How to prepare to be filled by the Holy Spirit

**Experience God’s preparation**

**Monday**

Read Acts 1:1, Daniel 9:14, John 14:10, Matthew 9:45, Psalm 19

In order for you to be filled with the Holy Spirit, it is good for you to be filled with Jesus’ Word (the Bible) and His Works (changes in your life). **Journalize** your thoughts.

**Tuesday**

Read Acts 1:2, Acts 8:26-40

To prepare yourself for a greater infilling of the Holy Spirit, you must practice following the leading of the Holy Spirit. **Meditate** on how He is currently leading you.

**Wednesday**

Read Acts 1:3-5, Ephesians 1:15-23

Learn to enjoy waiting for the gift of the Holy Spirit. As you **pray** today, **wait** to receive the Holy Spirit.

**Thursday**

Read 2 Corinthians 3:17, Acts 9:31, Romans 8:6, Romans 14:17, Romans 15:13, 1 Peter 1:2

To be filled with the Holy Spirit, is to be filled with freedom, encouragement, peace, joy, hope, and holiness. **Ask** God to fill you with the Holy Spirit.

**Friday**

Read Acts 1:6-14, Psalms 42

We know God is preparing us for His Holy Spirit when we have an appetite and desire to receive Him in us. From the deepest part of your heart, **ask** for the gift of the Holy Spirit.

How to prepare to be filled by the Holy Spirit

Ephesians 3:19 English Standard Version (ESV)

19 and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 4:13 Christian Standard Bible (CSB)

13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of God’s Son, growing into maturity with a stature measured by Christ’s fullness.

Acts 1 New International Version (NIV)

1 In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach

The 12 disciples had three intensive years of following Jesus before they were filled with the Holy Spirit. They focused on what He did and what He said, His word and His works. This is what we call discipleship.

2 until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen.

You learn to be Spirit-led. When you read the Bible and the Spirit speaks to you. You listen to the Spirit and He reminds you of what the Bible says.

After an intense season of following Jesus word (the Bible) and focusing exclusively on what He does (how He operates, His approach to things), you begin to recognize and hear the prompting of the Holy Spirit, you begin to be Spirit-lead. You exit what might be humanly logical and what your feelings are telling you and you key in on what the Holy Spirit is telling you.

Two imbalanced Christian approaches

Discipleship without realizing the leadership and activity of the Spirit produces a Christian who tends to focus on works, putting people on pedestals (the one who is discipling you), and even excessive intellectualism.

Overly spiritual people who don’t focus enough on discipleship tend to be flaky, overemphasize emotionalism,  also put people on pedestals.

God expects you to be a disciple that is Spirit-led

Love the Lord with all your heart (matters of your spirit and the Holy Spirit) and with all your mind (matters of discipleship, the Word, observing the objective works of God - how he changes your life).

An overly intellectual person's down fall is their pride

An overly emotional person's down fall is their feelings

God created you to have both logic and emotions, but not to rely on either. If you are stoic, you need more of the Holy Spirit. If you are creative, you need more discipleship.

A disciplined person needs more trust and rest.

A happy-go-lucky person needs more discipline.

3 After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.

His sufferings - You are righteous because He suffered.

You stumble onto His grace and you learn you are free from selfishness and sin. You no longer have to earn your salvation. Jesus bought your freedom for you. All you have to do is receive it as a gift.

Jesus give you proofs He is alive - The living Jesus becomes more and more real to you. Jesus is no longer a feeling or something you need to explain, you KNOW him. You are aware of Him throughout the day and night. You talk to Him as you would your friend.

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.”

You love to wait (watch and listen). This wonderful state of spiritual waiting, is something you look forward to. What am I waiting for? I am waiting for the infilling of the Holy Spirit.

What is it like to be filled with the Spirit?

Freedom

2 Corinthians 3:17 New International Version (NIV)

17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

Encouragement

Acts 9:31 New International Version (NIV)

31 Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace and was strengthened. Living in the fear of the Lord and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers.

Peace

Romans 8:6 New International Version (NIV)

6 The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace.

Joy

Romans 14:17 New International Version (NIV)

17 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit,

Hope

Romans 15:13 New International Version (NIV)

13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Holiness

1 Peter 1:2 New International Version (NIV)

2 who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with his blood:

6 Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

7 He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. 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.”

We begin to get an appetite and desire for the infilling of the Holy Spirit. We get tired of not effectively winning people for Jesus.

Once the Holy Spirit has fill us and come upon us, we will effectively and powerfully tell others about who Jesus and what He has done.

The Holy Spirit brings power and that power releases remarkable ability and effectiveness in leading (and convincing) people to Jesus

9 After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

The the glory, majesty of God which will capture our attention the rest of our lives. We stand in awe of God, we fear God (which means we reverence God), what God thinks becomes more important to us than what other people think.

What you see makes an impression for life.

You need to see Jesus in your life. You need to see how He changes your life, you need to see the things He does. You need to see Him in action. You need to see Jesus.

Hebrews 12:2 New International Version (NIV)

**2**fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.

10 They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. 11 “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

Jesus’ return becomes a real thing to us. It is our ultimate goal.

12 Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives,a Sabbath day’s walk from the city. 13 When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. 14 They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

They prayed because they wanted to pray. This was not driven by man, it was inspired by God. Otherwise it becomes ritualistic.