

## FINDING YOUR GOD INTENDED PURPOSE IN LIFE

### “HOLY SPIRIT REFUELLING”

The Bible says to all Christians, “Be filled with the Spirit.” Ephesians 5:18. By all Christians, I mean everyone who has a heart trust in Jesus alone as their saviour. However we are not always full of the Holy Spirit, we are not always experiencing the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives. He is there but He is not doing much because we are trying to do it all in our own strength. Maybe we have got involved with something or someone and the Holy Spirit is grieved and is no longer filling our hearts but this thing or this person is filling it instead. When the Holy Spirit is filling our hearts He influences our thoughts, which influences our feelings and strengthens our will to do the will of God. He gives us a satisfying joy in doing the will of God and causes us to reject everything that gets us away from loving and serving God.

If you were going on a long journey in your car, you would first fill up the tank with petrol and then off you would go. If you thought that one filling of the tank would take you the whole journey you would be sadly mistaken. You could easily run out of petrol in some barren place a big distance away from a petrol station. That is a picture of many of us as Christians, we run out of the fullness and end up in a barren place in our lives. Just like the car we need to keep filling up or keep on being filled again and again to successfully journey through our Christian lives.

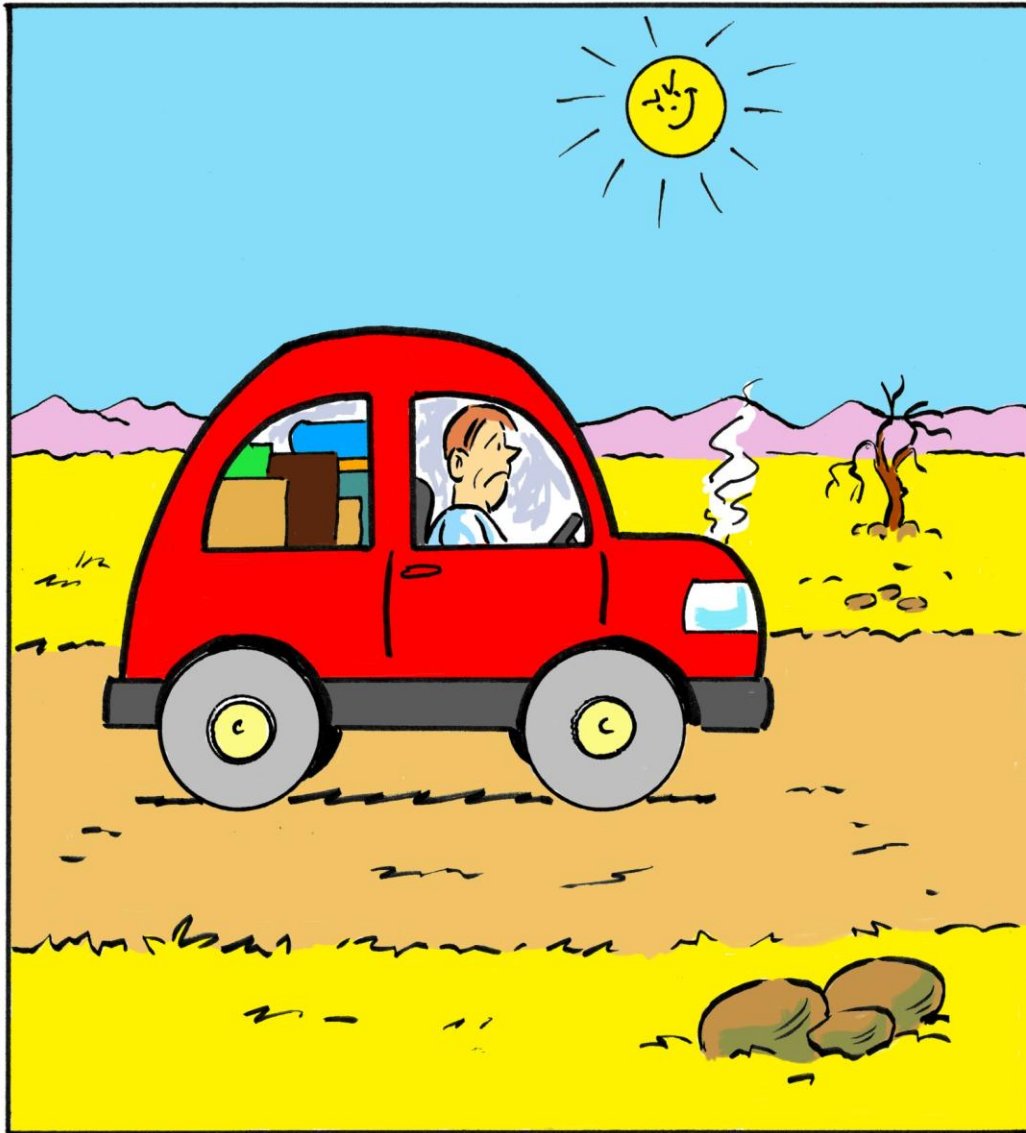
We need the filling of the Holy Spirit not only for Christian living but also for Christian service. Dr. R A Torrey a famous evangelist/teacher of a past generation wrote in one of his books, “We need a new filling of the Holy Spirit for each new emergency of Christian service. We are told of the Apostle Peter in Acts 2:4 that he was definitely filled with the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. But in Acts 4:8 we are also told that Peter was again filled with the Holy Spirit. The tense of the verb used in the original (that is, in the Greek), shows conclusively that the filling, spoken of here, was a new filling that took place right then and there. But we are again told in Acts 4:31 that , “When they had prayed, the place was shaken wherein they were gathered together: and they all were filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the Word of God with boldness.” Here again the tense of the verb used in the original, that is, in the Greek, shows conclusively that it was a filling that took place right then and there. And we are definitely told Peter was one of the “all” who were then and there filled with the Holy Spirit.”

So it is obvious we can't rely on one experience of the Spirit's filling for Christian life and service but need to be filled again and again.

However many Christians are cheated out of the fullness of the Spirit by listening to or reading about the testimony of others who speak of glorious experiences of being filled like, "My heart was filled with liquid love," "Amazing joy causing me to shout aloud the praises of God," "Amazing power of God so people were getting saved all around me," "God gave me visions and spiritual gifts, etc, etc." God can and does give some people experiences like that but if you try to get someone else's experience you will be bitterly disappointed. God will give you your own experience, tailored just for you. It doesn't have to be dramatic, it can be a quiet realization that God has become more real to you.

Some well meaning Christians will insist that unless you experience it the way they experienced it you haven't got it. Others have the Holy Spirit in a doctrinal box and unless you get it the way their doctrinal box teaches you haven't got it. But you can't put God in a box! All you can do is fall down and worship Him for the different ways He works. Let us never forget the words of Jesus as he spoke of the Holy Spirit, "The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it come from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit." I believe I can also add, "So it is with everyone filled with the Spirit." John 3:8.

Let us all surrender ourselves afresh to the Lord, ask him to cleanse us from everything that would hinder and fill us afresh or for the first time with the Holy Spirit in whatever way he chooses.



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