

# HOW can I be filled with the Holy Spirit



What the Holy Spirit does and brings to our lives is all about love.

Every Christian has the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:9) but not every Christian is filled with the Spirit.

### Five categories of people:

- 1. Longing (Pentecost Acts 2:2–4)
- **2. Receptive** (Samaria Acts 8:14–23)
- **3. Hostile** (Paul Acts 8:1,3; 9:1–2)
- 4. Uninformed (Ephesus Acts 19:1–6)
- **5. Unlikely** (Gentiles Acts 10:44–47)

What happened to Cornelius and his household when the Spirit came upon them? (Acts 10:44–46).

## **1. THEY EXPERIENCED THE LOVE OF GOD**

"... the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. Then Peter said... "they have received the Holy Spirit just as we have." (Acts 10:44–47)

- There were physical manifestations
- Everyone's experience is different
- What matters is God's love being poured out into your heart (Romans 5:5)
- Pursue the person, not the experience (Ephesians 3:14–19)

## **2. THEY EXPRESSED THEIR LOVE FOR GOD**

'For they heard them... praising God' (Acts 10:46).

- Fear of emotion: emotion versus emotionalism
  - Emotion is an important part of faith and love for God
  - Express with our whole bodies: raised hands; a traditional form of prayer

## **3. THEY RECEIVED A NEW LOVE LANGUAGE**

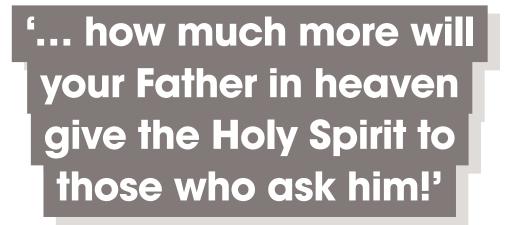
'For they heard them speaking in tongues' (Acts 10:46).

- · Not all Christians speak in tongues
  - Not the mark of being a Christian
  - Not necessarily a mark of being filled with the Spirit
  - There are no first- or second-class Christians
  - It is not the most important gift
- What is the gift of tongues?
  - Human or angelic language (1 Corinthians 13:1)
  - A form of prayer (1 Corinthians 14:2)
  - Builds up the individual
  - Transcends the language barrier (1 Corinthians 14:14)
  - The speaker is in full control
  - Public use requires an interpretation
- Why is it helpful?
  - Worship (1 Corinthians 14:15)
  - Praying for oneself (1 Corinthians 14:2,4)
  - Praying for others
- Why ask for the gift of tongues?
  - Paul encourages its use (1 Corinthians 14:5,18,39)

#### What are the barriers to being filled with the Holy Spirit?

- Doubt: 'I don't think I will receive'
- Fear: 'What will happen to me'
- · Inadequacy: 'I'm not good enough'

#### **But Jesus says:**



(LUKE 11:13)


#### **SESSION 10** HOW CAN I BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT?

## **RECOMMENDED READING**

*The Mystery of Pentecost* Raniero Cantalamessa

Sober Intoxication of the Spirit: Filled with the Fullness of God Raniero Cantalamessa