



01 MAY 2022 | PS ERNIE SONG | GOD IS SPIRIT | JOHN 4:23-24

SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

At the end of the sermon discussion, cell members will:

1. Desire to be filled with the Holy Spirit and trust in His leading.
2. Worship God in spirit (oneness) and in truth (fresh revelation).

SERMON SUMMARY

God is Spirit and we are spirit. Our relationship with God (towards oneness with His will and ways) can only be Spirit to spirit. The Holy Spirit is the bridge between us and God, revealing the Father's ways and will for our lives, so that we are one with God's will and God's ways. The filling of the Holy Spirit is a necessary step towards oneness with God.

SERMON RECAP

Many believers today approach their relationship with God cognitively. But Scripture teaches us that we are to relate with God spirit to spirit and through the Holy Spirit.

1. God is Spirit and He Exists in a Different Realm

- God exists in a spiritual realm. In this realm are spiritual forces and principalities ([Psalm 82](#), [Ephesians 6:12](#), [Job 1:6-7](#)). These spiritual beings can manifest in the physical realm, and they have authority on earth:
 - Biblical evidence – demon possession, demons causing sicknesses, angels who can blind eyes and heal, etc.
- The spiritual realm is where the Spiritual Battle occurs.
 - *“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.”* – **Ephesians 6:12 (ESV)**
- Thus, we cannot limit our experience of God and our understanding of His ways to just the physical realm (our rational thinking). Sometimes, things will not make sense to us because it is in a different realm.

2. Implication – We Must Worship God in Spirit and in Truth

- In Spirit
 - In heaven, there is oneness with God's will and ways among all the heavenly beings (angels). These heavenly beings embody God's ways and are ready to execute God's will.
 - Our goal as disciples is to be one with God's will and ways ([John 5:19](#), [Romans 12:1-2](#))

- We are spiritual beings and must relate with God spirit to spirit with the help of the Holy Spirit.
- The Holy Spirit helps us to be ONE with God in character, ways, values, purpose, plans ([John 14:26](#)).
- In Truth
 - Worship in heaven is based on who God is (what they see when they gaze upon God), and therefore they respond accordingly ([Isaiah 6:1-5](#)).
 - To worship in TRUTH, we need a revelation of who God is (by gazing at Him in the spiritual realm) and who we are.

In order for believers to worship (being a living sacrifice) in Spirit (oneness with the Father) and in Truth (a fresh revelation of Him every day), we need the Holy Spirit.

3. Application – We Need a Fresh Filling of God’s Spirit

- What is the starting place? Being filled/ baptised with the Holy Spirit ([Ephesians 5:18-19](#)).
- Why?
 - Jesus exemplified His dependence on the Holy Spirit ([Luke 4:18-19](#)).
 - Jesus instructed His disciples to receive the Holy Spirit ([Acts 1:4-5](#)).
 - The purpose is for the extension of God’s kingdom ([Acts 1:8](#)).
- The disciples went through multiple fillings:
 - Jesus breathed on them the Holy Spirit after His resurrection ([John 20:22](#))
 - The Holy Spirit fell on them in power during Pentecost ([Acts 2:1-4](#))
 - They were filled with the Holy Spirit again while praying for boldness to proclaim the good news ([Acts 4:29-31](#))

The infilling and baptism of the Holy Spirit is meant for all believers – for the purposes of being witnesses in the world, and to be ONE with God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How integral is the Holy Spirit’s role in a believer’s life according to Scripture? In what ways is He supposed to be our Helper? [15 mins]

Leader's Notes

“But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.” – John 14:26

“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 is sent to us to help us in our prayers – when we need discernment, when we need intercession. The Holy Spirit convicts us of our wrongs and helps us to transform (by shedding our old and sinful ways) to be more Christ-like. The Holy Spirit helps us to fight our spiritual battles and empowers us to be effective witnesses for Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit also connects us with God on the spiritual level. He reveals God’s truth to us. God is Spirit and that is how we must connect with Him. In a nutshell, the Holy Spirit is



integral in helping us live our lives (worship) in spirit and in truth so that we can be one with God's will and ways.

Scripture demonstrates how important the role of the Holy Spirit is in the life of the believer – Jesus submitted to the leading of the Holy Spirit (see [Matthew 12:18](#), [Acts 10:38](#)), and the disciples were filled continually with the Holy Spirit so that they can be effective witnesses for God in the world.

Resource: The Holy Spirit in a Believer (<https://www.christianity.com/wiki/holy-spirit/10-roles-of-the-holy-spirit-in-christian-life.html>).

Transition

The Holy Spirit is given to us to help us in our daily living and yet we don't fully grasp His role as our Helper. We need to learn to connect with the Holy Spirit and tap into His power.

2. What are some of your hesitations in being filled with the Holy Spirit? [10 mins]

Leader's Notes

Do we have more Biblical theologies than realities in our lives? We know the Holy Spirit is powerful and is a Helper for us, yet we don't see a need to be filled with power from on high. Leaders can ask members to reflect on what these hesitations are.

One reason may be because we are not actively participating in God's work. When you are actively doing God's work and being at the frontlines of the spiritual battle, you realise the need to be empowered with His Holy Spirit.

Reflect on other reasons why we hesitate or don't see a need to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Is it fear of the unknown (the spiritual realm) or not wanting anything to do with 'spirits' holding you back? Or is there a secret sin that you know the Holy Spirit would convict you of? Free yourself of the burden of hiding. Carry the guilt no more. Allow God and the Holy Spirit help you to break free.

Short FAQ for Hesitations to Receive the Holy Spirit's Filling

- *"I already received the Holy Spirit when I came to Christ."* – Just like the disciples who were filled multiple times, the purpose of subsequent fillings is for power from on high to be effective witnesses for Christ.
- *"I'm not comfortable with the weird manifestations... people falling down, laughing out loud, crying uncontrollably, barking like dogs, crawling like snakes, etc."* – When God (who is supernatural) touches us (who are physical), sometimes things beyond our comprehension happen. It could be due to the magnitude of God's power – people crying uncontrollably because they feel so loved or they realise how sinful they are, people falling to the floor because God's supernatural rest comes upon them, people laughing out loud because God's complete joy comes upon them, etc. On top of that, demonic manifestations (in our un-surrendered parts of our lives) do happen as well. When Jesus met those who had demons in them, they manifested outwardly as well. The point is this – when God who is supernatural/Spirit touches us who are physical, things which are beyond our explanation will happen. The important thing is to examine its fruits –



does the individual love God more? Does he/she have a greater desire to reach the lost?

- *“I’ve been impacted by wrong teachings about the Holy Spirit or Spirit-filled leaders who have fallen.”* – Although God’s work is real and genuine, the vessel in which it flows through may not be clean. This can corrupt the teaching or God’s work. The important thing for us is to fix our eyes on what God is doing rather than on the vessel. To denounce the filling of the Holy Spirit because of an experience with an unclean vessel is to prevent God’s work to be done in our lives.

Transition

We may have many reasons why we don’t want to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Don’t be defeated by the lies of the devil, nor allow him to hinder your relationship with God. The Holy Spirit’s role in our lives is of absolute importance!

3. What areas of your life would you like to see God becoming more real through the Holy Spirit? [15 mins]

Leader's Notes

This is a reflect and response question. We, as believers, have the strong desire to connect deeply with God. We want to go beyond cognitive engagement and into a deeper connection with God where we experience the reality of Scripture in our lives. There are perhaps some areas in which you feel that God is distant or maybe not even present in those areas. Which are those areas?

We need to be filled with the Holy Spirit. We have stopped being hungry for God because we have turned to the world to fill us. We need a fresh infilling of the Holy Spirit. Then, we need to be sensitive to His leading in our lives.

Closing

God is present in every area of our lives. It’s just that we don’t feel Him or notice His presence most of the time. It is us that needs to change, and that change can only happen with the help of the Holy Spirit. Seek to be filled with the Holy Spirit!

WORKS

Consider dividing the group into micro-groups for a deeper time of sharing as well as praying for the following items:

1. Sermon Application

- For us to be hungry for God constantly and to allow Him to fill us with His Spirit.
- For us to allow the Holy Spirit to work in us and to transform us.

2. COVID-19 in Singapore

- Pray for God’s continued protection from the virus.
- Pray for lives and businesses that have been impacted by the pandemic.

3. Russia-Ukraine War

- Pray for a swift end to this war and for the principalities that are influencing this situation to be broken.

- Protection for the people of Ukraine especially those who are believers.

4. Opportunities for Outreach

- Ask the Lord to grant you opportunities to reach out to a non-believing loved one, friend, or colleague this week as we seek to mature in Christlikeness.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Digital Bulletin: rlc.sg/bulletin

1. **Seminar: Baptism in the Holy Spirit. Fridays, 13, 20, 27 May, 8-10pm, Worship Centre.** What does it mean to be baptised in the Holy Spirit, and why was this experience so prominently featured in the Book of Acts? Is praying in tongues the initial evidence for Spirit-baptism? Is there another indicator that one has experienced the infilling of the Spirit? How should we make sense of all these considering the positions of other church traditions? Does it matter whether I pray in tongues? Join us for a special three-part seminar as we explore the understanding and significance of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit for our lives with the Academic Dean of Acts College, David Lim Han Hui.
2. **Water Baptism Class. 21 May, 9-3.30pm.** Register for this class at rlc.sg/wbclass by Sun, 15 May. For enquiries, please contact Karen Koh at karenkoh@riverlife.org.sg. Next Water Baptism service will be on 26 June.
3. **SuperLife Camp 2022. 9-11 June (Thu-Sat). \$40 per child.** For children in Primary 1-6. For more details or registration, visit this link: rlc.sg/slcamp2022. There will be a special family session on Sat, 11 June (4-8pm), \$10 per parent. Registration closes on 8 May.
4. **F&B Related Ministries Recruitment.** We're looking for RiverLifers who love connecting with new people and enjoy cooking and serving. Team members will serve once a month. For more details Karen Koh (Welcome Lounge) at karenkoh@riverlife.org.sg and Jonathan Cho (The Café and Volunteers Corner) at jonathancho@riverlife.org.sg.
5. **Technical & Production (TAP) Ministry Recruitment.** The TAP ministry comprises five teams – audio, graphics, lighting, sound and video – and they all work as one in partnership with the Holy Spirit to support an atmosphere that allows the congregation to encounter God. We are now opening up recruitment for this ministry. If you desire to take the next step in your walk with God through starting to serve, we invite you to sign up to explore serving in one of the five TAP teams. You may sign up online at rlc.sg/serve or refer to our [digital bulletin](#) for more details.
6. **Alpha.** We know that some may have many questions about life, God, Jesus and Christianity. Or, maybe they are a new Christian who has just accepted Jesus into their life and desire to embark on this journey with Jesus. We would like to extend a special invitation for these individuals to participate in Alpha at RiverLife. It is a series of 12 sessions (8 online & 3 in-person) where participants can ask anything about life, faith and God in a friendly environment. The first session starts 5 May. Full schedule and registration details can be found here: rlc.sg/alpha.

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7. **Missions from Home.** In order to find out more information concerning our mission initiatives in the nations and how you can participate, visit our new mission website. (rlc.sg/mfh)
 8. **RiverLife Community Services (RCS).** In 2021, RCS focused on providing relief to families who were badly affected by the pandemic. We believe that in this season, God is calling RCS to build loving families and strong communities. Listed below are opportunities where you can serve or give to RCS:
 - You can serve as a volunteer in one of our programmes to befriend and build relationships with children, youth, mothers and lower-income families. Find out more here: rlc.sg/rcs2022.
 - You can support the work of RCS by participating in our annual Family Movie Day. For instructions on how you can watch a movie this June holidays and stand for families visit this link rlc.sg/rcsmovie.
 - You can sow by contributing financially too. Your giving will go into initiatives such as grocery distributions and various programmes that will help our beneficiaries build resilience and break free from the poverty cycle. Find out more by writing to RCS at office@rcs.org.sg.
 - RCS is also looking to partner with organizations (donations of essential items – toiletries, wearables, etc). To find out more, write to us at volunteer@rcs.org.sg.
 9. **RiverLife Podcast.** The RiverLife Podcast allows you to listen to RiverLife content anytime, anywhere! The link to go to is rlc.sg/podcast or simply search '**The RiverLife Podcast**' on Spotify.
 10. **Spiritual Growth Resources.** We have put together a curated list of recommended resources for the RiverLife family. These resources (books, articles, podcasts and videos) are recommendations for the various spiritual growth stages as you seek to grow deeper in the River of God this year. You can access them at rlc.sg/resource. This list will be continually populated throughout the year.
 11. **Cradle Roll.** Our Cradle Roll is open from 9am to 10.30am every Sunday for children 24 months and below. **NO booking of tickets is required.**
 12. **Prayer Ministry.** If you require prayer ministry for any issues you face (eg. unforgiveness, demonic oppression, etc), you can sign up for RLC's RTF ministry: <https://bit.ly/rlcrtf>
 13. **Bible Reading Plan.** You can access our 2-Year Bible Reading Plan 2021-2022 by visiting: <https://rlc.sg/brp2021>.
 14. **Testimony.** If you have a testimony to share, you can write to us at stories@riverlife.org.sg to share with us your testimony as an encouragement to others.

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