

Fresh wind fresh fire.

Acts 2:1-13

Filling requires emptying.

1. Emptying precedes filling. (Acts 2:1-4)

- a. They had a need that only God could fulfill. (Acts 2:1-2)
 - Christ left them, opening the door for the promised Holy Spirit, who would, in His perfect timing, empower them to do “greater things.” (John 14:18-31)
 - We need to acknowledge our need. We cannot live the successful Christian life on our own or by our own devices. (Galatians 5:22-23)

“There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of each man which cannot be satisfied by any created thing, but only by God the Creator, made known through Jesus Christ.” Blaise Pascal

- b. Full people lack nothing. (Acts 2:3-4)
 - Be filled. (Ephesians 5:18)
 - The Spirit-filled Christian life is found in a paradox: cultivating an attitude of perpetual emptiness brings with it a perpetual fullness. Matthew 5:6
 - We can personally experience the presence of God.
 - Power and purification are a result of this fresh wind and fresh fire.

2. Filling precedes overflowing. (Acts 2:5-11)

- a. The curse of Babel was miraculously reversed, bringing clarity into confusion and giving access to the Gospel.
 - Luke connects the 'filling of the Holy Spirit' with the proclamation of the gospel in Acts, (Acts 2:4; 4:8, 31; 9:17; 13:9)
 - This was about the mighty works of God, not the mighty works of men.

- b. The overflowing of the gospel led to the birth of the church.
 - Many hearers got the message.
 - Some hearers did not receive it.

Questions for application:

- What in your life needs emptying so you can be filled?
- Why is it impossible to live the successful Christian life by just trying harder?
- Does your life show that you are filled by God to the point of overflowing into the lives of others?