



SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

May 28, 2023

“Filled with the Spirit”



OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, today we pray that you would fill us with your Holy Spirit and that we would sense your presence in our lives. Help us to be aware of your guidance and your comfort; that we would experience your promptings. O Lord, I pray that we would not go through this life struggling by our own power, but that we would know the supernatural power and the presence of your Spirit. We pray this in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Romans 8:9-13 (NIV)

⁹ You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. ¹¹ And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

¹² Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation—but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. ¹³ For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.

Romans 15:13 (NIV)

¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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INTRODUCTION

On the day of Pentecost, the Jesus followers in Jerusalem were filled with the Holy Spirit and they poured into the streets of Jerusalem proclaiming the Good News of Jesus. Sometimes this seems like an ancient story that doesn't have any relevance for 21st century believers. Just like Jesus' first century followers, we all need help, and there is a way to get access to the same helper Jesus relied on.

The way in which you receive that power of the Holy Spirit is by choosing to submit your life to the authority of God. It happens as we begin to know God's word and we begin to trust God's word. Choosing obedience rather than trying to control the outcomes on our own gives us access to the Spirit. Choosing to surrender your life to God is how we access the empowering presence of the Spirit of God.

QUESTIONS

1. When was the last time you were desperate for something to work out, and you were certain it wasn't going to? Many times we find ourselves giving up or trying harder. Did you do either of those?
2. From the smallest task to something more significant, when was the last time you asked another person for help? Why did you ask them?
3. Would you say that the Holy Spirit actively helps you? If so, how? If not, what makes you say that? How would you want that to change?
4. During the sermon, Pastor Eric said “You cannot access God's power if you are not under his authority.” Do you agree with that? Do you consider yourself to be under God's authority? How do you know if you are or aren't?
5. Read Romans 8:9–13 and Romans 15:13 (both on page 1). What stands out to you? What is encouraging to you?

FINAL APPLICATION

Are you facing something right now in which you really need God's help, a situation where you know you can't do it or go through it alone? If so, what is it?