

3 - Acts 6:3 - Deacons in the Character of Christ Part 2 - 2020-01-12

Call to Worship: Isaiah 51:10-11

Scripture Reading: Deuteronomy 8:1-6

Sermon: "Deacons in the Character of Christ: Full of the Holy Spirit" Acts 6:3; Luke 4:1-13; 1 Timothy 3:8-9

Benediction: Psalm 20:7

Prelude: Trinity 148 "Comfort, Comfort Ye My People" - Allison

Trinity 634 "Hallelujah! Thine the Glory" - Rita

Trinity 535 "How Good It Is To Thank the Lord" - Anna

Trinity 685 "Tell Me the Story of Jesus" - Anna

Trinity 579 "Be Still, My Soul" - Anna

JRY:

Let the church be comforted in this: There is a man who is utterly full of the Holy Spirit. It is Him we serve. He is He who holds us.

### **The church needs deacons, but must choose as deacons men with the character of Christ.**

That Christ-like character is described for us very briefly in Acts 6:3. When our Lord's apostles instituted the office of deacon, they described the character necessary in deacons in three items; men

1. of good reputation
2. full of the Holy Spirit
3. full of wisdom

To instruct the church on this subject, I plan to give one sermon on each of those three items, teaching you from the bible the character necessary for a man rightly to be elected a deacon in the household of God, which is the church of God.

**The church needs deacons, but must choose as deacons men with the character of Christ; men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit, and full of wisdom. Today we work from that second item: men full of the Holy Spirit**

## I. The Lord Jesus

- A. Luke 4:1 Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness
- B. When the bible says that our Lord Jesus was “full of the Holy Ghost,” what He did first was deny himself food, and resist temptation to sin
  - 1. to be ruled by appetites
  - 2. to seek authority and glory in this world
  - 3. to misuse the scriptures to presume upon God
- C. What He did next was to go to church on the Sabbath day, where He read and taught the bible to the church
  - 1. Luke 4:16 he went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day
  - 2. Luke 4:16-19 and stood up to read the bible
  - 3. Luke 4:20-21 he proclaimed the good news based on what the bible says
  - 4. Luke 4:22 gracious words proceeded out of His mouth

## II. The Men Selected as Deacons in Jerusalem, Acts 6

### A. Stephen

- 1. Acts 6:8 Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and signs
- 2. Acts 6:10 they were not able to resist the wisdom and the Spirit by which he spoke
- 3. Acts 7:55 being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God

### B. Philip

- 1. Acts 8:5-7 Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. (6) And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. (7) For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed.
  - a) he did miracles
  - b) when he preached Christ, multitudes with one accord heeded what he said
- 2. Acts 8:26-29 Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, "Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is desert. (27) So he arose and went. And behold, a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace the queen of the Ethiopians, who had charge of all her treasury, and had come to Jerusalem to worship, (28) was

returning. And sitting in his chariot, he was reading Isaiah the prophet. (29) Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go near and overtake this chariot."

### III. The saints in Ephesus

Ephesians 5:18-21 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, (19) speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, (20) giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, (21) submitting to one another in the fear of God.

A. Note how the matter of being full of the Holy Spirit has changed in the 30 years between Acts 6 and Ephesians 5

1. in the early church in Jerusalem
  - a) he is full of the Holy Spirit apparently by an unusual outpouring of the Spirit upon him
  - b) when he opens his mouth, he is able to speak the truth about Jesus Christ in extraordinary ways
  - c) he is reputed to be able to do miraculous good works, such as healing the sick and driving out demons
2. in the churches throughout the world during the centuries until our Lord Jesus comes back
  - a) he is filled with the Holy Spirit by endeavoring to be so
  - b) when he opens his mouth, he speaks the truth about Jesus Christ in ordinary ways
    - (1) speaking in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs
    - (2) giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ
  - c) he does mundane good works such as
    - (1) submitting to authority
    - (2) loving his wife as his own body

### IV. A man under consideration to be made a deacon

1 Timothy 3:8-12 Likewise must the deacons be grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre; (9) Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience. (10) And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless. (11) Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things. (12) Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well.

A. Note how the matter of being full of the Holy Spirit as shown so perfectly and gloriously in our Lord Jesus Christ is also prescribed for His official servants, the deacons

1. they do not allow themselves overindulgence of the bodily desires
  - a) it is not expected that they fast 40 days and then resist temptation from the devil in person to make themselves some bread
  - b) it is expected that they not be given to much wine
2. they do not live for money, for material possessions
  - a) it is not expected that they resist offers from the devil in person to have all the kingdoms of the world
  - b) it is expected that they not be greedy for ill-gotten gain, for filthy lucre
3. they do not test God by misusing His word
  - a) it is not expected that they know how to answer every way the devil has to mis-use the bible
  - b) but it is expected that they hold the mystery of the faith

B.

- V. Summary: a man who lives not under the control of desires, passions, appetites, so that his life is characterized by sin, but under the control of the Holy Spirit, so that his life is characterized by righteousness

Dates

30 or 33 - Holy Spirit comes at Pentecost

31 or 33 - the 7 selected

62 or 61 - letter to Ephesians

63 - letter to Timothy

**full of the Holy Ghost**

G4134 *pleres*

Luke 4:1 Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost

Acts 6:3 full of the Holy Ghost

Acts 6:5 Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost

Acts 7:55 But he [Stephen], being full of the Holy Ghost

Acts 11:24 For he [Barnabas] was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith

G4137 *pleroo*

Eph 5:18 be filled with the Spirit

Luke 2:40 filled with wisdom

Acts 2:2 it filled all the house

Acts 13:52 the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Ghost

G4130 *pletho*

Luke

1:15 filled with the Holy Ghost

1:41 Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost

1:67 Zacharias was filled with the Holy Ghost

Acts

2:4 they were all filled...

4:8 Peter...

4:31 they were all...

9:17 and be filled with the Holy Ghost

13:9 Paul...

JRY:

full of the Holy Ghost generally, and practical wisdom in particular?

In Jerusalem A.D. 30 or 33, God makes a person to be full of the Holy Ghost, which is seen in extraordinary things like doing miracles, speaking in tongues, prophesying

In Ephesus A.D. 62 or 63, a person strives to be full of the Holy Ghost, which is seen in ordinary things like not being drunk with wine, and with speaking psalms, hymns, spiritual songs, and giving thanks, and not being doubletongued

So it may have been easier to tell in the early church in Jerusalem what men were full of the Holy Ghost than it was to tell decades later in Ephesus.

Paul has written admonition in Ephesians 5:18. If he then needs to write to the same church the next year, about evaluating men as potential deacons, he writes 1 Tim 3:8 "not given to much wine."

### **Luke 4:1 Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost**

Israel

1. made to hunger and thirst, rejected the word of God
2. bowed down to false gods to gain temporal wealth
3. tested God

