

Spirit-Filled Living
Acts 4:7-13; 23-37

Getting Started

- ❖ In Acts 3 we have a miraculous healing which leads to persecution and opposition in Acts 4. Have you ever faced opposition and/or persecution for your faith? If so, share your experience with your group. If not, how do you think you would endure opposition and persecution?

Key Ideas for Discussion

1. The Required Condition for Spirit-Filled Living (v.7-13)
2. The Common Characteristics of Spirit-Filled Living (v.23-37)
 - A. Passionate Prayer that is God-Oriented and Biblically Informed (v.23-30)
 - B. Bold Witnessing that Proclaims the Goodness of God in the Gospel of Jesus (v.31)
 - C. Sacrificial Generosity that Blesses the People of God in the Body of Christ. (v.32-35)

Takeaway Truth: Allegiance to Jesus in every aspect of life is the fundamental heart attitude of Spirit-filled Christians

Digging Deeper

- ❖ Revisit the sermon and sermon outline and answer the following:
 - Read verses 1-12.
 - How would you describe the content of the Apostle's message to unbelievers? What was their focus and what did they highlight?
 - Are there any lessons here for us as we interact with unbelievers?
 - There is no denying the Apostle's absolute conviction about Jesus and they fearlessly proclaimed it. Do you think we can do this today and expect similar results? Do we have to proclaim Jesus differently due to changing times or should we follow their example?
 - Read verses 13-22
 - How would you describe the attitude of the authorities towards the Apostles?
 - Did the religious leaders accept that the miracle was genuine? How did they respond and why do you think this is?
 - How should these verses shape our interactions and perspective towards governing authorities? Can these verses legitimately be used by Christians in their current opposition to government vaccine mandates, etc?
 - Read verses 23-37
 - What does this section teach us about how to pray? Why is it important to regularly fill our hearts and minds first with who God is before we go through our "prayer list"?
 - What characteristic of being filled with the HS in this passage resonates the most with you? Which one do you wish were more present in your life?
 - Do these verses support a form of "communism" or "Christian Communism"? Why or Why Not?

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- Why is generosity and hospitality often attached to being filled with the Spirit?

Apply It!

- ❖ What stood out to you in the sermon? Did anything particularly challenge, encourage, convict, or intrigue you?
- ❖ In the list of characteristics of being filled with the Holy Spirit, what are some action steps you could take to see growth in the area where you currently see weakness?
- ❖ As you pray for one another this evening, apply the message in your group by beginning each prayer with a remembrance of who God is and praise Him for this aspect of His person. THEN pray for a request from your group!

Think About It!

... we cannot rest on the fact that we prayed for the Spirit's fullness five years ago or even last week. But as we engage in constant prayer for his fullness, the Spirit of Christ will consistently flow through us. We must spend time in God's Word. The Bible is like a mirror set before us. The light of Christ reflects off the Word and into our faces, so that we shine forth Christ. We must remain in the Word—constantly learning, constantly being taught—not relying on what we have learned in the past, but interacting with it anew, so that Christ is projected throughout our entire lives. We must spend time with God's people. We become like the people with whom we spend time, and the light of Christ flows out of his people and into those around them. We must spend time in prayer, because as we fellowship with the Lord, the perfume of his life makes us the very "fragrance of [Christ]" (see 2 Corinthians 2:14). (R. Kent Hughes)

Note from Pastor Jerry: For this year's CG questions, group resources and Bible studies from John Stott (Acts Seeing the Spirit at Work), John MacArthur (MacArthur Bible Studies: Acts), Jack Hayford (Kingdom Power) and Max Lucado (Life Lessons from the Book of Acts) are used in addition to original material.

WORSHIP RESOURCE

November 28, 2021 | First Sunday of Advent

WORSHIP SONGS

CORNERSTONE

*Words by Jonas Myrin, Reuben Morgan, Eric Liljero,
Edward Mote / Music by Jonas Myrin, Reuben Morgan,
Eric Liljero, Will Bradberry, 2011*

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly trust in Jesus' name.

*Christ alone, Cornerstone;
weak made strong in the Savior's love.
Through the storm, he is Lord, Lord of all.*

When darkness seems to hide his face, I rest on his unchanging
grace. In every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil.

When he shall come with trumpet sound, may I then in him be found.
Dressed in his righteousness alone; faultless, stand before the throne.

THERE IS POWER

Words and Music by Lincoln Brewster and Mia Fieldes, 2014

Where two or more are gathered in His name, He is there.
For all who come, who run to Him in faith, He is there.

*There is power in the name of Jesus;
There is power, power in His name. (2x)*

No fear, no lie can stand against us now; He is here.
The Word has come to silence ev'ry doubt; He is here.

One name, one name can save; One name breaks every chain;
One name, always. One name, Jesus; One name, one name remains;
One name we will proclaim; One name, always, one name.

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

Latin Antiphons, 12th Century | Plainsong, 13th Century

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to Thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny; from
depths of hell thy people save, and give them victory o'er the grave.

O come, thou Dayspring from on high, and cheer us by Thy
drawing nigh; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark
shadows put to flight.

O come, Thou Key of David come and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.

SHOW ME HOW

*Words by David Mohlenbrok and Paxson Jeancake
Music by Paxson Jeancake, 2021*

As the sun rises, shines its early light; time to start the day with all our
strength and might. Time to reach out to a power much higher and
show Him that His love is what our hearts desire.

*Heavenly Father, hear my prayer. Give me guidance until I get there.
Show me Your wisdom, show me Your light.
Show me how to do what's right.*

As the day moves forward, and we move along, facing challenges that
will make us strong. And in times of struggle and times of doubt,
we're bringing all of our cares and calling out.

As the day is done and it's time for bed,
I bow my heart before resting my head.

BREATH OF GOD, BREATHE

Words and Music by Paxson Jeancake, 2012

Holy in me. All that I need; righteousness, divine.
God now unseen, living in me; you raise the dead to life.

*Breath of God, breathe; I want to receive everything,
all you say that you are. Counselor, teach me; Comforter, reach me.
Spirit of Jesus, fill my heart; Breath of God, breath.*

I know all is in vain when I try to maintain a strength that's not
my own. Come and fill me again with your Spirit within.
Remind me I am yours; remind me I am yours.

DAILY READINGS | BOOK OF COMMON WORSHIP

SUNDAY | Ps. 24; Amos 1:1-5; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Luke 21:5-19
MONDAY | Ps. 40; Amos 2:6-16; 2 Peter 1:1-11; Matt. 21:1-11
TUESDAY | Ps. 33; Amos 3:1-11; 2 Peter 1:12-21; Matt. 21:12-22
WEDNESDAY | Ps. 50; Amos 3:12-4:5; 2 Peter 3:1-10; Matt. 21:23-32
THURSDAY | Ps. 126; Amos 4:6-13; 2 Peter 3:11-18; Matt. 21:33-46
FRIDAY | Ps. 16; Amos 5:1-17; Jude 1-16; Matthew 22:1-14
SATURDAY | Ps. 80; Amos 5:18-27; Jude 17-25; Matt. 22:15-22

PRAYER OF RENEWAL

Lord Jesus,
direct our way to you.
May we, your people, increase and abound
in love for one another and for all,
just as we abound in love for you.
Strengthen our hearts in holiness
that we may be blameless before you
when you return with all your saints. Amen.



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