

On Being Spirit Filled

Second Kings 4:1-7

There is a second, probably more popular interpretation for this passage. It is allegorical, or more accurately, a teaching by type, where one or more elements of the original story (the story) tell us one or more things about our inner life. In it the Bible passage is only a picture of the teaching, and not an authority for it. Also an element of the story may or may not be significant and may or may not share its attributed meaning with other similar stories in the Bible.

We are also taking this opportunity to look at what the Bible teaches about being filled with the Spirit. Whatever the stage of our Christian pilgrimage, living in the fullness of the Holy Spirit is God's everyday provision for His children. Without the fullness of the Spirit of God it is impossible for a Christian to live as God has planned. Do you need to know more of this, God's gracious provision for your life?

First, an Over View of the Work of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit was promised to both Gentile and Jew who are members of His church, implicit in the covenant that God made with Abraham Galatians 3:14, and also by Jesus as He anticipated the implications of His death for His disciples John 14:16 & John 7:39.

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Jesus Christ, the spirit which is of God

These words are taken from Scripture indicate aspects . . . of the Spirit: . . . born, covenant, demonstration, fellowship, firstfruit, fruit, full or fullness, love, mind, ministry, newness, power, promise, provision or supply, sanctification, sword, things, unity or work of the Spirit.

All indicate how varied is the relationship and function as the third member of the Triune God.

The Ninefold Functional Ministry of the Holy Spirit

- Baptism.* A one-off event when the Holy spirit came at Pentecost Acts 1:5.
- Earnest,* deposit or pledge, the ever-present no matter what else may occur, guarantees redemption to glory Ephesians 1:13&14.
- Enduement* or clothing of the believer with the beauty of the nature of Jesus Christ Luke 24:49.
- Fruit,* or the outworking of the Holy Spirit's in working. There are nine such graces Galatians 5:22&23.
- Fulness,* or the controlling influence of the Holy Spirit as we hand our lives over to Him day by day, moment by moment Ephesians 5:18.
- Gift,* or the giving of the Holy Spirit. He was given to the Church at Pentecost, and to every believer when they are born-again into the family of God Ephesians 2:38.
- Gifts-* different to 'the gift.' Abilities given to believers to enable them to

function as a part of the body in the activity allocated to them, to the blessing of others, not personal gratification 1 Corinthians 12. *Sealing,* or a brand of God's ownership. The Holy Spirit resident in the life of every true believer marks them out as His Ephesians 1:13. *Promise* of the Spirit Galatians 3:14 & John 7:39.

Second, See How Our Story Teaches Our Lesson:

The woman was the widow of a prophet. We are not told that she was engaged in prophetic ministry herself. The fullness of the Holy Spirit is for every Christian, not just preachers and missionaries. It is a necessary part of your Christian life. *The woman* was in deep poverty. She had come to the end of her resources. She had done all she could, and her dedication and initiative is to be admired, but not enough. She had come to the end. Often this is when we discover our most desperate needs. However, it does not have to be this way. *She sought the help* of a man of God. Sometimes we cannot figure our what is lacking in our lives and it is a good idea to seek help from someone who is qualified to give it. There is much confusion on this point. Be sure that

you find right counsel because there are many with an imperfect knowledge of these things If we are led astray, it may be a long, long way back.

Her stock take had overlooked the oil. In our immaturity, or business, or our worry, our haste, or our familiarity of life's routines, or our independence of spirit we overlook or perhaps discount the presence of the oil, the Holy Spirit. If you are a Christian He is there. He resides in your life, but may not be significant to you! *Shut the door,* she was told. This occurs for either security or for privacy which is the important point here. The infilling of the Holy Spirit is a matter between the individual and God. It is not a public display, It is a function of our hidden life with God.

The many empty vessels. The Holy Spirit will not fill what is full of something else. Things are spiritual junk food which fill and fatten but do not satisfy. Is hunger for God and leanness of life your problem? If there are things taking the Holy Spirit's place in your life, you may have to empty them out! *Pour out the oil.* If ever there was, this was a demonstration of faith. We need to take God at His word. The oil flowed while there was a need. *The Oil Ceased* only when there was no further opportunity.

Recommended reading: *The Holy Spirit of Promise,* Sanders J Oswald, Marshall Morgan & Scott. Only available secondhand. This study reflects the wording of the NASB.

Welcome **Glen Park Gospel Church**
 Lower Road, Eltham North
 Sundays 10.30 am

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