than you can use. If you are witnessing or writing a sermon, you have a greater need for the Holy Spirit than when you are washing the car.

40

“Capacity” has to do with your ability to use well the power entrusted to you. That is determined by spiritual gifts, skills, and experience, which all increase as we use them to bring others to Christ.

41 The old “self” and the new “self”

1. When we talk about the need for the *self* to die, be crucified, etc., the *self* we are referring to is the sinful self that Paul calls the “old man.” Gal 2:20; Eph 4:20-24; Col 3:9-10.

- This “old man” is the only *self* we have if we are not “in Christ.” This *sinful self* is the opposite of the *image of God*. It can even be referred to as the “image of Satan.”

Sanctified Life, 59 2.

42

2. There is also a new self, created in Christ Jesus. This “new man” is in the image of God, and will live eternally. “Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.” 2 Cor. 5:17

43 Romans 6:3-4

³ Do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?

⁴ Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

44 Image of God vs. Image of Satan in the disciples John and Judas

- “John was a living illustration of sanctification. On the other hand, Judas possessed a form of godliness, while his character was more satanic than divine. He professed to be a disciple of Christ, but in words and in works denied Him.” *Sanctified Life*, 59

45 John and Judas

Judas had the “same precious opportunities” to imitate Christ as John had, and Judas could have been transformed by divine grace.

“But while John was earnestly warring against his own faults and seeking to assimilate [conform himself] to Christ, Judas was violating his conscience, yielding to temptation, and fastening upon himself habits of dishonesty that would transform him into the image of Satan.”

Sanctified Life, 59-60

46 John and Judas represent us all

“These two disciples represent the Christian world. All profess to be Christ's followers; but while one class walk in humility and meekness, learning of Jesus, the other show that they are not doers of the word, but hearers only. . . .

“The former are daily dying to self, and are overcoming sin. The latter are indulging their own lusts, and becoming the servants of Satan. *Sanctified Life*, 60

47 Dying to self is not optional

Luke 14:26-27, 33

²⁶ “If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his . . . own life also, he cannot be My disciple.

²⁷ “And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.

³³ “So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.”

48 This dying to self is a daily necessity

Jesus said to them all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. “For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.” Luke 9:23-24

49 4 Attitudes for daily Abiding: P.D.O.T.

Present my body a living sacrifice to God, and allow His Holy Spirit to search me and expose whatever He wants to. Romans 12:1; Psalm 19:12; Psalm 139:23, 24.

Deny myself by being willing to relinquish or surrender to the Lord any thought, emotion, desire, or behavior that is contrary to His will. Luke 9:23, 24.

ObeY God's will. I ask God to empower me to get up and do in action what He has asked me to do. James 1:22; 4:17.

Take every thought captive. Be willing to examine my own thoughts and, if they are not of faith, let God take them and replace them with His thoughts. Isaiah 55:8, 9; Romans 14:23; 2 Corinthians 10:5; Philippians 4:8.

50 Four Steps to Full Surrender

1. See it.
2. Say it.
3. Surrender it.
4. Substitute it.

51 Four Steps to Full Surrender

1. See it. Recognize ungodly thoughts, emotions, and desires.
2. Say it. Confess sin and self, repent, and unconditionally forgive anyone who has wronged you.
3. Surrender it. Give over to God everything He shows you that is not of faith.
4. Substitute it. Replace your thoughts with God's thoughts by focusing on Scripture.

After the first three steps, immediately go to Scripture. Otherwise, you may return to the negative thoughts, feelings, and desires and risk finding that they have come back to life in you. Memorize and/or meditate on God's word.

52 Recommended sources:

W. Clarence and Dianna Schilt, *How to Die Right and Live to Tell about It*, eight-part DVD seminar, revised and updated edition, 2009.

www.alifetodiefor.com

53 Recommended sources:

Clarence and Stephen Schilt, *A Life to Die For* (Nampa, ID: Pacific Press, 2009).

www.alifetodiefor.com