

Let's Review The Plan (Part 10 – Being Filled With The Holy Spirit)

Sunday, March 23, 2025

10:30 AM

Jeremiah 29:11 NIV

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

My question for you today is... Are You Following God's Plan? (Check off all that apply)

Have you been BORN AGAIN, through believing in Jesus and by confessing and repenting of our sins.

Are you FOLLOWING JESUS by CHOOSING Him over everything else, allowing Him to CHANGE us inside and out, and COMMITTING to pick up our cross daily and follow Him?

Are you TRUSTING in GOD {with all your heart and in all your ways acknowledging Him} (rather than leaning on your own understanding) for His PLAN, PROVISION, TIMING, POWER, and COMPASSION?

Are you obeying His command to LOVE ONE ANOTHER?

Are you assuming your personal responsibility for carrying out Jesus' mandate to FULFILL THE GREAT COMMISSION?

Are you GROWING?

Are you following His plan for GIVING - obediently, willingly, cheerfully, humbly, generously, expectantly and even sacrificially, knowing that through it God blesses us pressed down shaken together and running over

Are you actively FORGIVING others as Christ has forgiven you - forgiving broadly, quickly, specifically, deeply, repeatedly, completely and unconditionally?

Are you walking in MUSTARD SEED, MOUNTAIN MOVING, GIANT KILLING FAITH?

Though the plans of God are vast and amazing, I want to wrap up this series this morning with a look at one more - A part of God's plan that was prophesied by the Prophet Joel, a part of God's plan that Jesus told His disciples to expect and wait for, a part of God's plan that Peter preached about on the Day of Pentecost. - **BEING FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**

KEY TEXTS:

Joel 2:28-29

28 “And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on ALL people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. 29 Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days.

Acts 1:4-5, 8

4 On 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. 5 For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

8 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 2:38-39

38 Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 The promise is for YOU and your children and for ALL who are far off—for ALL whom the Lord our God will call.”

So, let's talk about how we can follow this plan of God for our lives...

Believe In The Promise

Joel prophesied it, Jesus promised it, and Peter reminded us that it was for ALL of us

But we have to BELIEVE IT

Like our salvation it is a gift that comes from God, but we will never walk in the blessings of that gift until we first BELIEVE the promise and RECEIVE it for ourselves.

That's why I like what God spoke through the Prophet Joel...

Sons and daughters will prophesy, old men will dream dreams, young men will see visions,
my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my spirit

In other words it's for everybody...

It echoes the words we hear in the New Testament

Galatians 3:26-29

26 So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, 27 for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

The promise of Salvation and the promise of The Holy Spirit

That's why Peter said it's for EVERYONE

It is not insignificant that the scripture uses positions in life that culture typically relegates to lesser roles...

Children, Women, Slaves, Gentiles

1 Corinthians 12:4-7, 12-14, 27

4 There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. 5 There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. 6 There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

12 Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. 13 For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. 14 Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.

27 Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

Being filled with the Spirit is not just for a select few... Neither is it relegated to a secondary event that accompanies salvation which has no ongoing impact on our lives. God intended it to be an active and ongoing part of our everyday lives in Him.

1 Corinthians 11:5 NIV

“But every woman who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head—it is the same as having her head shaved.”

Let me give you 4 words that are helpful in walking in this plan of God for us to be filled with The Holy Spirit

ASK, SEEK, KNOCK, DESIRE

It's one thing to believe and to even believe that this promise is for me; but do I act upon that belief by asking, seeking, knocking and desiring The Holy Spirit

Luke 11:9-13

9 “So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. 10 For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

11 “Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? 12 Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? 13 If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

Remember that the Asking, seeking and knocking is directly tied to the gift of The Holy Spirit

The same is true of Paul's teaching to the Corinthian church when he is talking about the gifts that come because we are filled with The Holy Spirit

In 1 Corinthians 12 and 14, which speak about the use of the gifts of the Spirit in the church; Chapter 12 ends with Paul's admonition to "eagerly desire" and chapter 14 begins with the same admonition "eagerly desire"

We've discussed it before, but let me remind you that the verb tense with these words that indicates ongoing, repeated, continuous action

Acts 4:8, 23-25, 29-31

“Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: “Rulers and elders of the people! 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? 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.”

If being filled with The Holy Spirit were a one-time event, why does it say of those who had already been filled with The Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, those who were already seeing signs and wonders (This event came about as a result of the healing of the man at the temple gate to whom Peter and John said "silver and gold I do not have but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, Walk."), who were already speaking with the power and boldness of The Holy Spirit - Why did they ask for more boldness, more signs and wonders and why were they ALL FILLED AGAIN?

Something we talk about all the time in the Food Pantry is praying for what we need to come in. Each week we pray, not only for general provision, but many times for specific things. We ask, we seek, we knock, we desire... And the Lord meets those desires. We don't just ask once and then forget it. Neither should we retreat in our desire to be filled with The Holy Spirit.

Acts 13:52 NASB

“And the disciples were continually filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.”

However, we cannot believe in, nor can we ask for, seek, knock or desire that which we have never been taught

Acts 19:1-7

19 While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples ² and asked them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?”

They answered, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.”

³ So Paul asked, “Then what baptism did you receive?”

“John’s baptism,” they replied.

⁴ Paul said, “John’s baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus.” ⁵ On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶ When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. ⁷ There were about twelve men in all.

They were believers, but there were not yet walking in God's plan to BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

Cultivate the soil of your heart and mind for the fruit of the Holy Spirit

Ephesians 5:15-18

15 Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. 18 Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit,

Romans 12:1-2

12 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. 2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Galatians 5:22-25

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. 24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

Step out in faith and Allow the Holy Spirit to use you in the operation of the gifts

1 Corinthians 14:32

³² The spirits of prophets are subject to the control of prophets.

What does that mean... It means that God is not going to override our wills in the use of the gifts... We have to be willing vessels that allow the Holy Spirit to use us.

Romans 12:6-8 (NLT)

6 In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as (in proportion to the faith) God has given you. 7 If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. 8 If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.

What I am hearing here is "just do it" (step out in faith)

In Pentecostal circles, we tend to either overemphasize speaking in tongues or under emphasize it; but what we must remember is that both as a sign of the Baptism of The Holy Spirit and as a gift of The Spirit, it is not the only one. As a sign, it is the Initial Physical evidence, but there are so many more signs both physical and internal and signs that endure. As a gift it is one of many listed here in 1 Corinthians 12 as well as those listed in Romans Chapter 12; not to

Will You make mistakes, sure (if you think the disciples never made mistakes then you haven't read the bible, if you think Paul was perfect, you're wrong)... but that's how we learn, that's how we grow, that's what keeps us needing to be filled with The Holy Spirit

In fact, that's exactly what Paul was addressing in 1 Corinthians 12, 13, 14... Misuse of the gifts of the Spirit... It didn't mean we should quit using the gifts... On the contrary, Paul encouraged us to eagerly desire and use the gifts in their various forms (but He also emphasized doing so with the knowledge of how they should be used, the wisdom of when they should be used and using them with love, and with decency and order.

That's why it is important to stay humble and remember that it's not you it is the Holy Spirit working through you and that's why we must continue to cultivate the soil of our hearts and minds for the growth of the fruit of the spirit

The fruit of the Spirit without the gifts of the spirit lacks power. The gifts of the spirit without the fruit of the spirit lacks love, knowledge, wisdom, decency and order

Luke 10:17-20

¹⁷ The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name."

¹⁸ He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. ¹⁹ I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. ²⁰ However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."