

DANGEROUS PRAYERS 3

'Lord, fill me'

WITH WHAT DOES GOD WANT TO FILL YOU? (Luke 24:49, Acts 2:3-4,28, Rom 15:13, Eph 3:19, Phil 1:11, Eph 1:23, 5:18-19, Rom 5:5)

- * The Lord has a heavenly TREASURE CHEST and He longs to FILL YOU with GOOD THINGS.
 - * If you want to live a GODLY, PURPOSEFUL, POWERFUL life, the prayer, Lord FILL me, should never be FAR from your lips.
- *So, what does God want to fill you with? What has He already filled you with? What would you really love Him to fill you with that you don't yet have? Why is the prayer 'Lord, fill me' so vital if you want to live that godly, purposeful, powerful life?*

THE TWIST: Before you can be FILLED, first you'll need to be EMPTIED.

- * God can't fill your life with His POWER, until you've been emptied of your own SELF-SUFFICIENCY.
 - * He can't fill your life with His PEACE, until you've been emptied of urge to MICROMANAGE.
 - * He's not going to be able to fill you with FAITH, until you've dealt with some of that FEAR.
 - * God cannot cover your life with His GLORY, if you're still overly concerned with making sure you get the CREDIT.
- *Does emptying necessarily have to come before filling? How does God do the emptying? If you're really honest, is there anything in you that needs emptying?*
- *Work your way through the four listed above (power, peace, faith, glory) and explain why an emptying has to precede the filling.*

PAUL'S PICTURE (Ephesians 4:17-24)

- * As fresh converts, we begin our Christian lives with BAGGAGE.
- * Like a set of OLD CLOTHES, they need to be TAKEN OFF and replaced with what Paul calls a NEW NATURE. He calls it being RENEWED.
- * DECREASE.

You can't be full of the KINGDOM, if you're already full of the WORLD.

You can't be full of JESUS, if you're already full of YOURSELF.

You won't have room for HIS PURPOSES, if you're overly fixated with YOUR OWN.

You won't prioritise what PLEASES GOD, if you're too busy trying to PLEASE EVERYONE ELSE.

→ *What baggage did you have when you first became a Christian? If you're brutally honest, what baggage have you still not yet dealt with?*

→ *How do we take it off? How do we put it on? (Romans 12:2, James 1:21-25, Colossians 3:1-10) Does the kitchen renovation picture help?*

3 BIBLICAL CASE STUDIES

1. The Rich Young Ruler (Matt 19:16-30)
→ "You could have a relationship with ME, but at the moment you have a CONSUMING relationship with YOUR WEALTH."
2. Samson (Judges 13-16)
→ It wasn't about his HAIR, but his CONSECRATION.
→ When he EMPTIED himself of his LUSTS & DESIRES, he was able to return to INTIMATE relationship with GOD, who was then able to FILL him again with His POWER.
3. Saul of Tarsus
→ So filled with RELIGION that God had to literally KNOCK him off his high HORSE, BLIND his eyes, so he could be EMPTIED of the LETTER of the LAW and FILLED with the SPIRIT of the LAW.
→ *For these three men, the issues were greed, lust and pride. Ever seen that list of three before? How does that triumvirate tend to get in the way of our willingness to pray, 'Lord, empty me,' which in turn blocks our prayer, 'Lord, fill me?'*
→ *"A closed hand God cannot fill." (Louie Giglio) Discuss!*

THE PURPOSE OF INFILLING IS OVERFLOW

- * The Law of Overflow: Whatever you're FULL of is EVENTUALLY going to COME OUT.
 - * God's purpose for you: Out of your HEART should FLOW a RIVER of LIVING WATER (John 7:37-38, Isaiah 12:3, 35:5-7).
- *What overflows out of you? What do people 'get' when they spend time with you? Why? Is that what you'd like them to get? What could you do to change what they get?*
- *What should be the characteristics of that 'river of living water?'*

RESPONSE

What jumped up and down inside of you when the question was asked, What is it that you'd like to be filled with today? Or, What is it you sense you need to be emptied of today? How can your group pray for you?