

Born with Identity Part 12: Spirit Filled! *Slide Notations*

So far... Word and Spirit people! Servant and Slave people! Forgivers of people: others and selves! Refusers of offense: ours and others! Soldiers of Christ! Doctors of Spirit, Soul and Body! Partner's in Someone's Miracle! People who are *All in!*

Lots of study so far... seems like small, fine points... what's it all about?

We've all seen the movies... the hand on the screen, the eye in the iris scanner.... Opening the way to the "interior!"

"Inside" is where we want to be and to get inside we must have the right identity!

Inside... Is not tucked away, hidden/protected from life and it's struggles... That's not the "inside track" Jesus had! Inside is in the core of the flow of the Spirit! "in the vein," where the life that is in the blood flows freely to/thru us! "in the vein," where the vitality that keeps us going, flows! In, filled, overflowing w/the Spirit of God!

Spirit Filled... What does it mean? "*He sure has Spirit/the Spirit!*" Just "verve" for some believers! Charismatic personality! Cheerleader! *Spontaneous break out of "tongues!"* Believers validating themselves in the "Battle of Shrii!" Many Charismatic/Pentecostal churches don't think they've had church w/o it!

Not one shred of Biblical evidence to support either extreme/as definition...

The Bible is the best source of information of what it means to be Spirit-filled... and Acts is the best source to see a Spirit-Filled NT Church!

Acts! Ch1: SF people (**J20.22**) are obedient! When the Lord says "wait" they wait **v4**; "Don't do it w/out power" they don't **v8**; while waiting, they pray! **v14 Ch2:** Bold! Entering new territory/stand **v1-4**; H.S. anointed, they preach in unknown tongues (*xenoglossalialia*) **v6**; when challenged, they speak the word w/clarity **v14**; when they spoke, they closed the deal **v38**; and when the glory dust settled, they "continued!" **v42 Ch3:** Confrontational! Lame from birth? Confront it! **v1-11** "I have nothing to give you but the faith I have in the name of Christ!" Heart/mind/eyes blind? Confront it! **v12ff** "The very one you rejected? He healed your friend! If you want healing too, accept Him now!"

This is the dangerous Church! Bold, outspoken, risk taking, devoted, humble, selfless, focused Church... only in it 3 Chapters!

How has the modern church devolved into the member pandering, controversy avoiding, live comfortably-and-cautiously group of weaklings it has become today? By becoming careless with the Holy Spirit – and redefining the Spirit-filled life!

Ch4: Spirit filled people are eternity-fixed fearless-lovers of God! Jail couldn't intimidate them; didn't work the angles for release – "Salvation in no other!" **v12** Nor leaders: "We can't do anything but speak the things we have seen and heard!" **v20** "and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost (again) *and spoke the word!* **v31** And as they identified themselves, they resourced their work! **v32-37**

This is not an act of communism, or socialism, this is an act of commitment to the commonality of heart and mission!

Ch5: SF people share a purity and purpose of words! **v1-11** Use your words carefully... and when you swear an oath, know you swear it to your own hurt – because the Spirit of God presides over you! Doesn't mean you can't kid around... Does mean you can't kid God – the One who reads the thoughts and intents of our hearts! SFP's love watching God deliver! **v19,34 Ch6:** SF people serve the needs of others the best they can... **v1,2** And are willing to evolve! **v3-6** And enjoy the benefits of the kingdom extended/expanding! **v7,8 Ch6/7:** SFP's minister at

every stage of service, speak the truth w/o fear of life, believing “steadfastly” in the parallel reality of the Kingdom of God! **v55-59** Take no offense, bind no sin! **v60 SUPER WOW!**

Ch8: (sometimes SFP’s need hard circumstances to break the cluster) **v1-4** SF people preach Christ/partner in miracles wherever they are! **v5-40 Ch9:** Spirit filled people are willing to risk w/ “unique” people! **v10,27 Ch10:** Spirit filled people are not prejudiced people! “Nothing matters but in-Christ or not!” **Gal3.28 Col 3.11**

The simple point is that being Spirit-filled is not a weekend demonstration but a daily lifestyle of being where, and doing the good things that, the Holy Spirit directs!

Spirit Filled... We are a Charismatic Church born from the Pentecostal Revival of 1906... We understand the move of the Spirit! And unique personalities and emotional responses to God’s goodness/presence! We understand, believe for and encourage the demonstration of all the “gifts!” Where the Bible places them... in individual believers, where there are needs! “Ya, but...”

Asides... “Ya, but... We don’t look like other Charismatic/ Pentecostal churches I’ve been to...” We aren’t other C/P churches/been to! Most built on minority model: Corinth. Personal/competitive validations/ tearing apart/inward/infantile! Their correction/our blessing/*balance!* Want/have all the gifts w/o abuse – flowing thru peo/to peo w/needs!

Asides... “But what about Sunday morning...?” *Mostly...* an issue of time/venue! Proper instruction in gifts requires time to deal w/false or explain/reality to keep balance for Holy Spirit presence we enjoy! We pack a lot into time/tolerance. But what’s done in corporate gatherings must be dealt w/in corporate gatherings! Or end up like Corinthians – exercised but ignorant/blind to collateral issues!

And that’s the whole point of defining the Spirit filled life as a lifestyle of yielding to Him and not moment to moment experiences with His gifts...

And if you’re prepared, He will fill you, send you, and flow out of you, with all of His gifts, to people in need!

The early church had all the Spirit filled practice it needed in the fields God sent them to harvest!

Ephesians 1.13,14 As people who trusted in Christ after hearing the truth of the gospel of salvation: you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, Who is the down-payment of our inheritance until the time of full redemption of His prized and purchased possession...

John 14-16 He is the Spirit of Truth that the world cannot receive but He dwells in you and He will teach you all things and remind you of all things, and He will bear witness of Me and He will guide you into all truth...

Romans 8 And to be led by the Spirit is life and peace... and when you are led by the Spirit He will bear witness with you that you are a child of God, an heir and joint heir with Jesus... and He will take a stand with you against all weakness and when you don’t even know how to pray, He will make intercessions for you!

Ephesians 5.15-18 It’s time for us to awaken and arise from among the dead and receive Christ’s light! See then that you walk uprightly and diligently during these times – not as fools, but as wise. Buying back the lost time because the days are evil. Don’t be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is – and don’t be drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit!