

# THE SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE

## The Holy Spirit in the New Testament

1 Corinthians 2:1-16

Calvary Church of Pacific Palisades

September 25, 2011 ♦ Sunday Morning Worship

Experience ... Stood behind the curtain, Dave four shades of green, Stacy in Labor. Cut cord. PICT What a joy she has become. Wasn't invited for the next one.

Spirit-filling my heart with joy as I recognized the fulfillment of my prayers and God's answer. I'll never forget it ... one of the greatest experiences of my life.

Life was meant to be experienced. Marked by experiences. No different with the Spiritual life.

### Please open ... 1 Corinthians 2. Page 807.

Church in Corinth was just like every other church I've ever been a part of (including this one) it was a mess. Disappointing, hurtful, divisive, sexual immorality. Ill. My church is the waves. Why aren't Christians more like Jesus? If we've got the power, then why don't we use it? Either we don't know we've got it (like the beggar who was a billionaire) or it feels safer to live out of our little "s". More than most, Paul knew what it was like to EXPERIENCE THE FILLING OF THE SPIRIT ... to feel the rush of the Spirit, the breath of God, the ruach the pneuma ... flowing through him.

### Read 2:1-5

Goal was not to be a great preacher, in fact, he admits that he was a wreck, trembling. He had listened to his sermons. Ill. Personal ... If you want to go into depression, listen to yourself speak, even worse put video ... that most painful thing in life. Not flawless elocution, excellent grammar, cogent and thought provoking ideas. Riveting illustrations. All wanted was to KNOW Christ ... He had seen what he could do and it was ok, now he wanted to see what God could do ... through him. Spirit's power, directed by Spirit promptings. Constant filling. He knew it wasn't him ... something happening beyond his ability. Every time he took the opportunity to speak the truth, he experienced the filling.

### The Spirit-filled life is meant to be experienced.

For way too long, we have disregarded experience, partly because of the excesses of those who have sought experience and left the planet (discarded truth and spiritual reality). Not only is the HS the forgotten God ... but we have missed the point. Meant to be experienced. Ill. Personal ... just this week. I heard the Spirit speaking to my spirit, encouraging comforting truth. CAUTION ... Thrill seekers. QueensTown ... para-bungie; Adrenalin not same as S-filled. **Faith is not based on experience, but faith results in experience; if it doesn't, something's wrong.** When we manufacture experience, or seek experience for experience sake results in heartache. ill. Mr. Pitt staring at the "magic Eye". If I cross my eyes and focus beyond the image, it will take shape. Harder we try, the more illusive it becomes. Trying to make something happen, if I just do the right things, say the right things, think the right things, believe the right things.

**Read 2:6-11** The Spirit searches the mind of God, and the Spirit reveals God's thoughts to us. Reveals to us what God thinks about us, the plans He has for us. VERY ENCOURAGING ...

**Read 2:12-16** KEY VERSE v. 12 ...

**We** – that includes everyone who has received Jesus; born of the Spirit. Jesus sends the Spirit to wash us clean (baptize) and give us new hearts ... Ezekiel, stone/flesh. No more dry bones; alive in Him.

**spirit of the world** – says you are on your own, this is all there is, you have to get it done and there is no one to help you ... you can do it OR you can't do it.

**SPIRIT who is from God** – the Holy Spirit. Spirit of truth. Not on your own, there is infinitely more, there is a helper, you can do it, YES YOU CAN but only power of God living in us. ***I can do all things***  
**Understand what God has freely given us** – not just experiences, but knowledge that comes first-hand through relationship. Certainty. Assurance.

... two words for know. Gnosko & Oida = know (meet someone) & experience (live with them)

Ill. Susie. Never forget when and where I met her. Had to have more. Feel, sense, when you engage.

### **The Spirit-filled life is meant to be experienced through relationship.**

To really truly know something is to interact with them, to relate to them. To live with them.

To experience freely – willingly show copious and generous amounts of grace and kindness.

To know, to understand, to embrace what God has freely given us. It's a person living within.

How could we have missed this?

The Spirit speaks to our hearts, When filled with Spirit **WE KNOW** ... write this down. 7 truths!

**#1 – That God's plans for us are greater than our plans ... and success is not found in control but rather through surrender!**

***Ephesians 3:20*** Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us.

Within us ... the Holy Spirit filling the believer.

Ill. Brennan Manning. 30-60-100% ***A brand new creation.***

**#2 – That if God brought us to it then He will lead us through it...He always finishes what He starts!**

***Philippians 1:6*** ... being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

The good work is the Holy Spirit filling the believer ... transformation.

Ill. Extreme Makeover Finish the work ... guaranteed.

**#3 – That there will be times in our lives when we're going to have to leave our comfort zone and step into the unknown!**

***Hebrews 11:1*** Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

Hebrews 11:6 Without faith ... The Holy Spirit goes with you and guides you.

Ill. going while not knowing ... Abraham

**#4 – That we cannot do life alone... God places people in our lives to both encourage and challenge us!**

***Hebrews 10:24-25*** And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

The Holy Spirit moves through community, we cannot afford to get disconnected. Never meant to be solo.

**#5 – That God really does work out ALL THINGS for His glory and our good!**

***Romans 8:28*** And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Doesn't rescue us, but stays with us and teaches us what we couldn't have learned otherwise.

Ill. valley of dry bones, waiting for resurrection ... feel like dying, hope of coming alive again.

Ill. Woman in a new relationship told me she didn't think she could ever feel that way again.

#6 – That we cannot separate ourselves from the love of God...He doesn't love us based on our performance but rather on our position as His children!

**Romans 8:38-39** *For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

We BELONG ... nothing can separate us from the love of our Father.

#7 -- That we CAN DO what we think we CAN'T DO but feel like He keeps telling me I've GOT TO DO!  
**Philippians 4:13** *I can do all this through him who gives me strength.*

Ill. In middle of a mess, really struggling. How did you get through it ... Divine power.

Conclusion:
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**The Spirit-filled life is meant to be experienced through relationship with the indwelling Holy Spirit.**

Ask you to pray for me, and for yourselves. Not that I'll be a great preacher, or that you great Christians, ... but that we will be filled with the Spirit.

Ask you to pray for Calvary ... not that we will have better programs, better worship, better preaching, better funding, but that our church body will come alive by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Pray that we'll know (experience in relationship) everything that God has freely given us.