

So What About The Holy Spirit

Part 8: How can I be filled with the Holy Spirit?

Ephesians 5:15-21 - [watch online](#)

Summary:

Jesus' solution to the brokenness we experience daily both around us and in us is a community that is filled with the Holy Spirit. But what does that even mean? And how can it actually happen?

Main points:

00:27 The same things that break our hearts break God's heart because he values and loves us.

04:20 The solution to our division is a community of transformed Jesus Followers who are filled with the Holy Spirit.

07:17 The Church is God's announcement to all of creation that he will restore all things in Jesus.

08:58 The people of God must see themselves as and live like the people of God.

09:43 Being the people of God requires renewed thoughts and attitudes.

14:19 Being filled with the Holy Spirit is a result of the continual and ongoing life of the people of God united together.

16:58 A Spirit-filled community requires Spirit-filled individuals living out Jesus' love with each other.

17:35 The filling of the Holy Spirit isn't just for you... it's for US.

18:35 The 3 virtues of a Spirit-filled community:

#1 Commitment

#2 Humility

#3 Vulnerability

24:33 The world desperately needs a Holy Spirit-filled community living out the Kingdom of God... together.

This week: 22:48

Read Romans 12

Pray: Give me the courage to be committed, humble, and vulnerable with your people.

Discussion Questions:

1. What stood out, confused, bothered, or inspired you in this week's message?
2. In your own words, what do you think it means to be "filled with the Holy Spirit?" Do you think your definition is similar to how this idea was presented in the message? Why or why not?
3. Read Romans 12:9-13. What do you think this passage has to do with being filled with the Holy Spirit?
4. Jon said three virtues that are important for a Spirit filled community are Commitment, Humility, and Vulnerability. Which of these seems most difficult for you to embody right now? Would you add anything to these virtues?
5. How can your group pray for you this week?

Transcript

IN: The world is broken/divided... Both globally but especially on a personal level.

It seems like we can't help but hurt others and be hurt ourselves.

Everyone is carrying around unseen hurts.

Sure... You want to do something about it... but what can one person do?

Even if you find like-minded people...What can one little group do?

There is hope. We CAN BE a source of love and peace both for each other and the world.

It's why Jesus created the Church and gave it his Holy Spirit. So let's talk about it... together.

WE: So much wrong out there... large/small

Globally- War, Polarization, Poverty

Personally- Broken relationships, bitterness, unforgiveness,

And there comes those moments where our hearts ache for something different/a new solution.

- Or we give up and say people are just stupid.

But if Jesus was right about God... **The same things that break our hearts break God's heart b/c he values and loves us.**

He not only knows the global events, but he intimately knows the individuals involved, their hearts/hopes/thoughts/pains

From the beginning humanity has tried to do something about both the pain out there and the pain in here...

- Banding together in cities/Countries/Alliances
- Laws/Education/Wealth/Science/Technology
- Romance/sex/relationships

These can alleviate some of the symptoms for a while... but more often than not lead to more of the same... b/c root is still there...

- Band together in cities- start fighting each other... and the other THEM
- Wealth- never enough need more start exploiting others to get more
- Technology is starting to seem like is pushing us further apart
- Relationships don't fix what's wrong in us... move to one after another hurting/being hurt

Many turn to religion/church to alleviate the pain/hurt from "out there." Give them THE answer.

But instead of it helping what do they find?

Sometimes at best... an hour long experience where they can try forget their real problems for a bit that then smacks them in the face the moment they get back in their car... seems almost useless.

At worst...

- Infighting / Controlling leaders / Judgement / Endless debates about who is more right than the others

Many get a taste of this type of religion and end up wanting nothing to do w/ it.

But as we've discovered in this series...that wasn't Jesus' point.

Jesus has given his church the Holy Spirit to give life [not just a break from real life... but a whole new way of living] to a new people who will show the world the love of Jesus.

So where is the disconnect? How can we get back to our original purpose/design?

You/me... together can be part of the real solution. Seems like I'm overselling it? I'm not. Haven't even started yet.

The solution to our division is a community of transformed Jesus Followers who are filled w/ the Holy Spirit.

"Being filled w/ the Holy Spirit"... not as mystical mysterious as some have made it seem.

GOD: Apostle Paul explains it...

Ephesians: 60 AD- Ephesus- huge city. Religious center for greek/roman gods. Especially Artemis. Paul 2 years

Summarizes the Good News of Jesus and how it should/can/will transform/reshape every part of our lives

I'm going to summarize the beginning to get big picture...

1st half: Describes how through Jesus life, death, and resurrection, God made a people for himself... Sealed/marked

- A people made up of all races- Jew/Gentile

Through the Holy Spirit... Gentiles are no longer strangers/foreigners but are now included as citizens/full members of God's family.

Together all Jesus Followers are being made into the temple of God... a dwelling where God lives by his Spirit.

WHY is God doing this?

Eph 3:10-11 God's purpose in creating this new people is to display his wisdom in its rich variety (intricate beauty/field of flowers)... to the unseen rulers, authorities in the heavenly places...

(Commentators try to figure out who? Most likely...Both angels/evil spiritual powers)

- Spiritual beings? Not too much of a stretch if there actually is a God if you think about it.

So, this unity of both Jew/Gentile becoming one new people by the HS shows the angels God's purpose to unite all of creation through/in Jesus

And it shows the evil powers that they are defeated.

Through Jesus, God is turning back the tide of evil/sin/division/death, through this unified multi-ethnic new people.

The Church is God's announcement to all of creation that he will restore all things in Jesus.

Are you starting to see what a big deal this is? God is showing all of the universe his power/wisdom/beauty/love through his Church.

"Church" isn't just a place we can go to get a break while we wait for Jesus to come back.

It is central to God's overall plan for the entire universe. And You are invited to be a part of that plan.

Paul pivots in the 2nd half of letter... Explains HOW the Church pierces the darkness and shows all of creation the glory/wisdom/love of God.

4:1 *Therefore*= since this is the case/since this is who you are ... Live as the new people of God... HOW?

4:2-4 Live in love w/ each other- **The people of God must see themselves as and live like the people of God.**

"Like, just trying to be really good/nice?" No. It's much deeper than that.

4:21-24- Throw off sinful nature and be renewed in your thoughts/attitudes-

Being the people of God requires renewed thoughts and attitudes

- Remember... We can work with the HS or we can resist

Then Paul gives examples of what that work looks like...

- Instead of lying- tell the truth
- Instead of stealing- work hard and give generously
- Instead of tearing people down with your words- build them up
- Instead of bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words and slander - be kind, tenderhearted, forgiving just as God in Christ forgave you.

Sums it up- **5:1-2**

Live a life filled w/ love... Be living/walking in the way of love/be being continuing filled w/ God's supernatural love...

- What does Jesus' love look like?

G. Fee- *The mind renewed by the Spirit leads us to understand that love must rule over all; and only by such a renewed mind may we discover how best to love.*

"OK... I want to live this way... I know this is best BUT HOW?"

This is the answer to all of it... the lynch pin...I think if we can get this it changes everything... **5:15-21**

👉 Be filled with the HS

Now when hear the phrase being filled w/ HS... many will think of the examples in Acts...

- Pentecost
- Peter speaking to the leaders

- Believers being filled w/ HS healing Paul's blindness.

And sure, that can happen! ...But what Paul is talking about here is a day-to-day influence/filling we need to renew our thoughts/attitudes/behaviors... something that can only be done by faith/trust/relying on God's love to shine through us.

Pleroo (Play-RR-O)- to fill/make complete

- Disciples nets were filled w/ fish... Jesus filled w/ wisdom
- When Mary anointed Jesus' feet the room was filled w/ fragrance of perfume

To be filled up w/ the HS/completely full of the HS. Permeated by, Reeking of.

As a hand fills a glove we need the HS's influence/control/filling to love this way.

- Empowering and filling of the HS is for every Jesus Follower... not just a select few

It's not something we make happen, but it's something we allow to happen w/in us... an influence we allow to transform our lives and our community.

- We can either work w/ the HS or resist him.

And what is the primary way to experience this filling? **Together.**

Being filled w/ the HS is a result of the continual and ongoing life of the people of God united together.

Paul lists a few examples... they are both the results of being filled and what we need in order to be a *filled* community...

- How the HS renews our mind/attitudes and proof that he is doing it... in our community.

Singing Psalms/Hymns/Spiritual Songs:

- The Psalms (the song book of God's people- Scripture)
- Lyrical poems
- Even speaking of the good/love of God- A melody in the heart that comes out in your words.

Corporate singing has always been at the center of the life of the people of God.

- It's a kind of conversation between believers and God... together.
 - Reminding , encouraging, mourning, teaching, comforting each other.
 - So this singing isn't just a Jesus/Me special time... it is an US and Jesus time.
 - Nothing wrong w/ some Jesus/Me time but that is not the MAIN point of worship time...
 - Just like our being the people of God is not just an *individual* experience.

He also says this being filled w/ the HS requires and leads to... Giving thanks for everything

- A life permeated w/ being thankful to God... **together.**

And all of this is created by and evidenced by "submitting to each other out of our reverence" /love/worship for Christ

- Ongoing way of life... seeing the others needs as more important than us. Living for the good of each other.

A Spirit-filled community requires Spirit-filled individuals living out Jesus' love with each other.

G. Fee: *In us and in our believing communities the Spirit is at work reproducing the very life of God, so that in our present between-the-times existence, we might live the life of the future, toward which we are walking.*

It's so important/essential and it can only be done by a community of JF's **who are together** being renewed by the filling of the HS.

Listen... **The filling of the HS isn't just for you... it's for US.**

The point of the Spirit empowering and transforming individual JF's is so we can love each other the way God loves us.

As Jesus told his 1st followers... **Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples. John 13:35**

God's love, his presence, *Ruach*, power indwells and controls us as we allow him to do so.

- It's our choice
- It's not developed by trying harder... it's given to us as we submit to the God and each other more and more

YOU: A true Spirit-filled community doesn't just happen... and it isn't something magical, or that is reserved for only the select few...

It takes patient practice which can only be done if certain virtues are developed...

What I'm calling **The 3 virtues of a Spirit-filled community**

#1 Commitment: We can't bail when things get difficult.

Yes, there are times God moves us on to different communities... but we don't do it because things are difficult we do it because God wants to use who we are to strengthen that new community.

And I'm not saying stay in a toxic/unhealthy environment.

But imagine if every JF was so committed to their community that they didn't see leaving as an option... but were committed to working through the hard parts of living together in the NOT YET

Friction can be an opportunity to allow the HS to renew us.

If you're in a community and there is friction somewhere,

Seek restoration... Ask for forgiveness for whatever role you've played/and offer preemptive forgiveness.

If they not willing... read what Paul says... **Rom 12:18.** Do what you can. Be committed to controlling you.

Commitment also means that being the community becomes a priority.

Can't be a community if people can't rely on being with you.

It will change how you schedule your life- **Won't let yourself/family become too busy to gather**

It will change which job opportunities we take, how we decide when we vacation, even how we budget our finances.

#2 Humility: 1st- We need to be willing to listen to and learn from each other.

No one is higher/better than anyone else... one body, many parts.

2nd- Humility means being part of the community (whatever form that takes) stops being about what I can get...

- Spiritual experience, Biblical knowledge, social time
- Being a member of the Spirit-filled body of Christ is about... What can I contribute to the rest of the body?
- You view your participation as part of supporting the others... we need each other in order to actually be a Spirit-filled community.

#3 Vulnerability: We can't be filled together if we aren't real with each other.

We need to be willing to be our true selves... not some pretend, perfect, fake churchy version of ourselves.

We need to be able to share our burdens if we are going to bear each other's burdens.

It's scary... b/c it leaves us open to be hurt. But it's the only way to true Spirit-filled community.

So to let these three virtues really sink in this week...

Read Romans 12

Pray: Holy Spirit, Give me the courage to be committed, humble, and vulnerable with your people.

WE: So... How can we be filled w/ the HS? - The best way? Together.

The world is broken. Your neighbors are broken. Your family is broken. You are broken. I am broken.

We all need to know we **can be made whole again in/through the love of Jesus**.

The solution to our brokenness is to be a people who are renewed/transformed/filled w/ the HS... together.

We are part of the spiritual story of Salem / Keizer... together...

When the history of what the HS did in Salem is written... there will be a chapter called the Church of Crosscreek...

- And each of us will have a paragraph devoted to our role. And how we loved, submitted to, served each other.

We can only do this if we are filled with the HS... together .

The world desperately needs a Holy Spirit-filled community living out the Kingdom of God... together.