

SERMON NOTES

Be Filled With The Spirit (Acts 2:1- 41) **The Ultimate Ghost Story sermon series** **By Pastor David Hillis, 10.22.17**

BIG IDEA: God doesn't want to come into my life just once; He fills me with His Spirit whenever I am thirsty and ask.

God Starts Filling People With Himself (Acts 2:1-11, 41; John 16:5-7; Joel 2:28-30, Acts 2:37-38)

- The day of Pentecost was originally known as the Festival of Harvest among the Jews in the days after they were delivered from slavery in Egypt. This was an annual harvest festival in Jerusalem each fall until the Roman armies destroyed the city and their temple in AD 70. (Exodus 23:16; Leviticus 23:15-22; Numbers 28:26-31; Deuteronomy 16:9-12)
- Believers were filled with the Holy Spirit that day and started speaking in other languages. The Holy Spirit came upon Peter, who had followed Jesus and was waiting for this day to come, and he began preaching. After hearing Peter, three thousand people accepted Christ!

The Holy Spirit Is Still Filling People Today (Acts 1:5,8; Ephesians 5:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:19)

- The purpose of the filling, or baptism, of the Holy Spirit is to empower us to advance the kingdom of God by growing us in the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) and to display Christ's love as we fulfill the Great Commission (Acts 1:5-8).
- Examples of people being filled more than once by the Holy Spirit include Stephen (Acts 6:5, 7:55) and Paul (Acts 9:17, 13:9). Paul explains to the Ephesians that we are to be continuously filled with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18).

MY NEXT STEP: *Pray to be filled with the Holy Spirit, welcoming Him in to fill every part of your life.*

QUESTIONS FOR MY TIME WITH GOD:

1. If you haven't already, pick up or download a copy of the book *The God I Never Knew* (copies are available each weekend at Grace's Guest Services Center). Read chapters 8-11 this week, seeking to understand how the Holy Spirit wants to fill your life.
2. Read Acts 2, noticing what happened when the Holy Spirit first came to live inside the lives of believers. Ask God to help you process what it means for today and how it might relate to your life. Consider a word, phrase or sentence that is especially meaningful to you or that God is calling you to pay attention to, and how God would have you apply that idea or concept to your life today.
3. Read Galatians 5:16-26, noticing how the Holy Spirit guides our lives when He is fully in control of them. What do you notice? If you have time, look at the stories in the opening chapters of Luke to see how being filled with the Holy Spirit empowered people like Mary, Zechariah, John the Baptist, Simeon, and even Jesus to do the work of God (note Luke 1:35, 1:67, 1:80, 2:25, 4:1-15).
4. Talk with God this week about your spiritual life — how often and when you have asked to be filled with the Holy Spirit, and how it has impacted your life. Pray with an openness to learn whatever God wants to teach you in this area, and perhaps speak further with a mature Christian whom you trust.
5. Take some time this week to investigate further what it means to be filled with the Holy Spirit. To be filled with the Spirit is to be filled with Christ (John 8:37-38); to be filled with the fruit of God (John 15:8, Galatians 5:22-23); to be filled with the power to testify of Christ (John 14:26, 15:26, 16:14; Acts 1:8); to be filled with His gifts (1 Corinthians 12, Romans 12:6-8, Ephesians 4:9-13), and to have the ability to be used by God in ways you otherwise could not be (Acts 13:9-12). Consider reading some of these verses and realizing the importance of asking the Holy Spirit to regularly fill you with more of Himself.
6. Next week we will conclude this series by exploring in depth what it means to be prepared for the spiritual battles that lie ahead of us. Read ahead what the Bible teaches about the gifts of the Holy Spirit in Ephesians 6:10-18. Have you ever experienced any sort of spiritual warfare? Share your thoughts and experiences with Pastor Dave in the comments of the "Hello" card at www.myGrace.church!

PRAYERS FOR MY TIME WITH GOD: Native Peoples

Pray for KICY, Alaska Christian College and native peoples everywhere to be honored for who they are and for all God intends them to be; for God to heal the harm that has come from broken treaties and mistreatment and that they will be treated with dignity and justice. May churches flourish among them and God's praise resound in native languages. Amen.