

How to pray for the infilling of the Holy Spirit

Introduction

- Core question addressed: How can believers today be filled with the Holy Spirit?
- Biblical foundation: Acts 19 - Paul meets disciples in Ephesus who hadn't received the Holy Spirit
- Summary: All instances of Spirit-filling in the Bible showed visible results

1: The Holy Spirit is a Gift from God

- Cannot be earned through works or merit (Galatians 3:2-5)
- Must be received by faith, not by human effort
- God's promise to give the Spirit (Luke 11:11-13) • Father's guaranteed "yes" to those who ask • Comparison to earthly fathers giving good gifts

2: Receiving the Holy Spirit Through Faith

- Based on God's word, not feelings
- Command to be filled with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18)
- Process involves: • Asking in faith • Believing God's promise • Thanking God for the gift • Acting upon the belief

3: The Manifestation of Speaking in Tongues

- Biblical pattern: Speaking in tongues followed Spirit-filling
- Practical application: • Human cooperation with divine enabling • Using one's own voice and speech faculties • Example of Peter walking on water - human action with divine power • Development may be gradual and require practice

Conclusion and Practical Applications

- Step-by-step approach to receiving
- Ongoing practice
- Can be used to help others receive the Holy Spirit

Small Group Questions

1. What stands out to you about the way Paul helped the disciples in Ephesus to receive the Holy Spirit? How might that example guide us today?
2. What does it mean to you personally to "receive the Holy Spirit by faith" rather than relying on feelings or efforts?
3. How do you think we can actively step out in faith, like Peter walking on water, when it comes to receiving and practicing the gifts of the Holy Spirit?
4. Pray for anyone now who wants to receive the Holy Spirit.