



PART 1: WHAT ARE YOU FULL OF?

Sermon Notes

Text: Acts 6-7

Introduction:

What you are FULL of will spill out

Luke 6:45 A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.

Mark 7:15, 20-23 “Nothing outside a person can defile them by going into them. Rather, it is what comes out of a person that defiles them”... He went on: “What comes out of a person is what defiles them. For it is from within, out of a person’s heart, that evil thoughts come—sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and defile a person.”

What we need is to be FULL of God. FULL of his presence. FULL of his resources. So that when we’re bumped, He comes pouring out of us.

How do we get FULL of all the right things?

Acts 6:1-7 - The Acts church was growing, but it began to face challenges. A new group of leaders were selected to help oversee church operations. The result was “the word of God spread. The

number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.” (v. 7)

Principle: When FULL people FULFILL their place in the Body, the church is FULL.

The Elements of a FULL life (as seen in the life of Stephen)

Faith, Grace, Wisdom, Power, the Holy Spirit.

How do I get FULL?

1. Look for God encounters outside the box

Acts 6:8-9 - Stephen was so FULL of God’s power that miracles were spilling out of him. Opposition arose, and Stephen responded by giving the longest recorded speech in the New Testament (Acts 7). This shows that he was also FULL of the word of God.

“If you want to live in the fullness of God’s anointing, fill your mouth with His Word.”~ Joyce Meyer

Stephen’s Speech: v. 48 “the Most High does not live in houses built by men.”

2. Cut away the “flesh”

Acts 7:51 “You stiff-necked people! Your hearts and ears are still uncircumcised. You are just like your ancestors: You always resist the Holy Spirit!”

Romans 2:28-29 “A person is not a Jew who is one only outwardly, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical. No, a person is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code.”

“Flesh” that is cut off in circumcision is symbolic of something that is a barrier to God’s Spirit working in our lives.

So what do we need to cut off so that our ears and hearts can be fully devoted to Him?

Conclusion:

8:4 “Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went.”

Life Group Discussion

1. Warm up: What is your pet peeve? How do you react to your pet peeve?
2. Read Acts 6. What stands out in this passage?
 - What challenge was the church facing? What did they do about it? What can our church learn from this challenge?
 - What do we learn about the qualifications and responsibilities of leaders in this passage?
 - Why were the religious leaders so upset with Stephen? Have you ever face persecution for your faith? How did you respond?
3. Read Acts 7. What stands out to you about Stephen’s speech? What are the themes? What’s the “big idea”?
4. How can we be more away of God’s presence “outside the box”? i.e. how can we open ourselves up to experience God every day, rather than just in religious gathering or church buildings?
 - Where, other than in church, have you experienced God’s power and/or presence?
5. What does Stephen mean in Acts 7:51 - “your hearts and ears are still uncircumcised.” How do we “circumcise our hearts and ears”?
6. Pray together:
 - a) Pray that God will make us FULL of faith, grace, wisdom, power and the Holy Spirit.
 - b) Pray for God encounters outside the box.
 - c) Other requests:
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