

THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

Acts 9:15-20

Lesson #27

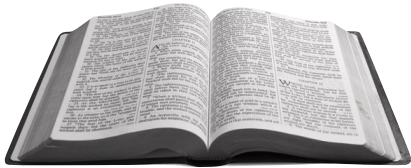
In a Zone

07/14/2019



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How to read the Old Testament



Being in a Spiritual “Zone” (The Filling of the Spirit)

2

True or False?

- ✓ **All believers** are “spirit filled”.
- ✓ We are filled with the Spirit when we have **confessed all our sins**.
- ✓ We are Spirit filled when we **receive the charismatic baptism with speaking in tongues**.
- ✓ Every Christian can and should experience **a dramatic “charismatic” filling of the Spirit**.
- ✓ The only thing blocking dramatic and instant deliverance and Spirit filling is our **faith** in God.

3

John 14

“16 And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; 17 that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides **with** you, and will be **in** you.”



What is the difference
between the O.C. “**with**”
and the N.C. “**in**”?

4



How should the **Holy Spirit** impact our lives?

- **A teaching ministry**
(truth related)
- **A filling ministry**
(ministry related)



5

Charismania

Charismatic experiences are pushed.



Charisphobia

Charismatic experiences are shunned.

Various manifestations
are to be expected and respected.

1 Corinthians 12

“4 Now there are **varieties** of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 And there are **varieties** of ministries, and the same Lord. 6 And there are **varieties** of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons.

“7 But to **each one** is given the **manifestation** of the Spirit for the **common good**.”

6

But this leaves us with some unanswered questions.

- How are we to understand dramatic encounters with the Spirit after conversion?
- Should all believers seek and expect a “second blessing” experience?
- What warnings do the Apostles’ give concerning charismatic experiences?
- What is the origin of the present charismatic movement?



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The main thing
is to keep the main thing the main thing.

The Glory of God The Grace of God The Word of the Cross The hope of the Resurrection The Body of Christ

NOT:

Our health / wealth The Spirit's filling
Our happiness Evangelism
Social reform Revival
Our faith The Bible

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Charismania

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Spiritual experiences can be abused
but this does not mean that they are not real or of God.

Corinth was the most charismatic church in the N.T. **and also the most carnal.**

Paul's letters indicate that the problem was not the charismatic experience **but their view of it.**

9

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The Corinthian's distorted views

- ✓ It fostered a spiritual “class” system
- ✓ It served self rather than others
- ✓ It divided rather than united
- ✓ It became the “main thing”

10

The mixed blessing of the Charismatic Movement

Positive characteristics

Personal boldness
Freedom in worship
Respect for supernatural gifts
A radical faith in God
Love for the unlovely
Openness to God's voice
Willingness to be led of God
Ecumenical spirit
Zeal for God
Respect for - faith, drama, sensual, subjective, temporal

Negative characteristics

A lack of healthy self-awareness
Restricted worship styles
Preoccupation with the spectacular
A lack of wisdom in faith
Hostility toward those who don't agree
Arbitrary use of Scripture
Stubborn leadership, resulting in power conflicts
Divisive track record
Not always according to knowledge
Emphasis on - faith in faith, drama, sensual, subjective, temporal

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The “charismatic movement’s” American roots.

1. American **Revivalism** with its emphasis upon **INDIVIDUALISM AND A SENSUAL EXPERIENCE OF GOD**.
2. American **Methodism** with its emphasis upon a **SECOND WORK OF GRACE**.
3. The holiness movement and **Charles Finney** linked the term “**BAPTISM WITH THE SPIRIT**” with the “second blessing” in the late 1800’s, (it was not yet associated with speaking in tongues).



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“The Holy Spirit ... seemed to go through me, body and soul,” he later wrote. “I could feel the impression, like a wave of electricity, going through and through me. Indeed it seemed to come in waves of liquid love, for I could not express it in any other way.”

Charles Finney 1792-1875

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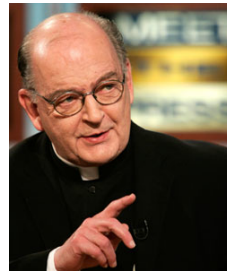
4. It was not until the **charismatic movement’s birth** (early 20th cent.) that **SPEAKING IN TONGUES** was linked with Spirit Baptism at a popular level (outside Pentecostalism).
5. It was the **Full Gospel Business Men International** that **SPREAD** the movement beyond the traditional Pentecostal sects.
6. From **America**, it spread **INTERNATIONALLY** in the 1900’s.



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The N.T. warns us of the dangers of false expectations.

“Idolatry is trying to bring in God’s Kingdom before its time and without its King.”



Richard John Neuhaus

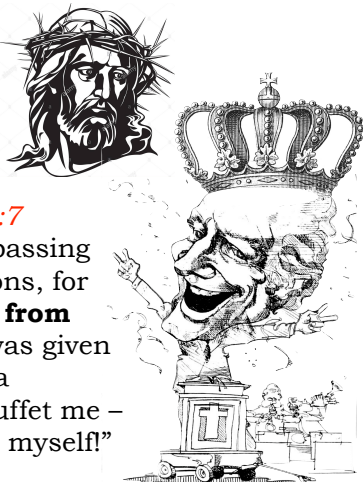
Hubris is not the exclusive vice of the critic of Christianity as it can infect the zealous believer as well.

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Paul saw spiritual experiences as both powerful and seductive.

2 Corinthians 12:7

“And because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, **to keep me from exalting myself**, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to buffet me – to keep me from exalting myself!”



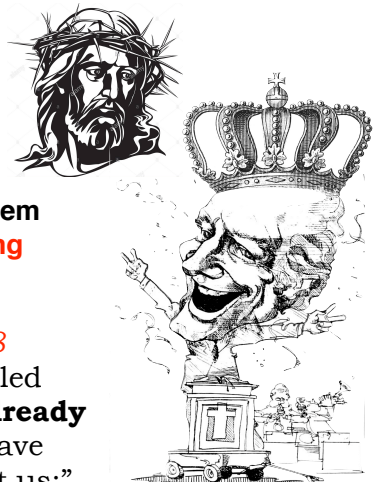
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The Corinthians had been blessed with a filling of God’s Spirit.

But this did not stop them from **misunderstanding and abusing it**.

1 Corinthians 4:8

“You are **already** filled (*satisfied*), you have **already** become rich, you have become kings without us;”



17

The Spirit, like water, is good for drinking
but intended for priming a pump.

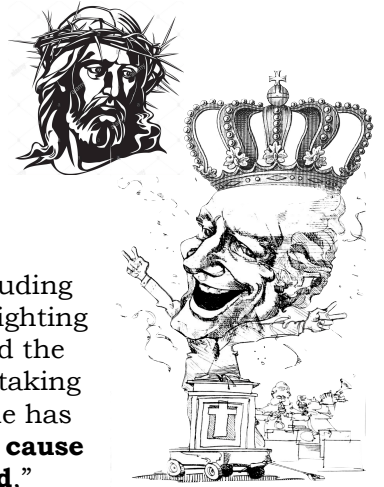


18

Paul warned the church not to drink the water that was given to prime the pump.

Colossians 2:18

“Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in **self-abasement** and the worship of the **angels**, taking his stand on **visions** he has seen, **inflated without cause by his fleshly mind**,”

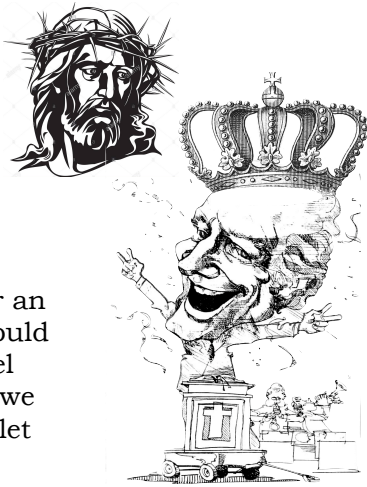


19

Paul warned the church not to drink the water that was given to prime the pump.

Galatians 1:8

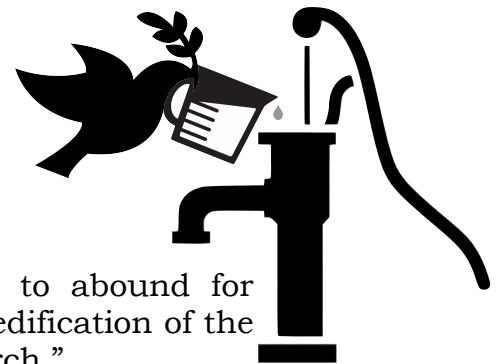
“But even though we, or an **angel from heaven**, should preach to you a gospel contrary to that which we have preached to you, let him be accursed.”



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1 Corinthians 14:12

“since you are zealous of spiritual (things),

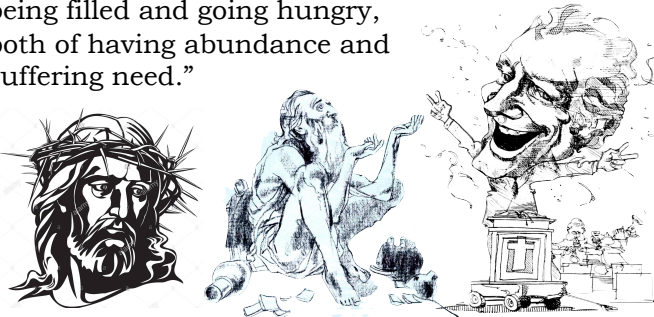


seek to abound for the edification of the church.”

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Philippians 4

“¹¹ Not that I speak from want; for I have learned to be **content in whatever circumstances I am**. ¹² I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need.”



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Acts 9

“¹⁵ But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to **bear My name before the Gentiles** and kings and the sons of Israel; ¹⁶ for I will show him how much **he must suffer** for My name’s sake.” ¹⁷ And Ananias departed and entered the house, and after laying his hands on him said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road by which you were coming, has sent me so that you may regain your sight, and **be filled with the Holy Spirit**.” ¹⁸ And immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he **regained his sight**, and he arose and **was baptized**; ¹⁹ and he took food and was strengthened. Now for several days he was with the disciples who were at Damascus, ²⁰ and **immediately he began to proclaim Jesus** in the synagogues, saying, “He is the Son of God.”

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There are 2 terms used in Scripture to describe "the filling" / "fullness" of the Spirit:

1. **PIMPLEMI** - This term is used in contexts that describe a special anointing for **service** under both the Old & New Covenants.

Characteristics of this filling

- ✓ **A sign** of God's initiating something new.
 - ✓ **A temporal anointing** for service.
 - ✓ **Given at God's discretion.**
 - ✓ **Not linked to personal character or maturity.**
- In short, this PIMPLEMI (filling) is **not for every believer**, temporary, instant power, related to special gifts of service, given by God's sovereign will.

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1 Samuel 16

"12 So he (Samuel) sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, with beautiful eyes and a handsome appearance. And the Lord said, "Arise, anoint him; for this is he." 13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and **the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward.**"

David's encounter with God's Spirit might be likened to:

Being in a Spiritual "Zone" (A Filling of the Spirit)

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In the Old Testament "the filling of the Holy Spirit" was expressed through a sovereign anointing **for specific types of service** - Exodus 28:3 (35:30-35), Judges 3:10; 6:2,4; 11:29; 13:25; 14:6,19; 15:14. (See also Numbers 11:17,25; 27:18; 1 Samuel 10:9-10; 16:13; Daniel 4:8; 5:11-14; 6:3)

This special manifestation of power before Pentecost are seen in **events near the birth of Jesus** Luke 1:15,41,67.

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Psalms 51

"10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and **renew a steadfast spirit within me.** 11 Do not cast me away from Your presence and **do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.** 12 Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and **sustain me with a willing spirit.**"

David viewed his "filling" as a deeply personal state of **intimacy with God, sustenance and joy, & anointing in ministry.**



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The "charismatic" filling of the Spirit at Pentecost is described as **PIMPLEMI**.

Acts 2:4 "And they were all **filled** with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.";

Acts 4:8 "Then Peter, **filled** with the Holy Spirit, said to them . . .";

Acts 4:31 "And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all **filled** with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak the word of God with boldness.";

Acts 9:17 "the Lord Jesus . . . has sent me so that you may regain your sight, and be **filled** with the Holy Spirit.";

Acts 13:9 "but Saul, who was also known as Paul, **filled** with the Holy Spirit, fixed his gaze upon him."

Note that this filling is consistently associated with energy to speak prophetically and in praise, or as signs of a movement of God.

The same term used to describe a special filling for service under the O.C.

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There are 2 terms used in Scripture to describe "the filling" / "fullness" of the Spirit:

2. **PLEROO** - This is a term used in contexts that describe a **state of being**. It is not activity or ministry oriented (like PIMPLEMI) but more a description of **character, maturity, or completeness**. It appears in:

Acts 6:3 "but select from among you, brethren, seven men of good reputation **full** of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task."

Acts 7:55 "but being **full** of the Holy Spirit, he gazed intently into heaven and saw the glory of God."

Acts 11:24 "for he was a good man, and **full** of the Holy Spirit and of faith."

Acts 13:52 "and the disciples were continually **filled** with joy and with the Holy Spirit."

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Ephesians 5

“¹⁸ And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but **be filled with the (or in) spirit**, ¹⁹ speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; ²⁰ always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God,”

Ephesians and Colossians often paraphrase one another.

Colossians 3:16

“**Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you**, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”

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Colossians 3

“⁹ For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be **filled with the knowledge of His will** in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰ so that you may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects,”

• Here the filling seems to relate to **OUR** spirit.

Ephesians 3:19

“and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, **that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God,**”

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Lessons for us

1. We should expect and respect **various** experiences and expressions of the Spirit among Christians.
2. **Charismatic fillings** are a sign of God's gifting to the church for service to others.
3. The filling can easily be **misunderstood and misused**.
4. Profound change is seldom **instant**.
5. The kind of filling we should seek is **PLEROO (maturity in Christ)** marked by **having the mind of Christ, knowing who we are “in Christ” and selflessly loving**.

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Advice

1. If you have not had a charismatic filling, **do not conclude that you must have one or that you could if you only had more faith**.
2. If you desire a charismatic filling, **check your motives, be open to receiving it but seek the right kind of filling**.
3. If you have had a charismatic filling, **thank God and use it to selflessly serve others**
Don't pressure others to receive it in order to be all they should be in Christ.
Be aware of the temptations and abuses that come with powerful, spiritual, experiences.

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