

Hope in Uncertain Times by Nigel Coles Part 10: Filled

If we are to be those seen as carriers of hope, we need to be filled with it first. The good news is the Lord promises to do just that.

Literally several centuries before the birth on earth of Jesus Christ, a little-known prophet called Joel spoke for God saying: 'I will **pour out** my Spirit on all people'.

When we read in Acts 2:2: Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven And two verses later: All of them were **filled** with the Holy Spirit. The Apostle Peter reminds people what Joel had said.

Later: After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all **filled** with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly. Acts 4:31.

The basis on which I'm sharing this message today is my belief every single person watching this short video clip wants to be a carrier of the hope of God to others.

If we are to be carriers of God's Hope, we must be filled up with the Holy Spirit of God.

I'd encourage you to grab a Bible, if you don't have a copy at home, it's so easy to read one if you have access to the internet. Read the first two chapters of the book of Acts in the New Testament and note the dynamic movement and direction of the Holy Spirit of God Himself.

The three verses I've mentioned already highlight this:

Firstly, the Holy Spirit of God, previously manifest only in special places, in special people, in special times now fills wherever, whoever and whenever he chooses.

First, He 'filled the whole house where they were sitting' There were 120 of them, so it was a big house! It was, in my view, most probably the outer courts of the Temple, but we're not certain. We are certain however, it was not the Holy of Holies of the Temple where only the High Priest was previously allowed one day of the year.

Secondly, the Holy Spirit fills people. Again, what is surprising but extra-ordinary is who they are. Initially 120 gathered together (2:4) and then by the end of the day (41) 'about three thousand were added to their number'.

Again, we can be certain only of one thing; these were not all selected for their social status, their human qualifications, or their religious pedigree: they were ordinary people ... like you and (thankfully) me too.

Thirdly, the Holy Spirit overflows out of people. 'they were all **filled** with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly'. Acts 4:31. This period we're reading, flowed from that day of Pentecost, which heralded a new age and a new missional flow of the Holy Spirit, by which I mean outward, from the people of God into the hearts and lives of all who are willing to receive.

I meet a lot of people; most want to receive something from God once they understand God is good and He is for people like them and most people want to do some good in the world and be a blessing to others.

Is that what you want? It's exactly what God wants for you. You see he wants to be a blessing to everyone you meet, and the amazing thing is the primary way he has chosen, in our times, is **through people** like you and me, as we would say 'ordinary people'.

That first group of core disciples who were first told: 'wait in Jerusalem ... were made up of people like us ...

Not chosen for their abilities, or faithfulness, or ...

If there was anything, which marked them out from the rest it was something every single person listening to (or reading!) this Fuelcast will have: **an openness of heart towards God.**

That's all you need.

Remember this: it's Doctor Luke who's the author both of Luke's gospel and also the book of Acts, who's saying this. The word 'filled' is used 50 times in the whole of the NT and exactly half of them by Luke in Luke-Acts.

Filled is not a technical medical term. It fascinates me how God uses a Doctor to report the supernatural. And he uses the ordinary to demonstrate the extra-ordinary.

Will you bring the openness of heart, which says *I wish to receive before God?*

It's all you need.

Please join me in this prayer from your heart, whether for the first time or recognising, as the famous DL Moody once said, *I have been filled, but I leak:*

Lord God. Here I am again. I offer to you my heart, which is as open to you, as I can be. Fill me to overflowing, by your Holy Spirit and surprise me with what happens next.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

To watch the video, go to: <https://www.thefuelcast.com/>

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