

“Didn’t the Lord tell me from the beginning to give up everything and carry the cross to follow Him? This is the Lord’s way. I am following Him on the same path...Why should I complain? This is my biggest blessing.”

Epaphras from China Soul video on the underground church in China

Prayer Study #286

SOME OF THE BIBLICAL PERSONS FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

First Love Ministries, Inc. of Perry, Georgia

As we studied in a previous handout (#283 of this study), under the Old Covenant believers did experience the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. He came upon people, spoke to them and through them, and in some rare cases even dwelt with them (ex. the life of David), but He did not indwell them on a permanent basis. In fact, that was the sign the John the Baptist looked for in recognizing Jesus as the Messiah, i.e. that He would be the One whom the Holy Spirit would descend upon and remain (John 1:33).

What we see in most of these believers who were filled in Old Testament times with the Holy Spirit that He came upon them to empower them to do a specific job, as when the Spirit would fill Samson and he was able to defeat and overpower the Philistines, even though he was greatly outnumbered, and then leave. Even in the case of King David, the scripture records that the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward, but it does not indicate that the Holy Spirit indwelt him. It was only after the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus that the Holy Spirit came to be in the believers.

It is important to note that the Holy Spirit is part of the Triune Godhead, and thus He has always been, is and always will be. He was there in the creation hovering over the face of the waters (Genesis 1:2), and He was one of the *Us* in the creation of man: *Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness: let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping things that creeps on the earth (Genesis 1:26).*

- 1. Bezalel:** Exodus 31:1-5: *Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: “See, I have called by name Bezalel, the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. And I have filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship, to design artistic works, to work in gold, in silver, in bronze, in cutting jewels for setting, in carving wood, and to work in all manner of workmanship.”* The first person described in Scripture as filled...with the Spirit of God is not a patriarch or prophet but a

craftsman. The work that Bezalel did could not have been done by the ordinary human spirit. He had to be empowered by the Holy Spirit.

- 2. Samson:** Judges 14:19: *Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon him [Samson] mightily, and he went down to Ashkelon [one of the main Philistine cities] and killed thirty of their men, took their apparel, and gave the changes of clothing to those who had explained the riddle. So his anger was aroused, and he went back up to his father's house.*

The source of Samson's strength was not in his muscles or long hair, but in the Spirit that came upon him. He lost and grieved the Spirit when he disobeyed God and allowed his hair to be cut.

- 3. King Saul:** 1st Samuel 10:1-10: *Then Samuel took a flask of oil and poured it on his [Saul's] head and kissed him and said, "Is it not because the LORD has anointed you commander over His inheritance? When you have departed from me today, you will find two men by Rachel's tomb in the territory of Benjamin at Zelzah, and they will say to you, "The donkeys which you went to look for have been found. And now your father has ceased caring about the donkeys and is worrying about you, saying, 'What shall I do about my son?' Then you shall go on forward from there and come to the terebinth tree of Tabor. There three men going up to God at Bethel will meet you, one carrying three young goats, another carrying three loaves of bread, and another carrying a skin of wine. And they will greet you and give you two loaves of bread, which you shall receive from their hands. After that you shall come to the hill of God where the Philistine garrison is. And it will happen, when you have come there to the city, that you will meet a group of prophets coming down from the high place with a stringed instrument, a tambourine, a flute, and a harp between them; and they will be prophesying. Then the Spirit of the LORD will come to you, that you do as the occasion demands; for God is with you. You shall go down before me to Gilgal; and surely I will come down to you to offer burnt offerings and make sacrifices of peace offerings. Seven days you shall wait, till I come to you and show you what you should do." So it was, when he turned his back to go from Samuel, that God gave him another heart; and all those signs came to pass that day. When they came there to the hill, there was a group of prophets to meet him; then the Spirit of God came upon him, and he prophesied among them. Before the Spirit came upon Saul, the future king of Israel, the Lord changed his heart. How we so often need a change of heart to receive the Spirit of our God!*

4. **David:** 1st Samuel 16:12-13: *So he [Jesse] sent and brought him [David] in. Now he was ruddy, with bright eyes, and good looking. And the LORD said, "Arise, anoint him; for this is the one!" Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers, and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel arose and went to Ramah.*
5. **Jesus:** Luke 4:1: *Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness...*
6. **John the Baptist:** Luke 1:15: *For he [John the Baptist] will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb.*
7. **Elizabeth:** Luke 1:41: *And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.*
8. **Zacharias:** Luke 1:67: *Now his father Zacharias will filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied....*
9. **Christian Believers on the Day of Pentecost:** Acts 2:1-4: *When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*
10. **Peter:** Acts 4:8-12: *Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders of Israel: If we this day are judged for a good deed done to a helpless man, by what means he has been made well, let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole. ' This is the stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.' Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."*
11. **Prayer Meeting of the Early Church:** Acts 4:31: *And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.*

- 12. Seven Men-The First Deacons:** Acts 6:3-5: *“Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch.*
- 13. Stephen:** Acts 7:55: *But he [Stephen] being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.*
- 14. Barnabas:** Acts 11:22 & 24: *Then news of these things [the great number of those believing and turning to the Lord after the stoning of Stephen and the scattering of the believers] came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch....For he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith....*
- 15. Paul:** Acts 13:9-10: *Then Saul, who also is called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him [Bar-Jesus, a sorcerer and false prophet] and said, “O full of all deceit and all fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease perverting the straight ways of the Lord?”*
- 16. Certain Disciples:** Acts 13:51-52: *But they [the disciples that had accompanied Paul and Barnabas to Antioch and were expelled from the region by the chief men of the city and journeyed on to Iconium] shook off the dust from their feet against them [the people of Antioch] and came to Iconium. And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit. (The Jews shook off the dust when they left a Gentile town. But this action at Iconium, the disciples were saying that these Jews who rejected the gospel were no better than the unbelieving Gentiles.)*

THERE’S A RIVER OF LIFE

There’s a River of Life flowing out through me,
It makes the lame to walk and the blind to see,
Opens prison doors, sets the captives free,
There’s a River of Life flowing out through me.