

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Acts 11:22-24**.
And the news about them reached the ears of the church at Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas off to Antioch. Then when he had come and witnessed the grace of God, he rejoiced and began to encourage them all with resolute heart to remain true to the Lord; for he was a good man, and full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And considerable numbers were brought to the Lord.
- B. Barnabas was a good man, the Scriptures say, and he was full of the HS and faith. These qualities should be that of every Xian.
- C. When the seven "deacons" were chosen, they were also to be full of the Spirit (Ac. 6:3).
"But select from among you, brethren, seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task.
- D. Tonight's lesson takes a closer look at what it means to be "full of the Spirit and full of faith."

I. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS RECEIVED AT BAPTISM.

- A. We begin our life in X with the HS (Gal. 3:3).
Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?
- B. We have been promised the gift of the HS when we become Xians (Ac. 2:38; 5:32).
(Ac 2:38) And Peter said to them, "Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
(Ac 5:32) "And we are witnesses of these things; and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him."
- C. We see that when the regeneration takes place we receive the HS (Titus 3:5).
He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,

II. WHAT IT MEANS TO BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT.

- A. Common sense tells me that to be full of the HS means to be completely under the influence and/or direction of the Spirit (Eph. 5:18). Paul said that we are to be led by the Spirit (Rom. 8:14).
(Eph 5:18) And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit,
(Rom 8:14) For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.
- B. To be under the control of the Spirit would mean a miraculous manifestation of the Spirit and these have ceased (Ac. 8:39; 8:29; 1Cor. 13:8-10).
(Ac 8:29) And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go up and join this chariot."
(Ac 8:39) And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; and the eunuch saw him no more, but went on his way rejoicing.
(1Cor 13:8-10) Love never fails; but if there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done away; if there are tongues, they will cease; if there is knowledge, it will be done away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part; but when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away.
- C. To be under the direction of the HS means to be obedient to the word since the word. And this means being obedient to X (Mt. 28:18; Jn. 16:13-14; 2Tim. 3:16,17).
(Mt 28:18) And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.
(Jn. 16:13-14) "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. "He shall glorify Me; for He shall take of Mine, and shall disclose it to you.
(2Tim 3:16-17) All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.
- D. Therefore, with this instruction we are to walk (live) by the Spirit (Gal. 5:24-26). When we do that the fruit of Spirit will become evident in our lives (Gal. 5:22-23).
(Gal 5:24-26) Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. Let us not become boastful, challenging one another,

envying one another.

(Gal 5:22-23) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

III. WE ARE TO BE OBEDIENT TO THE FAITH.

- A. The term *faith* is sometimes used to refer to the body of doctrine in the NT (Ac. 6:7; 2Cor. 13:5; 1Tim. 4:1).

(Ac 6:7) And the word of God kept on spreading; and the number of the disciples continued to increase greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were becoming obedient to the faith.

(2Cor 13:5) Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you-- unless indeed you fail the test?

(1Tim 4:1) But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons,

- B. But in many cases we see that faith is our own individual commitment before God (Heb. 11:1, 6; Jas. 2:14; 2Pet. 1:5).

(Heb 11:1, 6) Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. **6** And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

(Jas 2:14) What use is it, my brethren, if a man says he has faith, but he has no works? Can that faith save him?

(2Pet 1:5) Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge;

IV. WHAT IT MEANS TO BE FULL OF FAITH.

- A. First, this means that one has completed their initial obedience to X (Jn. 8:24; Mk. 16:16).

(Jn. 8:24) "I said therefore to you, that you shall die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am He, you shall die in your sins."

(Mk 16:16) "He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.

- B. Second, it means to have accompanying works based on faith (Jas. 2:13-17; 4:17).

(Jas 2:13-17) For judgment will be merciless to one who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment. What use is it, my brethren, if a man says he has faith, but he has no works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that? Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself.

(Jas 4:17) Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do, and does not do it, to him it is sin.

- C. Third, it means that our faith will have love (Mt. 17:20; 1Cor. 13:2).

(Mt 17:20) And He said to them, "Because of the littleness of your faith; for truly I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you shall say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it shall move; and nothing shall be impossible to you.

(1Cor 13:2) And if I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.

- D. Fourth, it means that we realize our salvation is by grace through faith (Eph. 2:8-9; Rom. 5:1; 2Cor. 5:6-7).

(Eph 2:8-9) For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast.

(Rom 5:1) Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

(2Cor 5:6-7) Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord--for we walk by faith, not by sight--

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Barnabas did much good for those he came in contact with, because was under the direction of the Spirit and full of faith.
- B. When these qualities are in our lives it matters not of our ability or inability, only our availability!
- C. Let us, in the same way, be people full of the Spirit and faith.
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.