

# Filled And Upon

## The Ministry Of The Holy Spirit

By B. D. Tate

### Two Positions

God's will for us is **to be filled with the Holy Spirit** and walk in **the anointing of the Spirit upon us**. It is a curious thing that the New Testament writers describe the movement of the Holy Spirit in two ways: **first, coming to fill us; second, coming upon us**.

Eph. 5:17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; **but be filled with the Spirit,**

19 **speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,**  
20 **giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,**

Jesus told the disciples to tarry in Jerusalem until they received **the power** of the Holy Spirit:

Ac 1:8 "But you shall **receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you**; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

On the *Day of Pentecost* this is what is described:

Acts 2: 1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, **and it filled all the house where they were sitting.**

3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, **and it sat upon each of them.**

4 **And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost**, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

They were filled with the Holy Spirit but it is also described as **“it sat upon each of them.”** Jesus said that they would receive power or the ability of the Holy Spirit when ***He comes upon them.***

The Holy Spirit *came upon* prophets, priests and kings in the Old Testament period; however, none of them were born again. When Jesus is glorified and then raised He promised this would happen:

Lu 24:49 **"Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are **endued with power from on high.**"**

### **The Promised Helper:**

John 14:26 **"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name**, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

John 16:13 **"However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come**, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.

### **Moses lamented:**

Nu 11:29 Then Moses said to him, "Are you zealous for my sake? **Oh, that all the LORD'S people were prophets and that the LORD would put His Spirit *upon them!*"**

Under the New Covenant ***we are all born of the Spirit of God*** and have been translated into the kingdom of His Son (Col. 1:13). We are all God's prophets being filled and anointed by the same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead (Rom. 8:11). For those who have the testimony of Jesus have the Spirit of prophecy in them.

John 3:6 "That which is born of the flesh is flesh **and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.**

Re 19:10 And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, **and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.**"

When Peter under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit expressed what happened on the **Day of Pentecost as fulfilling prophecy from the prophet Joel he quoted:**

Acts 2: 17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, **That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh;** Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams.

18 **And on** My menservants and on My maidservants **I will pour out My Spirit** in those days; And they shall prophesy.

There is a distinction between something being **on or upon** verses something being **in** as **in filling**. In the Old Testament the Spirit came upon a few in number; now under the New Testament the Spirit **is poured out upon all!**

**John the Baptist** testified this:

Mr 1:8 "I indeed baptized you with water, **but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.**"

*Baptism of water* meant to be covered upon, poured out over, and completely immersed; **likewise** God's will is for us to be covered upon, poured out over, and completely immersed in the Holy Spirit. This ministry is for all!

## **God Already Decided**

God has already decided this and has accomplished it on the **Day of Pentecost** two thousand years ago. God **has poured out** His Spirit. The

scriptures say that He has poured it out on all flesh! The problem is that not all flesh have received, accepted, and embraced His Spirit. Not only are the unsaved missing this greatest of miracles in being born again; **the church after being born again have missed the anointing that goes with it!** We don't need God to pour out His Spirit on our behalf today in a new work of grace; **we need to stand in and assert what God has already done—that's faith in His grace.**

In the **Old Testament** the Holy Spirit could not fill anyone because they were not born again; however, the Holy Spirit did **come upon them** and then they would do extraordinary things.

1Sa 10:10 When they came there to the hill, there was a group of prophets to meet him; **then the Spirit of God came upon him (Saul)**, and he prophesied among them.

The anointing of the Holy Spirit was represented by oil being poured upon David for example.

1Sa 16:13 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.

## **In The New Testament The Holy Spirit Comes In To Fill Us And Upon Us To Empower**

There is however, our part. When we speak and assert by acknowledging everything that is good that is in us in Christ Jesus ***our faith becomes effective***—powerful (Philemon 1:6).

**Phillip** and others were ***full of faith and power*** because they were **convinced and established** in the truth and grace brought to them in Christ Jesus (Col. 2:7). Our part is to seek to know God's will without doubt (James 1:5-8)! We must be ***certain and convinced*** and the more we are the more **full of faith and grace we are**; if we believe the right things we'll experience the right things.

We have often experienced our Christian life based upon feelings, experiences, and vague understandings of the Holy Spirit. We have had an Old Testament understanding of anointing as if only a few special ones receive. We have seen the gifts of the Spirit so infrequent that we hardly recognize them and presume that they are given sporadically as the Spirit wills. In fact, we have taught the body of Christ that we only get one or two gifts of the nine listed. We have looked at the many and considered them like worker ants with nothing special going on. We have believed the wrong things and the results show it.

## Now Consider Phillip Who Went Down To Samaria

Phillip evangelized the Samaritans through the *power of God* with many signs, wonders, and miracles of healing. He baptized many because when they saw and heard the things Phillip did they believed. **Who is Phillip?** He is one of the deacons commissioned with **Stephen (Acts 6:5)**! He was not the apostle Phillip or it would have said so in describing his story. Furthermore, after his success in Samaria **the apostles sent apostles.**

Acts 8: 14 Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria **had received the word of God**, they sent Peter and John to them,

15 who, when they had come down, **prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit.**

16 **For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.**

17 **Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.**

Phillip under the anointing of the Holy Spirit worked signs, wonders, and miracles as an evangelist to reach the people of Samaria. Look however, at what the scriptures detailed concerning the ministry of the Holy Spirit to them. It is impossible to be saved without the Holy Spirit; yet, **the apostles prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. What is going on here?**

If the Samaritans were not born again then we could easily reconcile this by believing that the apostles led them into it—thus praying that they might receive the Holy Spirit. We find in the next chapter that **Phillip** ministers to an **Ethiopian prince** and then baptizes him. Before Phillip baptizes the Eunuch this is recorded:

Acts 8: 37 Then Philip said, "**If you believe with all your heart, you may.**" And he answered and said, "**I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.**"

38 So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him.

**Phillip was teaching those who were baptized to believe in their heart and confessed that Jesus is the Son of God.** Paul writes in the book of Romans:

Romans 10: 9 "that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

10 **For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."**

By the Word of God's standard this man ***is saved having been born again***. It only makes sense that Phillip would have been teaching ***the same things to the Samaritans*** who believed and were baptized. Therefore, the Samaritans would have received the Holy Spirit by being born again. **If that is the case then why did the apostles pray for them to receive the Holy Spirit?**

**Were the apostles making a distinction in the case of the Samaritans that they had the Holy Spirit *in* them but not *upon* them?** Yet, the Day of Pentecost testifies that the prophecy of Joel is true: God has poured out His Spirit upon all flesh! Did God's Spirit miss the Samaritans?

**Later In Acts Paul Ran Into Believers And Ask This Question: **Did You Receive The Holy Spirit When You Believed?****

Acts 19:1 And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, **came to Ephesus**. And finding some disciples  
2 he said to them, "**Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?**" So they said to him, "**We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit.**"  
3 And he said to them, "**Into what then were you baptized?**" So they said, "**Into John's baptism.**"  
4 then Paul said, "**John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.**"  
5 When they heard this, they were **baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus**.  
6 **And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.**  
7 Now the men were about twelve in all.

In this case the believers were baptized into John's baptism of repentance and had not known to believe upon Jesus. When they were instructed more accurately they were baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. This meant, as with Phillip, that one believed with all their heart and confessed that Jesus is the Son of God. **This would mean that they become born again**; however, **Paul didn't stop with baptizing them. He proceeded to lay hands on them that the Holy Spirit came upon them and the spoke with tongues and prophesied.**

**We Have This Dual Presentation Of The Holy Spirit *Coming Into* And *Filling* And Then The Holy Spirit *Coming Upon* Them.**

In Phillip's case, the Samaritans believed and were baptized in Jesus' name; however, the **apostles took it one step further and laid hands on them that the Holy Spirit came upon them.**

What is specifically mentioned is that Simon the sorcerer having become a believer too was baptized and was **watching the apostles lay hands on the people. When he saw the Holy Spirit come upon them** he wanted to purchase this gift and power and was rebuked for thinking it

could be bought. The point however is this; **Simon saw something when the apostles laid their hands on the people.**

When someone is born again we don't see anything or hear anything. We can perceive that something has happened **in them** because their eyes and face might shine in reflecting joy, peace, and rest; however, to most people they would not see the Holy Spirit in a powerful demonstration such as cloven tongues, speaking in tongues, or something else manifesting.

## **The Believers At Ephesus**

In Acts 19 **when Paul laid hands upon the believers the Holy Spirit came upon them and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.** If we were watching this event we too would see the power of God come upon them because of hearing them.

## **Consider Paul's Conversion**

When Paul was converted on the road to Damascus by the visitation of Christ, he was blinded by the event and had to be led into town. For three days he fasted and prayed waiting on God's direction. This is what is recorded:

Acts 9: 10 Now there was a certain disciple at Damascus named **Ananias**; and to him the Lord said in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord."

11 So the Lord said to him, "Arise and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for one called Saul of Tarsus, for behold, he is praying.

12"**And in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias coming in and **putting his hand on him**, so that he might receive his sight.**"

13 Then Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he has done to Your saints in Jerusalem.

14 "And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your name."

15 But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel.

16 "For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake."

17 **And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit."**

18 Immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized.

God sent **Ananias** to Paul **to lay hands on him** to heal his blindness and **be filled** with the Holy Spirit. When Paul could see again that would have demonstrated the presence of the Holy Spirit; however, there is no mention of him speaking in tongues or prophesying. Paul received the Holy Spirit and was born again then he was baptized.

Later we find out that Paul prays in tongues more than anyone else and we know he prophesied:

I Cor. 14:18 I **thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all...**

Sometime after Paul's conversion and **being filled with the Holy Spirit** he began to speak in tongues! Furthermore, as I already presented Paul laid hands upon the Ephesians for **the Holy Spirit to come upon them**.

## **When Peter Is Sent To Cornelius' House**

As Peter is sharing the gospel they **received the Holy Spirit** and began to speak in tongues! Peter didn't lay hands on them and they weren't baptized. Furthermore, they were not born again prior to this meeting. **It seems that they were born again and the Holy Spirit fell upon them at the same time.** Peter said:

Ac 10:47 "Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized **who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?"**

Peter was referring to the **Day of Pentecost** when the Holy Spirit like a rushing mighty wind filled the place they were in:

**Acts 2:** And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, **and it sat upon each of them.**

**4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost,** and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

**Cornelius** had gathered his relatives and friends to hear Peter so we don't know how many were involved but we can assume there were women, possibly children, and a good number of them. This passage says:

Acts 10: 44 While Peter was still speaking these words, **the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word.**

45 And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, **because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also.**

**46 For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God.**

**The Holy Spirit fell upon all of them!** Peter and those who came with him to Cornelius' house were astonished because they heard them speak with tongues and prophesy! There were no cloven tongues of fire over their heads as was manifested on the one hundred and twenty on the **Day of Pentecost**, yet, they were born again as the Holy Spirit came upon them. They knew the Holy Spirit was received and came upon for they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God.

The scriptures reveal that the Holy Spirit fell upon the **Household of Cornelius** did that mean it *had not reached* here before when the Day of Pentecost had come and the Spirit was poured out on all flesh? This is some time later...

## Two Ways; Two Positions

It seems that we have two ways that the Holy Spirit manifests in believers lives. The Holy Spirit fills and saves (born again) and then **falls upon** manifesting in the speaking of tongues and prophesying. On the **Day of Pentecost** and with **Cornelius' house** both happened *at the same time*. With the **Samaritans** and the **Ephesians** they were born again first, and then hands were laid upon them to have the Holy Spirit **fall upon them** to speak in tongues. With **Paul** the apostle, after he encounters Jesus, he is healed and filled with the Spirit by Ananias' laying on of hands. Paul later speaks in tongues but we have no record of when or how he began.

## What Does This Mean For Us Today

There are many today who are born again and have the Holy Spirit in them. There are those who have been born again today and at the same *time spoke in other tongues*. There are many more today that have been born again and received, accepted, and employed the gift of speaking in tongues *at some time later* (Like the Samaritans, Ephesians, and Paul the apostle). Then, there may be more in the body of Christ who are born again and have never spoke in tongues.

I describe this ministry of the Holy Spirit in these terms but what we are really after is the two positions mentioned: **being filled with the Holy Spirit and having the Holy Spirit come upon us**. Yet, as I have pointed out the scripture clearly declares that God poured out His Spirit upon all flesh and that would include everyone today.

## What Can We Know?

We can know that no one can be born of God **without the Holy Spirit** (John 3:6 "That which is born of the flesh is flesh **and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.**). **We can know that the promise of the Holy Spirit is given to all that receive Jesus!**

Ro 8:9 **But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.**

Ro 8:10 **And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.**

Col 1:27 To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: **which is Christ in you**, the hope of glory.

We can know that if we believe in our heart that God has raised Christ from the dead and confess with our mouth that He is Lord, we are saved (Rom. 10:10)! Our salvation is as Jesus said:

John 14:23 Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and **We will come to him and make Our home with him.**

We are Spirit beings recreated in the same divine nature and presence (II Pet. 1:4); **therefore, it is inappropriate to tell someone born of God that they do not have the Holy Spirit! Then what were the apostles Peter and John doing with the Samaritans by laying hands on them to receive the Holy Spirit?** Did Phillip's ministry by the Holy Spirit with great signs and wonders miss something? Did the Holy Spirit forget to lead Phillip to make sure that the Samaritans became born again? When they were baptized did Phillip fail to bring to their attention the need to be born of God?

I think it is clearly seen in Phillip's discourse with the **Ethiopian Eunuch** that salvation's message was communicated. Phillip wouldn't baptize this prince until he confirmed **"If you believe with all your heart, you may."** And he answered and said, **"I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."**

**Certainly one who is born again has the Holy Spirit.** The Spirit of God is poured out on all flesh; however, not all receive him and take in the truth to accept Jesus as their Lord.

## **People Can Resist, Stop, And Prevent The Holy Spirit From Entering Into Their Life!**

People can resist, stop, and prevent the Holy Spirit from filling or empowering them or coming upon them. Maybe it is better understood that Christians can miss the grace and power of God in their lives because *they believe the wrong things*.

**What does laying hands on someone actually do?** Does it impart healing? Does it impart the Holy Spirit upon or in someone's life? Can we be healed without hands being laid upon us? Absolutely! Can we receive the Holy Spirit without hands being laid upon us? Absolutely!

Why did Jesus lay hands on some but not all? He told the Nobleman to go his way; his son lives! He healed the son by His words only. Yet, in Jesus own home town He laid hands upon a few and healed them. His own home town didn't believe in him.

It has been said that only carnal people, carnal Christians need hands laid on them to be healed. They need something physical to represent the spiritual power happening in their life. **Did the apostles lay hands on people because they needed it? Maybe God in His grace just gives us different ways to get to the same place sometimes?**

For example, Jesus healed by laying on of hands, just by speaking, by making spittle out of mud and putting on blind eyes, by His garment being touched...

Healing happened in the book of Acts when Peter's shadow hit someone on the ground just by passing by. Paul had unusual healings through handkerchiefs being prayed over and laid on the sick. Even in the Old Testament we had this:

2Ki 5:10 And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "**Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored to you,** and you shall be clean."

## Conclusion: There May Be Different Ways But The Goal Is The Same!

God is anointing us and filling us with His Spirit in two different positions. There is one *absolute prerequisite* for anyone to be filled with the Spirit and walk in the anointing: **that is that they believe with their whole heart and desire it completely!**

God is not going to override our will and take over our hearts making us do things as if we have nothing to do with it. God works in us and upon us as we decide and determine. **We pray and command; He confirms and fulfills.**

It is important to realize that our part is being *certain and convinced* about God's will concerning the ministry of the Holy Spirit. I have shared these passages and occurrences of the moving of the Holy Spirit for us to realize *what God's will is in this matter.*

There is one final important point that to me erases some of the confusion concerning the ministry of the Holy Spirit. **We are to keep on being filled (Eph. 5:18, 19). We are to keep on walking in the Spirit. We are to keep on standing and asserting His grace. We are to be filled and filled again;** we are to realize that we are as Jesus is in this world. We have the same Spirit to do the same things, for the same reasons. Whether or not we were filled or we were anointed; or we have never experienced being filled or the Spirit upon us, *makes no difference.* Whether or not we have spoke in tongues makes no difference, **what matters is that we embrace and continue to be filled with the Holy Spirit.**

What matters is that we stand in the truth that as born again believers of God we have been given the Holy Spirit and **we are to believe we are anointed and empowered just as Jesus said (Acts 1:8).**

If we have never been empowered or experienced God's infilling presence or sensed the Holy Spirit upon us, **we can change that now!** We may have never been taught to believe the right things, we can

change that too! We may feel left behind, or insignificant to God, we can change that now! **We may feel we are missing something or need a special touch; we can have that now too!**

If we are born again we have the Holy Spirit. We didn't get a portion or some drop in the bucket; **we got the Spirit of Christ and have the right to stand in the Spirit's fullness (I John 4:17)**. Furthermore, we have the right to stand as one anointed with the Spirit upon us just as the Spirit was upon Jesus in His earthly walk (Rom. 8:11)!

When the Holy Spirit was poured out on all flesh on the **Day of Pentecost that is an eternal fact in truth!** We don't need a new pouring. When the apostles or disciples laid hands for other to receive the Holy Spirit that didn't mean the Holy Spirit had not been poured out, it meant that the *ones being ministered to* were being encouraged to believe and receive what God had already done.

**When we receive our salvation that is not when God provided it**, He provided it two thousand years ago on the cross. When we receive the Holy Spirit either filling us or upon us, that is not when the Holy Spirit was poured out upon our lives that is when we accepted it. Many of us need encouragement; something to show for it, a physical point of contact, and *laying on of hands provides that beautifully*. We minister to one another in this way; however, we don't have to have hands laid on us to experience anything from God. We can accept and experience all that God is to us directly. Amen.

### **Recommended Booklets**

The Purposes For Praying In The Spirit (Tongues)

We've Already Got It!

What Makes Believers?