



How to Be Continually Filled with the Spirit
Women's Discipleship Class – October 5, 2017

Verses Covered This Week

<i>2 Peter 1:2 – 4</i>	<i>Luke 22:60 – 61</i>
<i>Matthew 5:6 – 7</i>	<i>John 21:15 – 19</i>
<i>Matthew 14:28 – 32</i>	<i>Acts 2:22 – 24</i>
<i>Matthew 16:13 – 19</i>	<i>Jonah 1:17</i>
<i>Matthew 26:31 – 35</i>	<i>Jonah 3:10</i>
<i>Luke 22:31 – 34</i>	<i>Jonah 4:1 – 5</i>
<i>Matthew 26:50 – 51</i>	<i>Jonah 4:11</i>
<i>Matthew 26:73 – 75</i>	

So we looked last week at the fact that you have got to be filled with the Spirit. Worship does not fill you with the Spirit. Being filled with the Spirit enables you to worship. Studying the Scripture does not fill you with the Spirit according to John 16. Being filled with the Spirit enables your meditation to be effective. So your ability to be empowered and witnessing is rooted in Acts where he says the power shall come upon you. So you can't witness with power unless you're filled with the Spirit. The things that generally we think of that create being filled with the Spirit are not, in the Bible, what creates being filled with the Spirit. You have to be filled with the Spirit or you're not going to be able to achieve what God wants you to do. So you meditate on the Scripture, the Spirit's going to direct your life; 1 Corinthians 12:13, everybody's baptized in the Spirit, once you become Christian you automatically have the Spirit. He's in you permanently; settles down. Now you have to be, Ephesians 5, you have to continually be filled with the Spirit.

Now how do you do that? First place we're going today; I want you to do to 2 Peter 1:2 – 4. And then we're going to cover a good bit of ground today. We'll start in two, but it really locks down on three. Now remember, in Galatians 5 he makes the statement that if you walk in the Spirit, it is impossible for you to fulfil the lust of the flesh. So here's what he says:

²May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

³His divine power has granted us all things that pertain to life and godliness,

What's the tense? Present. All things. How many things? All. So if I've already got everything for life and godliness, I've got what I need to be filled with the Spirit.

through the knowledge of Him who called us to His own glory and excellence, ⁴by which He has granted to us His precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

Key Point - I find God's promises and I believe them.

So here's what he says. You have God's promises and it's through them that you escape what is in the world. He says you have everything you need. The promises allow you to escape what's in the world. So if I escape what's in the world, it will enable me for all these things to, all the things that God's given me for life and godliness, to begin to permeate my life. So the key for me is going to be I find God's promises and I believe them. Now this is the key point. I want you to turn to Matthew 5 and I want you to understand you cannot just believe that the promises are true. You have to come to a place where you rely on those promises; where you absolutely stand on them and you depend on them for your ability to live the Christian life. Matthew 5:6 – 7 is the Sermon on the Mount. Now there is argument in Matthew 5:6 – 7 that it's no longer applicable to us today. That it was offered to the Jews, they rejected it, and that it's not offered to us today. And the reason that argument is made is because 5:6 – 7 are impossible to live out. As a matter of fact, Jesus actually makes the statement, "your righteousness has got to exceed that of the Scribes and Pharisees or you can't get into heaven." And you can equal the Scribes and Pharisees, but you can't exceed them either. You can't do better than they did. That's the whole point in Matthew 5:6 – 7. There are things in here you can't live out; forgiveness, consistent prayer for God's will, you're going to find that the most difficult thing that you do. So you can't live these things out. So what Jesus does is He gives you the key to how to do that in the Beatitudes. They are the formula for victory. Now listen carefully. Look in Matthew 5:3. He says:

³"Blessed are those who are **poor** in Spirit,

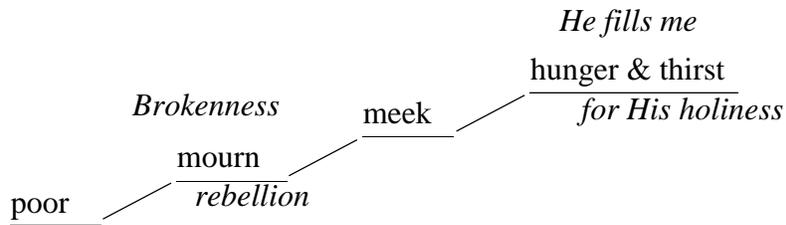
There are two Greek words in the New Testament for poor. Now this Greek word *penés* means to be poor, but your kind of check-to-check. You've got food, you've got clothing, you've got housing, but you don't have anything else. This Greek word *ptōchia* is a Greek word that means destitute. You're on the street and you're begging. This (*ptōchia*) is the Greek word He uses here. When He says "blessed are the poor in Spirit", he says, "blessed are those who are destitute in Spirit." Now when he talks about in Spirit, is He talking about the Holy Spirit or your spirit? It's got to be your spirit. You don't want to be destitute in the Holy Spirit. But you have to be destitute in your spirit which is the part of you that tries to live the Christian life. You're a three-part person: body, soul, and spirit. The spirit is made alive, but now you try to live the Christian life in your spirit and what you discover is that you absolutely, abysmally fail.

Greek Lesson

penés – poor, check-to-check, nothing more than the necessities

ptōchia – poor, destitute

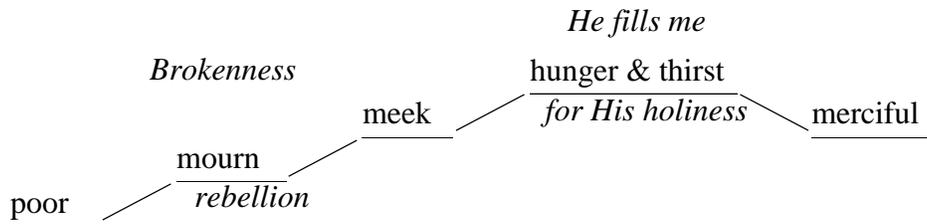
strong. You hear people when they first get saved, “Man I used to do this, but now I’m going to do this.” And you discover pretty soon you can’t do it. So you become poverty-stricken and broken. What happens when these two occur? You shut your mouth. You get quiet before the Father. You begin to hunger and thirst for His holiness



What’s the next statement?

⁷“Blessed are the **merciful**,

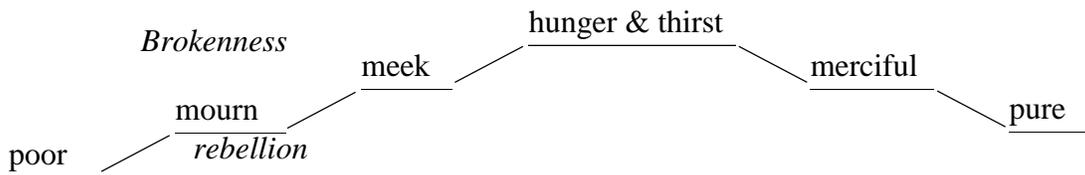
Why am I merciful here? Because now I’ve realized I can’t do it, I’m really bad, I’m quiet before Him, He’s begun to fill me with His righteousness, He is filling me, exactly what I crave. As a result, I become merciful because I know I didn’t do it, He did it, so I’m merciful to other people.



What’s the next one?

⁸“Blessed are the **pure in heart**,

When I get here I’ll be pure in my heart because it won’t be about me. Over here it’s about me (left side of chart). I’m going to do this for God. I’m going to stand for God. I’m going to live for God. I’m going to do all these things for God. I finally come to the place where I go, “God, look, I can’t do this.” And He goes, “You’re right.” I’m poverty-stricken, I’m sick, I’m quiet, He fills me, I’m merciful, my heart’s pure because now it’s all about Him.

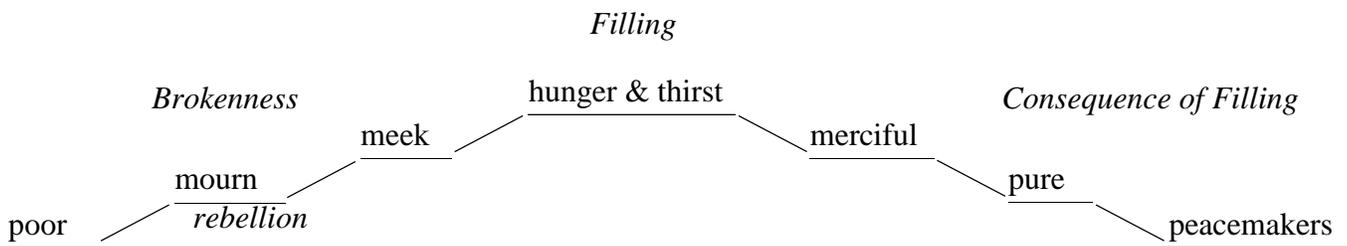


What's the last thing?

⁹“Blessed are the **peacemakers**,

That is not the idea that we make everybody happy. What did Jesus say? “I’ve come to put a sword in the home.” So it’s not about making everybody happy. Both the Hebrew word, *shalom*, and the Greek word, *eiréné*, we get the woman’s name Irene from that. Both those words, Hebrew and Greek, mean God’s best. When you walked by somebody as a Jew and you said *shalom*, it became just a greeting, but the original intent was, you were saying, “I want God’s best for you today.” So you have this interesting little stair-step. You have brokenness here. You have filling here. You have consequence of the filling here.

Greek & Hebrew Lesson
God’s Best *shalom* (Hebrew)
eiréné (Greek)



I can’t make myself merciful. I can’t make myself pure in heart. I really won’t want God’s best, as a matter of fact, until I get here, I will want my best. I will want to be happy because I want my best. I’m not going to want His best until I get here. Until my heart’s pure, until I’m merciful, until He’s filled me because I’m completely broken. And that’s why Jesus lays these Beatitudes out. This is going to be the key to the ability to live out Matthew 5:6 – 7. It’s a brilliant stair-step deal. But it’s the key to living that out.

Now I want you to watch this because He does this in the life of Simon Peter. Now we’re going to cover some ground here. Look at Matthew 14. Simon Peter. He’s the kid that we would have “pants” in the gym in high school. That’s all I’m saying. Matthew 14:28 - 32.

²⁸And Peter answered Him, “Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.”
²⁹He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus.
³⁰But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, “Lord, save me.”
³¹Jesus immediately reached out His hand and took hold of him, saying to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?”

Now watch this scenario. We have Peter. He succeeds. He fails. And he’s rebuked. And there’s no apology. Jesus doesn’t say, “Oh, I’m so sorry you got wet.” So here’s the scenario we see. He says, “Lord, I can do this.” “OK. Kick it on out.” He can do it for a little while and then he fails. And in the failure Jesus busts him. He says, “Hey, dude. Why did you doubt?”

Matthew 14:28-32 Succeeds, fails, rebuked, no apology

Now, go to Matthew 16:13 – 19.

¹³When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?”

Look in verse 16.

¹⁶Simon Peter replied, “You’re the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

Has he succeeded here? Yes. He succeeded. Christ is who He said He was. So Jesus brags on him.

¹⁷And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.

Now look at 21.

²¹From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.

Is that good? Yes.

²²And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him,

Is that success or failure? Failure. So we see him fail here. What is Jesus’ response?

²³But He turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”

Second time, same scenario. Peter succeeds, fails, Jesus rebukes him, no apology.

Matthew 14:28-32	Succeeds, fails, rebuked, no apology
Matthew 16:13 – 19	Succeeds, fails, rebuked, no apology

Look in Matthew 26:31 – 35. Listen,

³¹Then Jesus said to them, “You will all fall away because of Me this night. For it is written, ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’ ³²But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.” ³³Peter answered Him, “Though they all fall away because of You, I will never fall away.” ³⁴Jesus said to Him, “Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.” ³⁵Peter said to Him, “Even if I must die with You, I will not deny You!” And all the disciples said the same.

Now you stay in Matthew. I want to read you an interesting passage out of Luke 22. Now listen to this. Luke 22:31 – 34.

³¹“Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat,

Now you think that’s the betrayal, but it’s really not.

³²but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.” ³³Peter said to Him, “Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death.” ³⁴Jesus said, “I tell you, Peter, the rooster will not crow this day, until you deny three times that you know me.”

So we have this clear deal, right. Peter says, “Prison, death, doesn’t matter. I got this. I will succeed in this.” And he does. Look at Matthew 26:50 – 51. Judas has brought them to Gethsemane. He’s finished the prayer in Gethsemane.

⁵⁰Jesus said to him, “Friend, do what you came to do.” Then they came up and laid hands on Jesus and seized Him. ⁵¹And behold, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear. ⁵²Then Jesus said to him, “Put your sword back into its place. For all who take the sword will perish by the sword. ⁵³Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and He will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels?

Peter in 50 - 51 succeeds because he’s the one, this guy’s name is Malchus, he’s the one that cut Malchus’ ear off, the servant of the high priest. So when he says, “I’m not going to run away from you.” He initially, as he does in each one of these episodes, he succeeds. He takes the sword out, cuts the ear off. Then look in 73 – 75 of chapter 26.

⁷³After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, “Certainly you too are one of them, for your accent betrays you.” ⁷⁴Then he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, “I do not know the man.” And immediately the rooster crowed. ⁷⁵And Peter remembered the saying of Jesus, “Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.” And he went out and wept bitterly.

And then in connection with this, we go back to Luke 22:60 – 62. Listen to what, kind of a little bit of a detail here.

⁶⁰But Peter said, “Man, I do not know what you are talking about.” And immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. ⁶¹And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the saying of the Lord, how He had said to him, “Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times.” ⁶²And he went out and wept bitterly.

So he fails, he’s rebuked by the pain in the eyes of Jesus, no apology.

<i>Same scenario over and over</i>	Matthew 14:28 – 32	Succeeds, fails, rebuked, no apology
	Matthew 16:13 – 19	Succeeds, fails, rebuked, no apology
	Matthew 26:31 – 35	Succeeds, fails, rebuked, no apology
	Matthew 26:50 – 51	Succeeds, fails, rebuked, no apology
	Luke 22:31 – 35	Succeeds, fails, rebuked, no apology
	Luke 22:60 – 62	Succeeds, fails, rebuked, no apology

Now you see this same scenario over and over in his life. Runs his mouth. Succeeds for a little while. Bombs. Rebuked. No apology from the Lord. And now we come to the end. Now go to John 21:15 – 19.

¹⁵When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these?” He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love You.” He said to him, “Feed my lambs.” ¹⁶He said to him a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love Me?” He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love You.” He said to him, “Tend my sheep.” ¹⁷He said to him the third time, “Simon, Son of John, do you love Me?”

Now he makes a switch here. First two times in this he uses the word *agapé*. First two times, which basically means “Do you choose to love me because of the value that I have to you?” Third time, though, he uses *philia*. What He says is, “Do you emotionally love me?”

Greek Lesson

agapé – I love something because of its value

philia – emotional love

Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” and he said to Him, “Lord, You know everything; You know that I love You.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.

And then He tells him his life is going to end badly. Now look at Acts 2:22 – 24. Now Pentecost is here. Peter is baptized and filled on the same moment in the Spirit. Now he cursed the name of Jesus in front of a little girl the night he betrayed Christ; one of the three times. Look at this.

²²“Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves know – ²³this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. ²⁴God raised Him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for Him to be held by it.

We’ve got a whole change in here. He succeeds all the way to the end. As a matter of fact, what’d he tell Jesus? “I’ll go to prison and to death.” Here (before he was broken) he curses Jesus in front of a little girl. Here (after he was broken) he looks at the leaders who killed Jesus and he says, “You killed Him. God raised Him from the dead. You were wrong.” He succeeded all the way to the end. He will go to both prison and he will die crucified upside down because when they come to get him, when they killed Paul and behead Paul as a Roman citizen, Nero comes to take Peter and Peter says, “No. I’m not worthy to die as my Lord died. You crucify me upside down.” So you have this amazing shift in Peter’s life.

Acts 2:22 – 24

Succeeds – all the way to the end

He succeeds, fails, rebuked all the time until he fails enough that he goes, “OK. I can’t do this.” Once he gets to here where he realizes, when he sees Jesus’ eyes and he realizes, “I can’t serve Him.” He hides out, gets quiet, Jesus finds him. Interesting here, right, no rebuke here. If I’m Jesus, I know that’s good I’m not, if I’m Jesus, I’m busting his chops. I’m looking at him saying, “You told me and look what you did.” No rebuke here. Why no rebuke? Because he’s broken.

He's not broken here; so he's rebuked. He's not broken here; he's rebuked. He's not broken here; he's rebuked. He's not broken here; he's rebuked. But he's broken here; no rebuke, and now all that happens is God baptizes him, fills him. Now he makes mistakes, right. He picks an apostle he shouldn't have. He has some bigotry and racism in him that God has to get out of him. But all the way to the end he does exactly what he's called to do. But the only way he can do that is to go through a period of steps where God broke him. I don't think if these had happened, knowing Peter, he wouldn't have waited one day after the ascension of Jesus to start preaching. He'd have been up in everybody's face saying, "You got to know Jesus! You got to know Jesus!" Jesus said, "Wait for the coming of the Spirit." I don't think he would have waited had he not been broken.

Now this is what he's going to do in your life. He's going to break you and bring you to a point where you sit down and say, "Alright, God, I can't do it. It causes me to weep that I can't do it, but what are You telling me." You'll begin to hunger for His righteousness. He will fill you through His Spirit, and you will be everything Jesus Christ wants you to be. And you will place yourself where your faith is not in a promise being true, but you will grab hold of the promise and pull it into your life.

Now one last thing. Go with me to the book of Jonah. I want to show you something. We're going to look at three verses: Jonah 1:17, Jonah 3:10, Jonah 4:1 – 5.

Look at Jonah 1:17.

¹⁷And the Lord appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

I'm a really bad guy, but that have done it for me. Apparently, it doesn't for this knucklehead.

Look at Jonah 3:10. Jonah finishes preaching.

¹⁰When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that He had said He would do to them, and He did not do it.

Look at chapter 4.

¹But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was angry. ²And he prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that You are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster. ³Therefore now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live."

He winds up at the end of the book, verse 11:

¹¹God said, "Should I not pity Ninevah, that great city, in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also much cattle?"

Jonah ends unbroken. Peter ends broken. You can refuse the breaking of God in your life. Or you can allow Him to break you. If you become unbroken, this is what you'll do. You'll succeed a little while, then you'll fail, and pretty soon, if this is a continuous thing in your life right here, this is why you see people quit. And you'll hear them say, "Christianity doesn't work." No, because you didn't accept the rebuke. You wanted an apology. You want to be happy and you didn't allow God's system to work itself out in your life. When you get to here, you won't just believe that a promise is true, you will cling to it.

Now when I was in my second church I really had, it was kind of the major moment for me. I don't have many of these epiphanous moments, but I'm in my second church and they were, it's North of here, about 30 miles, and it was literally the church from Sheol. Horrible, horrible church to pastor. So I'm praying one night as I was want to on a continuous basis. And I'm praying one night about two in the morning and I'm telling God how bad they are because apparently He's forgotten. So He lets me whine for about 20 minutes. And I'm telling you, it's an epiphanous moment, I don't have these all the time. But I don't know whether I heard Him in my head or out loud, because I actually looked up. But when I finished my whining I heard God say, "Did I send you there for them to love you, or for you to love them?" So I looked up and I said, "You sent me here to love them." And then I, this is probably my interpretation, but I kind of heard God say, "Then I don't care whether or not they love you because it doesn't matter whether or not they love you." And I was broken because, not just because I had failed the Father, I was broken because I realized I couldn't obey Him. I hated my church and I had no capacity in myself to love them. Now that was, for me, right here. It took Him a while, because some of us are like Peter. It takes some of us a little while. But that was kind of, and this is what I think happens, I think you have one major breaking and then the rest of your life is just conviction. So He broke me here, changed my life, altered my understanding of Christianity actually, because I did think it was me for Him instead of Him through me. So it altered everything in my life so I'm like Peter, and I think all of us are, and when you go back, you've got to take God's promises and stand on them in faith to pull into your life what He's already given you. But you can't do that if you're not dependent on the promise.

So any questions today?

No questions.