

Sacred 4-Letter Words: FULL

Study Guide for Small Group Discussion and Personal Application
Lynn Haven UMC – January 24, 2021 – Pastor Craig Carter

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In this sermon series we are looking at four-letter English words that help us live as God intends us to live. Last week we observed that our number one enemy in living the Christian life is SELF. In Luke 9:23 Jesus called his disciples to deny themselves if they are going to follow Him. In reality, the disciples are portrayed in the gospels as really having a difficult time with this – they were completely dominated by self.

Then, following Christ's death and resurrection, something changed dramatically. From the book of Acts onward they are no longer focused on self, but completely and selflessly devoted to the cause of Christ. They also develop a much clearer understanding of God's Word. What happened? On the day of Pentecost forward they were FULL of the Holy Spirit.

And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit... - Acts 2:4a NLT

God's original purpose was for the Holy Spirit to dwell in each person's life. But the sin of SELF evicted the Spirit. Now, in the new creation made possible by Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit comes to fill every believer's life with the power and presence of God.

I pray that out of his glorious riches [God] may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith...that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. – Ephesians 3:16-17a, 19b NIV

Being full of the Holy Spirit is not about quantity – it is about control. We are called to give full control of our lives over to the Holy Spirit, and not give control to other influences.

Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit... - Ephesians 5:18 NLT

When we are filled with the Holy Spirit and become FULL of God, there is...

1) Exuberance

Be filled with the Holy Spirit, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, and making music to the Lord in your hearts. - Ephesians 5:18b-19 NLT

2) Love and Unity

*“Fit in with” each other, because of your common reverence for Christ.
- Ephesians 5:21 JBP*

3) Talkativeness

[They] began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability...about the wonderful things God has done! - Acts 2:4, 11 NLT

*They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.
- Acts 4:31 NIV*

Conclusion

⇒ Being FULL of the Holy Spirit is not about quantity, but about control. How does this statement help you understand what our relationship with the Spirit is supposed to be? Are you holding back parts of your life from the control of the Spirit, reluctant to fully surrender? What is God calling you to do?

⇒ Of the three characteristics of the presence of the Spirit mentioned – Exuberance, Love and Unity, and Talkativeness about God – which one would you like to see more of in your life and why? What might that look like?

⇒ What’s ONE THING do you need to talk to God about today in prayer? Something to surrender control over? Something you want Him to change in you by filling you with His Spirit? Pray about it and share it with a friend or family member.