

Title: **Filled with the Holy Spirit**  
Text: **Acts 2:1-13**  
Date: **June 11, 2023**

Find the sermon manuscript to follow along with online at [mercyhillchurch.org](https://mercyhillchurch.org).



## Big Idea

What does it mean to be “filled with the Holy Spirit”? At the bottom, when the Spirit of God comes and fills you, the first thing he does is open your eyes a little wider to the love of God for you in Jesus. He warms your heart with the warmth of God’s heart for you. The gospel comes alive to you. Oh you may have heard it a thousand times. You already know the truths. But, when you are filled with the Holy Spirit, you know it at another level entirely. It’s not just good news out there, it’s good news for you.

What does it mean to be filled with the Holy Spirit? How do we know when it’s happening to us? Is there an essential mark or something by which such an occurrence can be identified? We’ll see it happen time and again with these disciples throughout the book of Acts (Acts 4:8, 31; 7:55; 9:17; 13:9, 52). We know that Paul even commands us to “be filled with the Spirit” (Eph. 5:18). But, again, what does it mean?

### 1. What Does It Mean?

*“[One] pronounced characteristic that always accompanies it is an assurance of the love of God to us in Jesus Christ. This is the most important and remarkable. . . . Now I would say personally that this is the greatest and most essential characteristic of the baptism with the Spirit” (Martin Lloyd Jones, Joy Unspeakable, 89-90).*

#### Text #1: Ephesians 3:14-19

When God pours his Spirit out upon you, it feels as if you are being plunged into an ocean of God’s love—and this ocean has no bottom, no top, no boundary, no shore. It’s endless. In every direction. That’s why there’s somewhat of an irony built into his prayer there. He says: “I pray the Spirit will help you know, that which you can never fully know!” How can the finite creature fully comprehend the never-ending love of an infinite God? He can’t. But the Spirit of God, who

comes from God and dwells with man, somehow he can give us the “strength to comprehend . . . and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge” (vv. 18-19).

#### Text #2: Romans 5:5

To this point, it’s not been particularly clear just what the Spirit illumines for us. Yes, we know, we get a sense of God’s love for us in Jesus, but how and where? Where is the Spirit directing his spotlight, as it were? Mark it: the Spirit of God spotlights the cross of Christ. If it helps you remember it: the cross of Christ is ever in the crosshairs of the Spirit. How do we know that God loves us? Well, Paul tells us plain as day: “Christ died for us” (v. 8). That is how.

#### Text #3: Romans 8:15-17

When the Spirit fills a person, what does he do? What is his primary purpose? His goal is to reveal to us, to convince us, to assure us that we are a child of God, that we are loved by God the Father in Christ—that nothing can separate us from his love. Nothing. Not now. Not ever. This is why the Holy Spirit can be called by Paul here the “Spirit of adoption” (v. 15).

### 2. How Do We Get It?

In weeks past I’ve highlighted some of these things we can do: like read Scripture, devote ourselves to prayer, stuff like this. But this morning I want to close by bringing your attention to something else we can do: we can empty ourselves. Or, in other words, we can surrender and submit ourselves to God. This is drawn from a basic principle that underlies all we’ve been talking about. And it’s simply this: *you can’t be filled with the Holy Spirit if you are already full with something else.* Empty yourself before him, and you are readying yourself to be filled by him. “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven” (Matt. 5:3)!



### Reflection Questions

- Read the three text listed above carefully on your own. Which seems most significant to you right now and why?
- Have you experienced being filled with the Holy Spirit would you say? As you seek God for more, in what ways might you need to empty yourself before him? What are you holding too tightly to that you need to surrender?

W  
E  
L  
C  
O  
M  
E

SCAN TO FILL OUT A

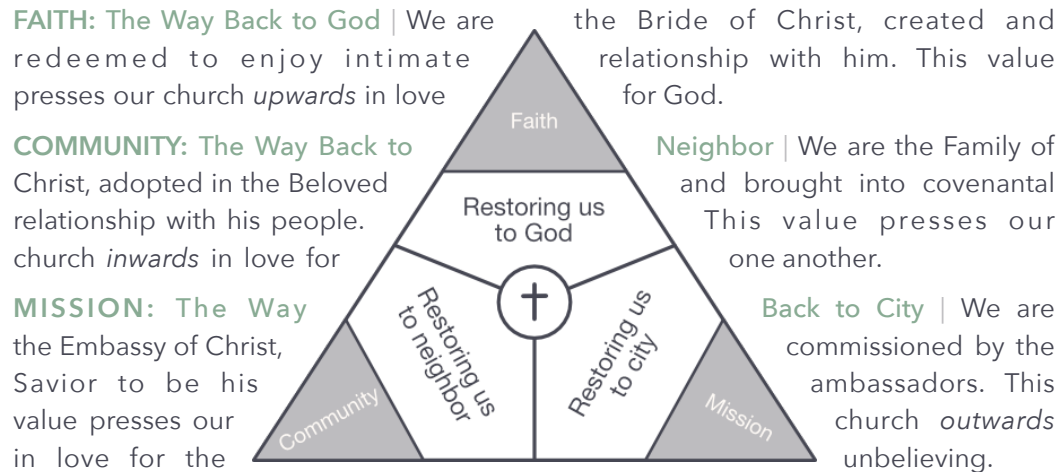


CONNECTION CARD

Give online at [mercyhillchurch.org/give](https://mercyhillchurch.org/give) or text any amount to 84321 and follow the prompts.

## Our Mission & Values

*Mercy Hill Church exists to help restore us to God, neighbor, and city through the good news of Jesus Christ.*



## Your Next Steps

When approaching the Christian faith and life, it can be confusing to know where to even begin. Come find us at the Next Steps Table after the service—it would be our joy to help you along in the journey! And if you're a visitor, we have a special gift bag for you. Don't miss it!



**Mail:** PO Box 23806, San Jose, CA 95153  
**Phone:** (408) 320-7080  
**Email:** [info@mercyhillchurch.org](mailto:info@mercyhillchurch.org)  
**Web:** [mercyhillchurch.org](https://mercyhillchurch.org)



Welcome to Mercy Hill Church.  
We are so glad you've joined us today!

## Announcement Spotlight

### Mercy Hill Kids/Youth - Graduation Celebration!

You are all invited to come celebrate and welcome our incoming 6th graders to Mercy Hill Youth after our worship service TODAY (approx. 11:45am-12:30pm). Come join us as we celebrate our "graduating" 5th graders with sharing, prayer and gifts! Light refreshments will be provided as well. This is open to not just youth and parents but the whole church family!

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at [youth@mercyhillchurch.org](mailto:youth@mercyhillchurch.org).

### All Church Campout - Time Is Running Out!

We are excited to announce that we'll be hosting an All Church Campout at Mount Madonna County Park over the weekend of June 23rd-25th! We have a huge group campsite all to ourselves and lots of options in the park for having fun together. Whether you love to camp or you'd rather still sleep in your own bed, we have something for everyone. Because the park is only a 45 minute drive from south San Jose, people can feel free to come and go as it works with their schedule and preference.

**Option #1: Day-Use:** For those not wanting to camp but still wanting to participate, the Day-Use option is best. You can come in for the day, enjoy activities, meals, etc., and then head home to your warm bed while the rest of us "rough" it : ).

**Option #2: Camp:** This option is for those who want the full camping experience. We have the site for Friday and Saturday nights. You can choose to camp for one or both of these depending upon your availability and desire.

Scan the QR code below for more info and to find a link to sign up.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to us at [info@mercyhillchurch.org](mailto:info@mercyhillchurch.org).

For clickable content and more announcements,



scan this code to head to our Communications Hub!

Or find it online at [mercyhillchurch.org/communications-hub](https://mercyhillchurch.org/communications-hub).