

The Gospel Polemic

Acts 14:1-7

PART TWO

Introduction

“And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.” Acts 13:52

In order to have *joy* without interference while we speak gospel truth in the face of opposition, we must be *filled with the Holy Spirit*.

- † Peter was “filled with the Holy Spirit” (4:8).
- † Peter, John and the disciples “were all filled with the Holy Spirit” (4:31).
- † Stephen was “full of the Holy Spirit” (7:55).
- † Barnabas was “full of the Holy Spirit” (11:24).
- † Paul was “filled with the Holy Spirit” (13:9).

But how is being “filled with the Spirit” different from being “baptized in” or “sealed with ” or “indwelt by” the Holy Spirit?

The Lord Jesus sent Ananias to Paul so that he could regain his sight and “be filled with the Holy Spirit.” Acts 9:17

But the Spirit was already operating in Paul’s life.

1 Corinthians 12:3

A Christian is “sealed” with the Holy Spirit by God at the moment of salvation:

Ephesians 1:13-14

2 Corinthians 1:21-22

A Christian is “baptized” in the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation:

1 Corinthians 12:13

A Christian is “indwelt” by the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation:

Romans 8:9

Ephesians 5:18

- 1) Christians are commanded to remain filled with the Spirit (Galatians 5:16-17).
- 2) The Christian is to live continually under the influence of the Holy Spirit by allowing the Word of God control his life (Colossians 3:15-17).
- 3) That means, we are to die to ourselves that we may live for Christ alone (Galatians 2:20).

Christians who consistently pursue a Spirit filled life will be used in powerful ways for the cause of Christ.

Paul and Barnabas at Iconium

v1

"Greeks"

"in such way that a great number...believed."

Being compelled to proclaim the gospel to people who may oppose you has a clarifying effect on your mind.

Those who are called by the Holy Spirit to preach will preach boldly with power and great effect.

v2

"unbelieving Jews" literally, 'the Jews who disobeyed.' The verb carries a double meaning.

John 8:31; cp 1 Corinthians 15:1-2

"poisoned their minds against the brothers"

The Jews were willing to set aside their hatred of the Gentiles for their contempt of the apostles.

How did the apostles respond? ...

v3

"they remained for a long time"

Paul and Barnabas knew when to retreat and when to stand firm.

"Speaking boldly for the Lord, who bore witness to the word of his grace"

Acts 13:46

"speaking boldly"

Zero fear of man. Absolutely critical to effective gospel proclamation.

We are made bold to speak for Christ because His Spirit dwells in us.

1 Thessalonians 2:2

"the word of his grace"

This is our evangel in concise form.

"granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands"

What are our *"signs and wonders"* for today?

- 1) Our changed lives (testimonies).
- 2) Our answered prayers.
- 3) Our responses to trials, deprivation, suffering, death, affliction, and persecution.