



“MAKING A DIFFERENCE”

A Study of the Early Christians in the Book of Acts

“THE SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE MAKES A DIFFERENCE”

Text: Acts 4:29-31

INTRODUCTION: The Book of Acts is often referred to as “*The Acts of the Apostles*.” Someone has suggested that a more appropriate title might be “*The Acts of the Holy Spirit*” because every soul saved, every victory won, and every advancement made within the local church is accomplished and gained **only** by way of the *Holy Spirit’s ministry*. As Acts Chapter 3 ends and Acts Chapter 4 opens, not everyone was happy about the healing of the lame man, and even fewer were excited by Peter’s sermon about Jesus Christ and His power to heal. Acts 4 opens with Peter and John being arrested (1-3), while at the same time, about five thousand men are found embracing the message of salvation (4). Peter and John are brought before a mob and are asked this question (7) – “*By what power, or by what name, have ye done this?*”. The **Source** of their power was none other than the person of the *Holy Spirit*. In this lesson, we will learn from these *faithful disciples* of our Lord, *three perspectives* of being filled with the Spirit.

I. THE _____ OF BEING FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT (Acts 4:8, Eph. 5:18)

The *single most important factor* in this critical moment for the early church was not Peter’s education, social connections, or _____ resources. It was that Peter was filled with the Holy Ghost.

The presence of the Holy Ghost in the lives of believers is needed every day and in every _____ of life.

A. The Holy Spirit is our _____. (John 16:1-7, Acts 1:4-5)

After His resurrection and before His ascension to Heaven, Jesus made a promise of a coming Comforter.

Vance Havner once suggested – “*For the Christian, all ground is _____ ground, and every bush is a burning bush.*”

B. The Holy Spirit is our _____. (Acts 1:8)

As believers, we are **empowered** for the *express purpose* of *glorifying God*.

The Greek word for power is “**dunamis**” = strength, miraculous power, abundant _____.

The Holy Spirit’s power enables us to do what we cannot do in our own strength!

II. THE _____ TO BEING FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT. (Acts 4:31)

We should remember that the Holy Spirit's filling was "*standard operating procedure*" for *all first-century Christians*. Being filled with the Holy Spirit requires that we:

A. Connect with God. (Acts 4:13b, John 15:5)

The Holy Spirit's filling results from spending time with _____.

Get alone with God with an _____ Bible and a Prayerful Heart!

B. _____ to God. (Psalm 66:18, Isaiah 59:1-2, Hebrews 12:1)

We should repent and forsake any and all sin in our lives that prevent the Spirit's fullness.

Spirit filling is thwarted by *self-will*, *stubborn sin* and a *preoccupation with* _____ *things*.

C. _____ on God. (Luke 11:13, Romans 6:6, Galatians 2:20)

We should ask God daily to replace our *fleshly nature* with His *divine nature*.

A believer's goal should always be to be controlled by the Spirit that dwells in us.

D. _____ with God. (Galatians 5:16, Proverbs 3:6)

It's important that we "*walk in the Spirit*", remaining ever sensitive to that "*still small voice*" of God. (I Kings 19:8-12 - Elijah)

III. THE _____ OF BEING FILLED WITH THE HOLY GHOST. (Acts 4:29-30)

A. The Spirit Produces a _____ Witness. (Acts 4:13, 4:31b, Proverbs 28:1)

We must discipline ourselves to *obey every impulse* of the Holy Spirit.

We must never mistake _____ for boldness.

B. The Spirit Produces a _____ Walk. (Acts 4:18-20)

Peter and John refused to allow *political, religious, or cultural pressure* to cause them to cave.

May God help us to live in contrast to the shifting waves of our times and to maintain a steady walk with Him.

C. The Spirit Produces a _____ Work. (Acts 4:30, II Cor. 4:7)

The early believers understood that the Holy Spirit had come and with His presence, they thought anything to be possible. **Do we?**

These Christians had seen three thousand saved on Pentecost, followed by the healing of the lame man, then the salvation of about five thousand more men, these early Christians were believing God for what's next?

CONCLUSION: There is no need to fear in trusting God for *divine caliber* results. The same Holy Spirit that worked _____, stands ready to work _____. We fall short of what God wants for us when the results of our ministry can be explained by men's skills and abilities. The Holy Spirit is Jesus' promise to us. It is by salvation that the Holy Spirit lives in us, but it is our _____ whether to give Him control of our lives or not. God's Spirit can work beyond our dreams and our modest expectations if we will give Him the right to move. Let's choose to connect with Him and then choose daily to walk under His control.