

faculties and powers are progressively delivered from the influences of Satan and sin, and progressively brought under the controlling influences of the Holy Spirit and righteousness.

Some Observations Summarizing the Biblical Teaching on Filling and Fullness

- (1) In the Scriptures various terms are employed to express the ministries of filling and fullness. The Holy Spirit is spoken of as "on," "put on," "resting on," "coming upon," being "poured out on," "baptizing," being "given," and "filling" various persons. Persons are spoken of as being "baptized," being "filled," "receiving," and being "full of" the Spirit.
- (2) References to filling in the Old Testament period would seem to refer to the Spirit's temporary control or possession of the faculties and powers of a person's being, in order to enable that person to accomplish some specific task or service for God. The same definition would seem to apply to references to filling in the New Testament period.
- (3) Specific tasks in the service of God during the Old Testament period appear to cluster about three basic callings -- that of prophet, that of priest, and that of ruler or king (including the judges). Most of the Old Testament references can be classified under one of these three headings.
- (4) In the Old Testament period, we have no record of the believers as a whole, or of all the believers at any one time, experiencing the filling of the Holy Spirit for specific enablement for a particular task or service. There is no record of a general outpouring of the Spirit, even though such an outpouring in the future is predicted in several places.
- (5) The predicted outpouring of the Spirit spoken of in Joel 2:28-32 is that which the Apostle Peter says is fulfilled throughout this entire age, from Pentecost on.
- (6) At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit indiscriminately filled all of the disciples waiting in Jerusalem for the promise of the Father. These numbered about 120 (Acts 1:15).
- (7) It would appear that following Pentecost, as new groups of people (the Samaritans, the Gentiles, the remaining disciples of John the baptizer) were brought to faith in Christ and added to the Church, the Holy Spirit certified each such transaction by filling those people and by enabling them to speak in foreign languages (i.e., foreign to them), thereby providing visible evidence that each such addition was genuine and according to the will of God.