

Week of May 13-19

## SPIRIT-FULL

**Scripture Reading:** Read Acts chapter 2



Take a look at the glass at the left. What do you see? A pessimist views the glass as half-empty. The optimist says the glass is half-full. A realist looks at the glass and says it's dirty and needs to be cleaned. The Christian looks at the glass and declares "My cup runneth over!"

In our chapter reading today, we witness the Lord filling his disciples to overflowing with the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. He does not fill them so that they are half-empty or half-full but filled to capacity. They are Spirit-full!

What does it mean to be Spirit-full in the New Testament sense of the concept? On this point, churches have differed through the centuries. There are some Christians that believe we get all of the Spirit there is at salvation. Others believe we don't get the fullness of the Spirit until we're baptized in the Spirit, an event that usually follows the indwelling of the Spirit at salvation. Still others proclaim that we don't get the Spirit at all until we're baptized in the Spirit. Arguments have become heated and strong division has developed in the body of Christ through the years over this subject, causing harm to the cause of Christ.

Rather than arguing, let's simply take a brief look at the work of the Spirit in a believer's life according to the Scripture. What do we discover? It is the Holy Spirit's work to convict us of our sin and to lead us to Christ (John 16:7-11). It is the Spirit's role to apply the work of Christ to our lives in salvation (Titus 3:4-7) and to assure us of our adoption into God's family (Romans 8:15-16; 2 Corinthians 1:21-22). The Holy Spirit takes up residence in us and begins the work of transforming our lives into the likeness of Christ (I Corinthians 6:19; Galatians 5:22-23; Romans 8:12-13; I Peter 1:2). Believers are to be continually under the influence of the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18). The Holy Spirit also empowers us to bear witness for Christ (Acts 1:8) and provides spiritual gifts to the church to mature and edify it (I Corinthians 12:4-11). The Spirit directs the church's ministries and outreach (Acts 8:29; 13:2; 16:6-7).

From this brief review, one thing is clear. The Holy Spirit was actively involved in all aspects of the life of the New Testament believer and church in the 1<sup>st</sup> century. In fact, this was one of the defining characteristics of the early church. A truly Spirit-full person in the 21<sup>st</sup> century will actively pursue and see all these aspects of the Spirit's work in his or her life as well. Not half-empty or half-full but Spirit-full and overflowing!

**Action Step:** If you haven't already, read through the Scriptures in the above devotional to see in depth the Spirit's work. If you have the time, get a concordance and look up additional references regarding the Spirit's work.

**Prayer Focus:** Pray to be Spirit-full as described in the New Testament.

**Take-a-way:** *Being Spirit-full is God's plan for every believer!*