

CHRISTIANS AS A PIPELINE

I. INTRODUCTION

A. The Right Desire

I would like to tell you about my “pipe” philosophy. Many people talk about being filled with the Spirit. They know about Eph.5:18. They just want to be full. People have the right desire but the wrong concept. There are many false concepts about being filled with / by the Spirit.

B. A Wrong Concept

One example of a wrong concept is that many people, especially in the West, equate knowledge and academics with being spiritual. If you have gone to Bible college or seminary and you have a diploma, “Oh, here is a spiritual job for you.” I believe that this is not an accurate measure of spirituality. If education, knowledge and spirituality were the same, America would be the most spiritual country in the world. And I am not sure whether that is so. I believe the idea of being filled up with something is not the ideal picture. Let me share a new concept with you.

C. A New Concept

- 1) Let us say, it is hot; it is summer time. And you are sweaty, and you wish you could take a little swim. So, you look for some water, and there you find a nice place with some water. Oh, you are just so excited. But just when you get to the edge, you see that all the water is covered with a filthy scum of green moss and that kind of stuff. It is full with water. It is plenty big enough for you to swim in, and yet you are totally disappointed.
- 2) What you need is not stationary water, but some running water in a creek, or in a river. Water that is fresh and flowing.
- 3) It is the same way spiritually. There are some people who just want to fill themselves up. They go to one seminar, “Oh, it is fantastic.” They go to another seminar, “What a blessing.” And they are always looking. And they are always wishing. And somehow it seems like they are not satisfied. We believe it is because they are concentrating on themselves being filled with things of God.
- 4) We believe that the filling of the Holy Spirit in our lives ought to be for a purpose other than ourselves. There ought to be something we do with this. It ought to flow to other people, to bless them.

A fresh new mental image of what it means to be filled with the Spirit is:



II. A PIPE — BEING POURED THROUGH

I like the image of a pipe. The idea is that you pour into this end of the pipe, and at the other end the water pours out — watering a garden, or watering animals, or it brings water from your well to the neighbor’s house. It brings blessings. It brings results. Wherever it goes or is used the pipe always pours out. It always blesses. People everywhere are encouraged and blessed. Spiritual fruit results everywhere. But let us look for a moment at the old image.

A. The Old Image — to be filled up

The old image was to be filled up. Perhaps around your home you have had this experience: You walked around the corner of a building where you had not been for a few weeks. "Oooh, yuk! What is that? Something here smells funny." Then you saw a pail, full to the brim and overflowing with green slime and bugs. Now, to me that represents some spiritually "filled" believers. Everybody knows they are full. Everybody knows they are the "best" believers in the church. And you cannot get away from them fast enough. This is sad and this is a wrong mental picture of being filled up. Now let us look at the new image.

B. The New image — being filled for a purpose

I think that the filling of God in our lives is for a purpose. I think that God does not want us to be pails, but pipes. Pipes of blessings to other lives. And because you are pouring out, you are looking to God and crying out, "Fill me up, Fill me up." God is pouring in, and you are pouring out. Pouring in, pouring out, pouring in, pouring out. You are a pipe, an instrument in the hands of God. Brothers and sisters, if you can catch that vision, you will want to fall down on your knees and pray and say "God! Would you make this small pipe bigger so more can be poured in and more can be poured out!" I believe that is similar to the parable of the talents in Matt.25:14-30. If you use your talents more, God will give you more, and you can pour more out. Why be a small garden hose when you can be a large fire hose? Let God pour out His blessings to you.

If you have	love,	—	pour out love.
" "	help,	—	help everywhere.
" "	money,	—	pour out money.
" "	teaching,	—	pour out teaching.
" "	encouragement,	—	pour out encouragement.

Whatever it is you have to pour, pour it out.

III. CONCLUSION

Praying for a Bigger Diameter

Be generous, God loves a generous giver. Be a fat Christian. Pray for a bigger diameter. Ask God to pour in more, so you can pour out more. God says: "Open your mouth wide so that I may fill it." Ps.81:10. So the idea is to pray for a bigger diameter in the pipe. "God, grant me the privilege to be a pipe with a bigger diameter so more can be poured in, and more can be poured out on the other end."

Would you like to pray like that?

Are you ready to ask God to make you a bigger pipe-line?

Are you ready to make that commitment?

Let us kneel down right now, right where you are!

This is your opportunity to ask Jesus to make you a bigger pipeline.

Amen.

Blessings to you, our dear friends!

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