

Normal Life for the First Church

Once the Holy Spirit came on the day of Pentecost, life for the church revolved around five actions.

- 1) Worship: Loving God
- 2) Discipleship: the process of helping people become more like Christ in thought, feeling, & action
- 3) Fellowship
- 4) Ministry: caring for people with all kinds of needs (generosity and miracles)
- 5) Evangelism

Another Day at the Temple

Jesus healed a lame man through Peter and John at the Temple. He went into worship leaping and praising God. Peter and John began to tell those who gathered all about Jesus.

Trouble Started to Brew

Acts 4:1-2 NIV

The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people. They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people, proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead.

Peter & John arrested!

Kept overnight under guard not knowing what to expect (these people killed Jesus) Interrogated but not intimidated; refusing to back down Told to stop talking about Jesus Threatened and released

Peter & John start a prayer meeting.

Prayed for boldness No protests, boycotts, lawsuits, letters to the editor, no hand wringing and whining No compromises, no attempts to make a deal; no calls to live and let live **PRAYED FOR BOLDNESS** Holy Spirit filled the church **AGAIN** making them more than equal to the new situation Went right back to

- Worshiping God
- Making disciples
- Fellowshiping
- Caring for people with all kinds of needs (more generosity and more miracles)
- Evangelism

What happened when they prayed?

Acts 4:23-35 NIV

On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests

and the elders had said to them. When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. "Sovereign Lord," they said, "you made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David: "'Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the Lord and against his anointed one.' Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen. Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus." After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly. All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.

Why?

Why did they need to be filled again? Trouble interrupted the normal flow of life.

When was the last time your normal flow of life was interrupted?

New problems, obstacles, temptations and calls for more faith keep interrupting life. Some are good and pleasant: new job, graduation from school; a new home; a new friendship; marriage. Most upsetting interruptions are unpleasant: doctor's diagnosis; death of loved one; unemployment; child runs away; loved one becomes addict; violence and crime; divorce; friend moves cross country. Interruptions come no matter what your age, education, income level, number of years you've followed Jesus. If you're breathing, count on an interruption.

Here's the Good News!

The Holy Spirit can and will fill / refill us to meet the new circumstances of our lives as we follow Jesus.

Sermon in a Sentence:

The Holy Spirit gives unlimited refills so share as much as you can.

Unlimited refills?

Imagine a restaurant with a menu declaring that. UNLIMITED REFILLS – FEEL FREE TO SHARE. Not happening at any place I've ever heard of. But that's God's promise.

Are you sure?

John 7:37-39 NLT

On the last day, the climax of the festival, Jesus stood and shouted to the crowds, "Anyone who is thirsty may come to me! Anyone who believes in me may come and drink! For the Scriptures declare, 'Rivers of living water will flow from his heart.'" (When he said "living water," he was speaking of the

Spirit, who would be given to everyone believing in him. But the Spirit had not yet been given, because Jesus had not yet entered into his glory.)

Another Reason to Be Sure

Ephesians 5:18 AMP

And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but ever be filled and stimulated with the [Holy] Spirit.

A New Point of View

Many Jesus followers believe they received all of the Holy Spirit they will ever need sometime in the past. They don't ask for more. Then they struggle through their lives wondering why following Jesus is impossible. The truth is that we all need to be filled with the Holy Spirit over and over again. We change. Our lives are interrupted. Our situations and circumstances change. We need fresh refills from the Spirit to deal with these changes. The Holy Spirit gives unlimited refills so share as much as you can.

Up to You Now

- Take time to assess your situation: are you running on empty? Have you asked the Spirit for a refill since your last interruption? Are you struggling to get by on your own?
- Ask for a refill. Ask the Spirit to make you equal to your new situation. Keep seeking until he fills you to overflowing. Keep on asking until you are not only equal to the interruptions but you have enough to share with others in need. Will you seek to be filled / refilled with the Holy Spirit now?