

Doctrine of the Filling of the Holy Spirit

1. The Old Testament speaks of God filling men with the Spirit of wisdom in order to make the high priestly garments of Aaron (Ex. 28:3) and the Ark of the Covenant (Ex. 31:3 cf. 35:31,35).
 - *Exodus 28:3 And thou shalt speak unto all that are wise hearted, whom I have filled with the spirit of wisdom, that they may make Aaron's garments to consecrate him, that he may minister unto me in the priest's office.*
 - *Exodus 31:3 And I have filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, and in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship,*
 - *Exodus 35:31 And he hath filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship;*
 - *Exodus 35:35 Them hath he filled with wisdom of heart, to work all manner of work, of the engraver, and of the cunning workman, and of the embroiderer, in blue, and in purple, in scarlet, and in fine linen, and of the weaver, even of them that do any work, and of those that devise cunning work.*

2. The Old Testament speaks of God's glory filling the Holy Tabernacle, the earth, and Solomon's Temple (Study 2 Chronicles 5:13, 14; 7:1, 2; Isaiah 6:1).
 - The Tabernacle. *Exodus 40:34 Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.*
 - The Earth. *Numbers 14:21 But as truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord.*
 - Solomon's Temple. *1 Kings 8:10 And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the Lord, 11 So that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud: for the glory of the Lord had filled the house of the Lord.*

3. The Psalmist prayed that the whole Earth be filled with God's glory.
 - *Psalms 72:19 And blessed be his glorious name for ever: and let the whole earth be filled with his glory; Amen, and Amen.*

4. In Ezekiel's Temple Vision the glory of God filled the structure.
 - *Ezekiel 10:3 Now the cherubims stood on the right side of the house, when the man went in; and the cloud filled the inner court.*

- *Ezekiel 43:5 So the spirit took me up, and brought me into the inner court; and, behold, the glory of the LORD filled the house.*
 - *Ezekiel 44:4 Then brought he me the way of the north gate before the house: and I looked, and, behold, the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD: and I fell upon my face.*
5. In the New Testament John was filled with the Holy Ghost.
- *Luke 1:15 For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb.*
 - Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost. *Luke 1:41 And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost:*
 - Zacharias was filled with the Holy Ghost. *Luke 1:67 And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Ghost, and prophesied, saying,*
 - The disciples at Pentecost were filled with the Holy Ghost. *Acts 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*
 - Peter was filled with the Holy Ghost. *Acts 4:8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel,*
 - A multitude of saints were filled with the Holy Ghost. *Acts 4:31 And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.*
 - Paul was filled with the Holy Ghost in Acts 9:17 and again in Acts 13:9. *Acts 9:17 And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost. Acts 13:9 Then Saul, (who also is called Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him,*
6. Every Christian is commanded to be filled with the Holy Spirit (Eph. 5:18). The command is to be obeyed but what does it mean? “*And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit*”
- The Pentecostals says it means to be able to speak in tongues.
 - The Dispensationalists says it means to be endwelt by the Holy spirit and to have no unconfessed sins.

- The New Testament seems to teach that whenever people were filled with the Holy Spirit they all witnessed for Christ with power so that souls were saved.
 - ❖ John the Baptist was filled with the Holy Ghost with the promise that *"many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord (Luke 1:13-16).*
 - ❖ After Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost she spake with a loud voice and said a word of testimony about the coming Saviour to be born of the Virgin. *Luke 1:41-42 And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost: 42 And she spake out with a loud voice, and said, Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb.*
 - ❖ When Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit he had great power to witness. *Luke 1:67 And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Ghost, and prophesied, saying,*
 - ❖ Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit and empowered to begin His supernatural ministry. *Luke 4:1 And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness,*
 - ❖ In the book of Acts whenever people were filled with the Holy Spirit, they witnessed with power. Six times the phrase "filled with the Holy Ghost" is used. Five times we are told that witnessing for God took place.
 - At Pentecost people filled with the Holy Ghost began to witness for Christ (Acts 2:4) and souls were saved (Acts 2:41). *Acts 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Acts 2:41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.*
 - Peter was filled with the Holy Ghost (Acts 4:8) and preached. *Acts 4:8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel,*
 - In Acts 4 a whole group of disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit and people were saved (Acts 4:32). *Acts 4:31 And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness. 32 And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common.*

- Stephen, filled with the Holy Spirit, witnessed in mighty power and souls were saved. *Acts 6:5 And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch: 6 Whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid their hands on them. 7 And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith. 8 And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people.*
 - Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, began His powerful ministry. *Acts 9:17 And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost.*
 - Barnabas too was filled with the Holy Spirit and won many souls to the Saviour. *Acts 11:24 For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord.*
- 7. Even the Old Testament passages that teach of God filling Bezaleel, demonstrate the fact that the Holy Spirit was given to testify about Christ, for the Ark which Bezaleel constructed was all about Christ.
 - *Exodus 31:3 And I have filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, and in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship,*
 - *Exodus 35:31 And he hath filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship;*
 - *Exodus 35:35 Them hath he filled with wisdom of heart, to work all manner of work, of the engraver, and of the cunning workman, and of the embroiderer, in blue, and in purple, in scarlet, and in fine linen, and of the weaver, even of them that do any work, and of those that devise cunning work.*
- 8. The conclusion of the matter is plain.
 - The Bible commands believers to be filled with the Holy Spirit, to be controlled by Him, and to be under His guiding influence.
 - The Bible promises a special filling, an anointment, a power from on high for soul winning efforts. But this filling only comes by believing the promise associated with the Great Commission, praying, supplicating, and waiting expectantly.