

The Pursuit of Excellence

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Staying Full

Jeremiah 2:11,13 says, "Hath a nation changed their gods, which are yet no gods? But my people have changed their glory for that which doth not profit...For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountains of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water."

In this passage, God is talking to Israel. However, there is also a message for the Church. God said they committed two evils. One evil was that they forsook God - the God of living waters. The second evil was that they hewed out for themselves cisterns - broken cisterns which could hold no water.

In other words, they exchanged God's glory for that which could not profit which was their own plans and their own way of doing things. We need to learn a lesson from this, and follow God's plan so we can prosper.

Ephesians 3:19 reveals that it is God's will for us to be "filled with all the fullness of God." In the book of Acts, people were "full" of faith, wisdom, joy, and the Holy Spirit (Acts 6:3,5; Acts 13:52).

God wants us to be full reservoirs, not empty cisterns.

We must be determined to know and follow God's New Testament pattern and plan for the Church, not our own ways. It is up to each of us to decide if we will be empty cisterns or full reservoirs.

Believers will not be able to be full reservoirs for God's glory without the anointing of God upon their lives. It is the anointing of the Holy Spirit that will equip you to fulfill God's plan for you and prosper in everything that you do. You must maintain the anointing by continually receiving a fresh anointing.

Psalms 92:10 says, "But my horn shalt thou exalt like the horn of an unicorn: I shall be anointed with fresh oil." How do we receive a fresh anointing from God?

First, we must stay full of the Word of God. Colossians 3:16 says, "Let the word of Christ dwell

in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."

The Word of God is to dwell or live in us. It is to dwell in us "richly" not just a little. You need to soak it up like a sponge until you are so full that if anything touches you, the Word comes out.

The Word is to dwell in us "in all wisdom." We need wisdom to know how to rightly divide the Word so we can apply it correctly in our lives. Some people are full of the Word but they have no wisdom as to how to apply it in its proper context. They misuse and abuse it and make it say things it does not say.

Christians are to be full of the Word and the Spirit.

Secondly, Christians are to be full of the Spirit. Romans 12:11 says, "Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit, serving the Lord." Goodspeed says, "on fire with the Spirit." The Revised Standard Version says, "be aglow with the Spirit." Moffatt says, "maintain the spiritual glow." The Amplified Bible says, "be aglow and burning with the Spirit."

To be fervent in Spirit involves both your spirit and the Holy Spirit. You have something to do with it. You cannot maintain the glow of the Spirit unless you are filled up to overflowing with the Spirit.

Ephesians 5:17, 18 says, "Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit." The will of God is for us to be filled with the Spirit.

Greek scholars tell us it actually translates "be being filled with the Spirit." Paul is saying, "Maintain a constant experience of being filled with the Spirit." It means we have to be anointed with fresh oil (Psalm 92:10).

The Psalmist could not very well be anointed with fresh oil unless he had already been anointed with



Brad's Itinerary:

Xtreme Life Training Center
Willmar, MN - March 9-12, 16-18

Xtreme Passion Youth Rallies
Roseville, MN - March 13
Savage, MN - March 14 PM

Victory Celebration Church
Roseville, MN - March 14 AM

Xtreme Life Church
Great Falls, MT - March 21

AFCM Meetings
Sioux Falls, SD - March 25
Rockport, MO - March 26

New Beginnings Church
Owatonna, MN - March 28

Xtreme Life Training Center
Willmar, MN - March 30-April 1

Xtreme Life Church
Great Falls, MT - April 4, 7

Men's Conference
Paynesville, MN - April 16-18

Xtreme Life Training Center
Willmar, April 19-20

Xtreme Passion Ministry Tour
State of Missouri - April 21-26

Xtreme Life Church
Great Falls, MT - May 2

Xtreme Life Training Center
Willmar, MN - May 4-6

AFCM Meeting
Moorhead, MN - May 7

Word of Faith Family Church
Willmar, MN - May 9 AM
XLTC Graduation - May 9 PM

oil sometime before. There is an initial infilling with the Holy Spirit, but then there should be many refillings of the Spirit or fresh anointings.

We see this pattern in the New Testament. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4). Later, they receive a refilling (Acts 4:23-31). Believers are filled with the Spirit in Ephesus (Acts 19:1-6). Later, Paul writes to this same group of people and tells them to be filled with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18). In Acts 13:48-52, disciples were continually filled with joy and the Holy Spirit. Christians today should follow God's New Testament pattern of staying full of the Holy Spirit.

To stay filled, you must keep speaking.

When believers were initially filled with the Spirit they spoke in tongues (Acts 2:4; Acts 10:44-46; Acts 19:6). The result of being filled with the Spirit is supernatural utterance. To stay filled, you must keep speaking.

This supernatural utterance is not limited just to tongues. In Acts 4:31, they were filled and spoke the Word of God with boldness. You can also speak in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs (Ephesians 5:18, 19). These are given by inspiration of the Holy Spirit at the spur of the moment. They are not learned or rehearsed.

You can speak these songs to yourself, to edify and build yourself up. You can also minister to others, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs (Colossians 3:16). You can minister to the Lord, as well, making melody in your heart to Him and giving thanks (Ephesians 5:19, 20).

We are to stay full speaking to ourselves, others, and the Lord - supernaturally speaking by the unction and anointing of the Holy Spirit.

Water and wine are used in the Bible as types of the Holy Spirit. If a person gets full of wine, he gets drunk. For someone to stay drunk on wine, he would have to keep on drinking. Just because

he initially got drunk, does not mean he is going to be drunk next week, unless he drinks again.

Christians are not to be drunk with wine, but they are to be filled with the Spirit. Just because you were initially filled with the Spirit and spoke with tongues, does not mean you are filled to overflowing today.

Get filled to overflowing in the Spirit.

A drunk keeps drinking - this week, next week, and the week after that. Stay in God's presence and His Word long enough to get a fresh anointing. Get filled to overflowing in the Spirit.

In John 7:37-39, Jesus spoke of rivers of living water flowing out of believers filled with the Spirit. A river needs a constant supply of water to keep it from drying up.

In the process of time, amidst the tests and trials of life, if you do not stay filled with the Word and the Holy Spirit, it is possible to become a dry, empty cistern instead of a full reservoir. If Christians in the early Church needed a refilling, then we need a refilling too.

When you are full of the Word and Spirit, things just look different. The cares of life go away. You are more joyful. Your heart is full of thanksgiving. And people are more attractive. Everything just looks better.

Christians would be friendlier, more peaceful and joyful, experience more of God's power and provision, and accomplish more of His plans and purposes if they would stay full of the Word and the Holy Spirit.



Rev. Bradley and Patricia Brede hold ordination credentials with the Association of Faith Churches and Ministers. Brad Brede Ministries was established after twenty years of successful pastoral ministry.

Brad and Patty have faithfully served as AFCM Regional Directors since 1988. They travel extensively promoting the vision of AFCM, encouraging and equipping pastors, and strengthening churches.

Brad and Patty have established several youth camps beginning in 1994. They founded Xtreme Passion in 2005 and Xtreme Life Training Center in 2007 - ministries devoted to helping teenagers and young adults pursue the purposes of God.

You may become a ministry partner by joining our Par Excellence Club. Please, contact us for details.

The Pursuit of Excellence is published as a ministry of Brad Brede Ministries. Your prayers and financial support are greatly appreciated. If you have been blessed by this issue of The Pursuit of Excellence or desire prayer, we would like to hear from you.

If you desire additional information about Brad Brede Ministries or to receive a list of powerful teaching materials from Rev. Brede, please contact our ministry office.

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