

To Be Filled With The Holy Spirit

(Part 4)

“I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.” (Luke 24:49)

After Jesus resurrected from the death, ***“until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. ³After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. ⁴On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 1:2-5)*** He promised them that He will send them the gift of The Father, The Holy Spirit.

Jesus promised His Apostles and His disciples that they will be endowed with power from above as they will be baptized with the Holy Spirit. ***“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)*** The Holy Spirit Jesus promised will be given to those who are sanctified. The Holy Spirit will be given to the true disciples and followers of Christ. The Holy Spirit will give to the disciples of Jesus the power to live and witness for Christ. Therefore life of full obedience is essential for the disciples in order for them to be filled with the Holy Spirit. This is what the word of God declare and that of what we agree for, without full obedience there is no filling with The Holy Spirit. We need to be in full submission to God and to do and live His will so that The Holy Spirit will have us and fill us. From the life of early disciples who were waiting for The Holy Spirit we can conclude the style of life that The Holy Spirit would be attracted to. Therefore as we read in the Book of Acts the followings we can conclude to follow:-

4- They lived a life of prayer: “They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.” (Acts 1:14) Prayer is our back bone. We cannot stand as church to face the world without life of prayer. Life of prayer enable us to face the challenges and the threat of the world, and makes our journey and mission smooth as we go forward in achieving God’s purpose and vision in our lives. Life of prayer will invite The Holy Spirit to come and fill you.

5- They live a life to fulfill the Scripture: “¹⁵In those days Peter stood up among the believers^[c] (a group numbering about a hundred and twenty) ¹⁶and said, “Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through the mouth of David concerning Judas, who served as guide for those who arrested Jesus— ¹⁷he was one of our number and shared in this ministry.” ¹⁸(With the reward he got for his wickedness, Judas bought a field; there he fell headlong, his body burst open and all his intestines spilled out. ¹⁹Everyone in Jerusalem heard about this, so they called that field in their language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) ²⁰“For,” said Peter, “it is written in the book of Psalms, “May his place be deserted; let there be no one to dwell in it,” and, “May another take his place of leadership.” (Acts 1:15-20) While they were waiting for the coming of the Holy Spirit on them they continued to do their duties in fulfilling the Scripture. The Scripture of God are the wisdom and the power of God. We as a church as we Endeavour to fulfill the Scripture and live to achieve what His word teach and declare we receive the wisdom and the power of God. What Peter caught about from the word of God and related to the conspiracy of Judas was from the Old Testament as we can read the quotations, ***“May their place be deserted; let there be no one to dwell in their tents.” (Psalm 69:25) “May his days be few; may another take his place***

of leadership.” (Psalm 109:8) What Peter caught from Scripture had helped the church to go forward in their mission and elect another apostle to fill the place that Judas left. The application of the above incidence in our lives as a church is this: As we endeavour as Church of God to fulfill the Scripture the Lord will lead us to take important decisions that are vital to the Lord and for the life of our church, and finally to be filled with The Holy Spirit.

6- They lived a life in fully trusting the Lord: “Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.” (Proverbs 3:5-6) Judas Iscariot was one of the Apostles and he was the one who was keeping the treasury. In another word he was having an important position in the life of the early church. But the early church who were waiting for the coming of the Holy Spirit they trusted the Lord that He can fill any vacant place and in His presence all things can be fulfilled and go well. What as a church we learn from the above lesson that every worker in the church is important but God is the only essential person in the church. No one should have the pride and think that without him the church will be affected. That is a wrong concept, although all of us as workers are important for the church, but is God is doing His work and will through us. So we are not the one but God is the one who is working and doing the needful. Our part is to yield ourselves to the Lord, but if anyone of us take the pride of himself then God will move to use another person. Therefore let that person who think and behave in such wrong attitude, that he/she should know that without him/her the church will still go well because God, the essential and crucial person, is still present in the life of His church.

7- The did their administrative work in a proper way: “²¹Therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²²beginning from John’s baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection.”²³ So they proposed two men: Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias. ²⁴Then they prayed, “Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen ²⁵to take over this apostolic ministry, which Judas left to go where he belongs.”²⁶ Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the eleven apostles.” (Acts 1:21-26) While they were waiting for the coming of the Holy Spirit on them they continued to do their duties and fulfill their responsibilities. They were instructed by the Scripture to choose suitable workers who can fill the place of Judas according to the following criteria, ***“who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²²beginning from John’s baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us.” (Acts 1:21-22a)*** For the following purpose, ***“For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection.” (Acts 1:22b)*** So they proposed two men: Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias and they left the final decision for God to choose when they prayed, ***“Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen ²⁵to take over this apostolic ministry, which Judas left to go where he belongs.”*** And cast the lot as a biblical way to receive the Lord’s decision and Matthias was chosen and added to the eleven apostles.

My dear and beloved: We as a church and every one of us as members we need to take heed of all the above points and apply them fully in our lives and we will be blessed with the pouring out of the Holy Spirit in our lives and the lives of our disciples and congregations. Let us continue to meditate on the message and willing to obey as we agree to pray

My prayer: Father God we come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for our sins to give us eternal life. Lord we commit ourselves to live in full obedience to your word and commands, waiting upon you to fill us with The Holy Spirit, acting in faith accompanied by deeds that you delight, living a life of prayer, living in unity; united in mind, thought, vision and purpose with you. And taking the style of fulfilling the Scripture trusting you that you are the One who take hold together all the things of our lives and the achievements in the ministry. Lord we pray that you strengthen all the workers, and our disciples and the congregations with your Holy Spirit and raise up more disciples who will carry further your mission till you come and take us with you to Heaven, this all we ask and pray in Jesus name, Amen.