

Be Filled

It is not enough for us to try to strengthen desire and to hold fast our confidence. The principle thing is to set ourselves in close contact with God
(Andrew Murray)

Being filled with the Holy Spirit is the first step that every believer takes in becoming a mature follower of the Lord. John the Baptist came to prepare people for Christ's coming. He said, "I baptize with water; but someone is coming soon who is greater than me ... I am not even worthy to be his slave. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire."

Jesus chose twelve disciples who He mentored for leadership. These men spent time with Him and He became their whole reason for living. But while standing at the foot of the cross, they watched their dreams and hopes for a bright future die. Feeling alone and abandoned in their pain they lost hope. Then after His resurrection Christ appeared and gave them specific instructions, "Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you what he promised John truly baptized with water but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now. When the Holy Spirit has come upon you, you will receive power."

Oswald Chambers declared, "God is as honorable as you ... you have given what you have, now He will not do less—He will give you what He has." But let us keep in mind that the primary purpose for the baptism of the Holy Spirit is relationship with God. There can be no true worship except through the unceasing operation of the Holy Spirit ... only those who are thirsty will drink water with eagerness, only those who are sick will desire a physician ...; it is only when believers acknowledge the defective nature of their spiritual condition that the preaching of the full blessing of Pentecost will find an entrance into their hearts (Andrew Murray). The baptism of the Holy Spirit was a by-product of the disciple's fellowship with God; this is the true pattern God established for the modern church as well. Jesus spent three years preparing His followers for the day they would receive the Holy Spirit. Mike Bickle says, "We know that the last days began on the Day of Pentecost. But only the down payment of God's power was released then. Ongoing visitations of God's power have been released over the last two thousand years. But before the Lord's return, a deluge of power will be poured out on all flesh, upon the redeemed in every nation of the earth." Get ready, seek the Lord; experience the power of God working in you as the Holy Spirit moves in your life.

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