

MAN IN THE MIRROR BIBLE STUDY  
BIBLICAL MANHOOD - A MAN EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT  
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We are doing a series on Biblical Manhood, and this morning we're going to talk about A Man Empowered by the Holy Spirit. Bible heroes- who they are and what do they have in common? One of the things that the men we admire the most in the Bible have in common is they invariably are full of and have been empowered by the Holy Spirit.

How many of you have seen the movie Spider Man? You're missing a great movie. I've already seen it twice. It's an awesome movie. Actually, I went to see it with my son because he wanted to see it a second time, so that's really the reason I saw it twice, but it is a good movie. On its opening weekend, it became the highest grossing movie in history. It hit \$114 million the first weekend and, in fact, if you look at the second weekend, about \$70 odd million, also would have been one of the top grossing movies if you counted its second week receipts. Phenomenal movie! What is it about this movie that juices people up so much? This little itty, bitty spider comes down and bites this boy, and he's the little nerd, the guy who gets picked on, then they show what happens and what's going on inside of him. They show a DNA strand that has all these little broken pieces to it. Suddenly, because of this spider bite, something begins to happen inside the boy and everything missing in this DNA strand is put in its proper place, and he becomes strong, and perfect, and whole. Then he goes on to become an over comer. It's really a very exciting spiritual analogy when we're going to be talking here this morning about the Holy Spirit. Bible heroes, men of the Bible we like, who are they are what do they have in common?

One of the things that the men we admire the most in the Bible have in common is they invariably are full of the Holy Spirit. They've been empowered by the Holy Spirit. So, that's what we're going to talk about this morning. I am going to give you a little diagram, I suppose. We're going to talk about the Holy Spirit, we want to make sure we mention fruits of the Spirit, and also gifts of the Spirit, then I want us to talk about three issues. One issue is that we leak, then I want to talk about the word flow, and then I want to talk about the word fill - (Not you Phil) "fill." the Holy Spirit.

Jeff Miller asks a very interesting question. He says he looks around at Christianity in our culture and society, and says, "Why is there such little power here?" The question I want us to get at this morning is how can we experience more of God's power?"

Look at with me John: Chapter 14. We want to read Verse 15. What does it mean to be a man with the Holy Spirit? Jesus said, "If you love me, you will obey what I command." Oh, no, obedience - that's a couple of weeks from now. No, it's everywhere. "If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father," Jesus is saying now, "I will ask the Father and He will give you another Counselor." Notice "another Counselor," Jesus is then referring to himself as a Counselor, too. "I will give you another Counselor to be with you forever - the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept Him because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. But you know Him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you." That is very rich in its meaning and implications.

Down to verse 25. "All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you - peace." So the Holy Spirit, Father, Son, Holy Spirit - the Holy Spirit is God, and we have the Holy Spirit. Every believer is baptized into the Holy Spirit. John: 1:33 for example; Acts: 1:5. "Every believer is baptized into the Holy Spirit." Baptized would simply mean every believer receives the Holy Spirit. Every man in this room who has professed faith in Jesus Christ, when he receives Christ, he also receives the Holy Spirit. In fact, J. I. Packer says that the Holy Spirit mediates. He wrote this book, *Keeping Step with the Spirit*. If you want to go any deeper on this, this would be a good book to go into. J. I. Packer says, and this is the key point of his book, "The Holy Spirit mediates the presence and ministry of Jesus." The whole purpose that the Holy Spirit has is to mediate the presence and ministry of Jesus in our lives. That's the whole idea behind that book.

While I'm doing the bibliography that was *Keeping in Step with the Spirit* by Packer, I'll mention also John Stock's book, *Baptism and Fullness*. If I were going to recommend one text for you to read on the Holy Spirit, this would be it. These are both very conservative, evangelical scholars and guys you can depend on, I think, to give you a very sober, conservative analysis of the Holy Spirit.

Now I want you to turn with me to Galatians: Chapter 5. We're doing a little survey work here then we'll get into some applications in a moment. Galatians: Chapter 5, Verse 22. This is, of course, a very well known passage. While you're turning there, let me mention that the Spirit gives gifts, and the Spirit produces fruits. We're not going to talk about these gifts at all this morning really, and we're only going to briefly survey the fruits, but you can find information on the gifts, if you want to, not that everyone has been given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. 1 Corinthians: 12 - the whole chapter is about the gifts that God gives. We've talked about gifts here before, and there are four passages. If someone wants to know what they are, let me know, and I'll tell you the other three.

Galatians: Chapter 5, Verse 22, "But the fruit of the Spirit," this is what the Spirit produces in us, "is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." Now I want to play with you a little bit. Actually I want to play with you a lot. One of our members, who is 82 years old, when asked about why he had such a joyful Christian experience will tell you that he always asks God every day for two things, his peace and his joy. Dan, let me ask you a question. What would you say if I said, "Dan, I really like you a lot, and I want to help you out, so I'm going to let you run all of my companies. Dan, in return for that, I am going to pay you \$1 million per month." I'll probably run out of money real soon but..... "I'm going to pay you \$1 million per month and, Dan, you can live anywhere in the world you want to live. If you want to live in Monaco, fine; Paris, fine; London, fine; Huntsville, Alabama, fine; wherever you want to live. And, Dan, women are yours for the taking. Dan, I'm going to let you have a different woman every month up to a thousand women. A thousand is your limit. And, Dan, any kind of company that you want to start, if you want to build the world's tallest building, that's cool, you can go ahead and do that, and I'll give you all the financing you need for that, no problem. If you want to have the world's largest cattle ranch. If you want to buy the whole state of Texas and convert it, no problem. Whatever you want, it's yours. Will you take it?" "No." This is not set up folks, I promise. What are you nuts? Were you born stupid or are you just having a stupid attack here? Let's think about what I just offered you. Well, it's interesting, what Dan, of course, is thinking about, he's thinking about Solomon, as I talk about this. Whom have I just described? I've described exactly what Solomon lived, and what did he say after he had it all? ----- Futility. Like Jewell sings, can't remember the lyric, I just thought of it. Jewel sings, "They say that money will ruin you, I'd still like to see," or something like that.

Now, what do you suppose if Dan had said, "Yes, I would like all of that." Like 53 million men in America who do not profess faith in Jesus Christ would probably be willing to say it and probably a lot of Christians, too. Let's just suppose that Dan had said "yes." Now, Dan, play along with me here, okay because you weren't willing to do that before? Say, "Yes." Dan, what if I were to tell you that you could have all of that, but in order to receive all of that you would never again be able to experience any of the fruit of the Holy Spirit. Would you be willing to do it? Probably say "no" now. Dan, what if I said you could keep half of the fruit of the Spirit? Let's say you could have love, joy, peace and patience, but you couldn't have kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control? Would you be willing to do it? You still wouldn't be willing to do it, right? Look, what if you could have love, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control, but no peace, no joy, no anything? Just take any one of the fruits of the Spirit and think about it. Can you imagine what it would be like to have \$1 million a month in income and never have any peace - wow? He wants to know where he enters the contest to find out. The rich do not have an advantage over the poor; the poor have an advantage over the rich. You see the poor can still cling to the illusion that money's going to make them happy, right?

Listen to what John Stott says about the Holy Spirit. What we're talking about here are the fruits of the Holy Spirit, and when we have the Holy Spirit, we are open to fresh experiences and encounters with God

on a regular basis. Here's what Stott says, "All Christians can expect fresh experiences of God. Sometimes the Holy Spirit gives an inward witness assuring us that we are, indeed, God's children." You've had this, right? "Sometimes He floods our hearts with such a title wave of His love, that we almost ask him to state his hand lest we be drowned in it. Sometimes our hearts burn within us as Christ opens to us the Scriptures, and we see the Scriptures as we've never seen them before. Sometimes we experience a quickening of our spiritual pull, a leaping of our hearts, a kindling of our love for God and man - a pervading sense of peace and well-being. Who would give that up? Sometimes, in a dignified reverence of public worship, or in a spontaneous fellowship in a home setting, or at the Lord's table, or in private prayer, invisible reality overwhelms us." You've experienced this, right? "Time stands still. We step into a new dimension of reality. We become still and know that God is God. We fall down before Him and worship." That only happens to Christians who have the Holy Spirit. Yes? And you and I would not be willing to take all the money in the world, all of the women in the world, all of achievements in the world in exchange for it.

Now the question is that I want us to ask next is, "Why is it that this is not the regular experience of most Christians this love, this joy, this peace? The little thing I just read in Stott, "Why was there such little power here?" Miller's question. The answer is, we leak. We had this great quiet time this morning. You got filled up with the Holy Ghost, right? Then you started driving to work. What happened? You got cut off in traffic. You lost your temper, right? Then, you were almost where you wanted to be and there was a roadblock. You remember that? Finally, you got to the office and there's that Julia Roberts look-a-like again wearing that tight sweater that she wore last week. Oops, that's two leaks, two leaks right there, baby.....Oooh, I'm really leaking now. Then your boss calls you in and you've been working on a project for about three months, right? Your boss walks in, and he completely dishonors you. He questions the quality of your work, he gives you no recognition for all of the effort you've put into that thing, and you're just really, really ticked off. Then you go on your first sales call of the day and the guy is this arrogant (I won't say what else he is) and now it's not even 10:30 now and what's happening? You're leaking like the Titanic. You were full of the Holy Ghost here a minute ago and now, all of a sudden, you are leaking. Let's see what happens there. When does that thing stop leaking, okay? Is this exactly how it happens? Yes, this is exactly how it happens.

Turn now to Galatians: 5, Verse 17 and it tells us why. "Even though you are filled up with the Holy Spirit, the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want."

What would you say if I told you that I had arrived? Don't laugh. It might be appropriate to laugh a little bit later, but not before I even tell you what I'm going to tell you. Let's just say that I told you, "You know, you guys have been watching me for a long time. You've been probably noticing the changes that have taken place. Well, finally everything fell into place this week. I am here to tell you this morning, Scout's Honor, I am not going to swear on my Bible, Scout's Honor, but I am no longer subject to temptation. It is unbelievable. No longer do I sin. I am now sinless. I have reached that sanctified state where I no longer do things that are wrong. I don't even have bad thoughts, men, much less do bad things. And, men, "that ain't all, thank you Jesus," I am now filled with the love for God for every human being who ever walked the planet of the earth. I just love everybody. I have joy bubbling over. I am just doubling over with joy. I have big bubbles coming out of my mouth sometimes. And peace, oh peace, like a river. I am in a constant state of peace. Patience, you would not believe some of the things that have been happening this week, and I have just - "Praise God." No problems. And kindness, you can ask my wife, I have become the kindest person that you have ever, ever known. And faithful, and gentle; gentle me, gentle Pat. And self-control, I'm absolutely in complete charge of everything. My world is now like a laser beam and nothing escapes my ability to control it.

Now, you've already told me what your answer is, but you would think I was a candidate of the looney bin, right? This is the experience of all Christians. We leak. Look what happens. We keep leaking. This thing

is almost empty, and now what happens? Well, let's take a look and answer the question, "How can we experience more of Christ's power?"

Look at John: Chapter 7, Verse 37. Jesus is speaking. He's at a feast and notice it says that he "said in a Loud voice," which I will not do. "If a man is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him. By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the spirit had not been given." When we believe in Jesus, we receive the Holy Spirit and streams of living water will flow out of us. In other words, the Holy Spirit is how we continue to be filled by a lot of these streams of living water that flow into us. Yes, it's going to leak out, and you know what, if you're a good boy, and you're really are filled with the Spirit, you're going to be also overflowing with good works. So you're going to use some of your Spirit up this way, too. You're going to be (I guess this is the Episcopalian way of doing it), you're going to be spreading your good works. These good works are going to flowing out of you. So you're going to lose the Holy Spirit that way, too. If you're the average Christian, you're losing the Holy Spirit constantly two ways: 1) Your leaking, and 2) Your flowing. What's the solution if you're leaking and you're flowing? It's silly.

The last verse I want you to look up this morning because if I don't make it to the last verse I will be soaking wet. Ephesians: Chapter 5, Verse 18. The Bible makes a distinction between baptism and fullness. Baptism is the receiving of the Holy Spirit. Every Christian has the Holy Spirit. Fullness though, according to every commentator I've read, you can lose your feeling, and I've just shown you how it can happen. The Scripture exhorts us to continue to be filled with the Holy Spirit on a regular basis.

Ephesians: Chapter 5, Verse 18 says this (second sentence). "Instead be filled with the Spirit." "Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery, instead be filled with the Spirit." Now there are three things about this verse here, "be filled," that are significant and worth noting: 1) It's a continuous presence so a way that you would never interpret the verse, he'd never say it this way, but the literal way would be to go on being filled with the Holy Spirit; and 2) It is an imperative. In other words, it is not a suggestion that says, "be filled with the Holy Spirit." It doesn't say it would be a good idea so it is a command for a Christian to be filled with the Holy Spirit; 3) The third thing that most people observe about this is that it is passive. The verb here is being used as a passive verb, so it's not something that we do, it's something we allow the Holy Spirit to do to us. We make ourselves open to the Holy Spirit and then He fills us. We should be doing this on a daily basis, of course.

Now the application. How do you continuously be filled passively, all the time with the Holy Spirit because I'm leaking and I'm flowing? So how do I get filled? It's very interesting. One thing you do, one thing we ought to do, is simply respond to the righteous impulses that we have.

There is a man who used to attend the Friday Morning Bible Study. He became a Christian through this ministry, his wife became a Christian through this ministry, and he is now too old to attend. For whatever reason, I sort of bonded with this man in a personal way, so on Friday mornings, when I leave here, I call him on the way home as kind of my reminder. He's a shut-in, it's encouraging to him, and it's encouraging to me. But let me be honest with you. He's been suffering from some confusion in recent months, and sometimes when I call him, and it's a task. This is not my gift to begin with, not my natural gift. My wife calls everybody all the time. This is not just what I naturally do. I can come and teach as a natural thing because that's one of my gifts, but mercy is not. So calling this man, I enjoy it, but it really has become a burden. I am not just doing it by faith. This morning I walked out of the house, and I was already in the driveway, the car had started moving, and I realized I didn't have my cell phone. My strongest impulse was to not go back and get it. I backed the car out of the garage, and I had a stronger impulse come than the strongest one I'd already had and it said, "Go back and get your phone." At that point, and each of these points that you'll have all day long when you can either leak or flow, and the choice is simple. You obey the Holy Spirit or you leak. Do you flow or do you leak? That's it. That's how the Holy Spirit works.

Let's pray:

Heavenly Father, every man here longs to experience the things we've talked about this morning that are the fruits of your Spirit and the gifts of your Spirit. Lord, I pray that you would use some of these silly, little illustrations here this morning to help rivet the idea that we leak, but we can also flow, and that we need to, on a moment by moment basis and a daily basis, fill ourselves with your Spirit. I ask this in Jesus' name. Amen

/cjb 6/12/02

Bible hero