

Be Filled With the Spirit

Andrew Murray:

Other words concerning the Holy Spirit are found in Acts 2:4: 'They were all filled with the Holy Spirit' (NKJV) and Ephesians 5:18: 'Be filled with the Spirit.' The one text is a narrative, telling us what actually happened. The other is a command, telling us what we should be. If there is any doubt about its being a command, we find it linked to another in the first part of the passage in Ephesians: 'Do not get drunk on wine. ... Instead ...' If I were to ask you if you obeyed the command not to be drunk with wine, you would no doubt answer, 'Of course, as a believer, I obey that command.' But what of the other: 'Be filled with the Spirit'? Have you obeyed it as well? Does your life manifest the presence of the Holy Spirit? If not, are you willing to take the command to heart and say, 'By God's help I will obey. I will not rest until I am filled with the Spirit'? Now the question comes, What is needed in order to be filled with the Spirit? To find the answer we must allow God to search our lives. We might ask ourselves, 'Am I in the condition in which God can fill me with His Spirit?' Some of you may be able to honestly answer, 'Thank God, I am ready.' If you can say this, you may realize that you have been kept back from this full blessing by lack of knowledge, prejudice, unbelief, or a wrong idea about what being filled with the Spirit is. Being filled with the Spirit is simply this: The whole personality is yielded to His power. When the soul is yielded to the Holy Spirit, God himself will fill it.

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