

Sermon for Nov 15, 2020, "Ask the Lord to be filled with the Holy Spirit", Luke 11:1-4

Introduction: Filling of the Holy Spirit and Prayer

Today, I want to share my personal story before addressing the main text. I grew up with a strong Confucian family tradition, so I was able to live a proper life of faith only after becoming a university student. Since I became a Christian late and started my life of faith as an adult, in the early days of my life of faith, there were cases where stories from the pastor while preaching were not well understood by me. One of them was **"the Holy Spirit."** What is the Holy Spirit? I had a lot of questions about the Holy Spirit.

For a proper understanding of the Holy Spirit, first of all, a correct understanding of God's Word is important. Second, we need to experience the Holy Spirit.

However, I have a precious memory of a very important experience in connection with the Holy Spirit. I went on a retreat to a small church in the countryside with members of the young adult group of the church that I attended 26 years ago. The pastor of the rural church, who preached at the retreat, spoke about the Gifts of the Holy Spirit through 1 Corinthians chapter 12. We had a time to pray together at that meeting, and all the members who participated in the retreat experienced the amazing grace of speaking in tongues.

Of course, some denominations emphasize speaking in tongues as important evidence of the experience of the Holy Spirit, and some denominations do not regard doing so as important or they regard it as negative. By the way, what I am trying to say does not have to do with whether or not you speak in tongues.

At that meeting 26 years ago, I prayed with the young adult group members with all of my heart. And, for the first time, I experienced intensely the grace that the fullness of the Holy Spirit brings. It was peace and joy. The filling by the Holy Spirit brings confidence in our hearts about Jesus' love for the cross, and that confidence leads to peace and joy in our hearts.

Those who sincerely confess Jesus as "Lord" have received the Holy Spirit. The Book of **Romans chapter 10:9** says, **"If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."**

The important thing is that the Holy Spirit within us will be filled through our deep relationship with the Lord.

The text we share today is what Jesus taught His disciples to pray. He taught us the way to experience the filling of the Holy Spirit through prayer. This prayer is known as the "Lord's Prayer." This prayer is introduced in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Matthew's prayer has a complete form, and Luke's prayer is simpler than that. Jesus emphasizes three things in prayer here.

Body: Teaching about prayer

1. Prayer for seeking God's rule

"Thy kingdom come" is to pray for God's rule to come. What happens when the Lord's rule is restored? **Romans 14:17** says, **"For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit."**

Righteousness is fulfilled when the Lord's rule comes. And together there is freedom and joy with righteousness. In addition, peace is added to it. We can experience peace when joy is stable and the future is clear. We enjoy the kingdom of God in the Holy Spirit. This means that the kingdom of God can come anywhere: at home, school, work, and church.

So Jesus says, "Pray for the kingdom of God." We should pray for the Lord's reign upon our home, upon our children, and in the midst of what we do. When we pray like this, the kingdom of God will come upon us and we will live in His kingdom. What is the second teaching of Jesus about prayer?

2. Humble prayer for forgiveness of our sins every day

Let's look at **Luke 11:4**, **"Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us."** We must pray for forgiveness of our sins to the Lord.

We pray for the kingdom of God and became His nation's people, but we are still sinners. We are forgiven of our sins through the Lord's love on the cross, but we should always be able to humbly reflect on our own shortcomings. Therefore, we must pray as citizens of the kingdom of God, and at the same time, as sinners, we must always ask for forgiveness.

In Luke chapter 18, Jesus compares the prayers of the tax collector and Pharisee. The two men went to temple for prayer. The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed. The Pharisee proudly exclaims that his godliness is not like the tax collector. However, the tax collector stood at a distance and dared not even lift his eyes to heaven as he prayed. He just beat his chest in sorrow, saying, **"O God, be merciful to me, for I am a sinner."**

Jesus' thoughts about them are found in **Luke 18:14**, **"I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."**

We, who are saved by Jesus' love on the cross, must not forget. The Lord gives grace to the humble men. And, where sin increased, grace increased all the more. So, day by day, through repentance, we must remain in a place of humility. The last thing Jesus taught us to pray is "Pray for not letting us go into temptation."

3. Prayer for Jesus' help from temptation

We must be forgiven of sins, but we must also overcome them. This means that we are those in need of repentance and at the same time those who are to be glorified with victory. That is why we must pray as citizens of God's kingdom, as sinners, and pray for victory so that we do not fall into temptation.

The test here does not refer to God-given discipline. Temptation is a state in which what we desire is so great that God's will seems not at all important, and the Word does not exert its power.

James says how great the danger of temptation is, **"Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death."**(James 1:15)

When we are in the midst of temptation, we cannot enjoy the good gifts from God and the fruits of the Holy Spirit. Also, we cannot enjoy the fruit we obtain through patience.

So, how can you beat these tests? Let's look at the words of Luke. **"Pray that you will not fall into temptation."**(Luke 22:40) **"Why are you sleeping?" he asked them. "Get up and pray so that you will not fall into temptation."** (Luke 22:46)

We can overcome temptations through prayer. But, we cannot overcome these temptations on our own. So you have to pray. Jesus sets an example for His disciples to always pray. Let's look at **Luke 22:42**, **"Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done."**

At this time, an angel helped Jesus. When we are now in temptation, our prayers are helped by Jesus sitting on the throne in heaven. So, if we cannot resist temptation, we must flee to God in prayer to be saved from our enemies.

Conclusion: God gives the Holy Spirit to those who ask.

Jesus said after teaching about prayer. **“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.”(Luke 11:9)**

And he speaks in conclusion. **“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!” (Luke 11:13)**

How important is the Holy Spirit’s blessing? This Holy Spirit was granted to the disciples and to us. The filling of the Holy Spirit comes abundantly to those who always seek. And the filling of the Holy Spirit comes to those who seek the reign of God. Also, the filling of the Holy Spirit comes to those who live in a humble manner that daily asks for forgiveness of our sins. Furthermore, the filling of the Holy Spirit comes to those who flee to God from temptation.

God gives the filling of the Holy Spirit to those who ask, and we will overcome the world with the power of the Holy Spirit. I hope that our life will overflow with the filling of the Holy Spirit.