

**Maker Fun Factory: God Is Always With You**  
**July 30, 2017**  
**Lynn Haven UMC**

**Introduction**

“In the last days,” God says, “I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams. In those days I will pour out my Spirit even on my servants—men and women alike—and they will prophesy. And I will cause wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below—blood and fire and clouds of smoke. The sun will become dark, and the moon will turn blood red before that great and glorious day of the Lord arrives. But everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” Acts 2:17-21 (NLT)

The image outlined above is that of the Holy Spirit being imparted into His people’s lives. This became a chronic condition for the early followers of Christ as we’re told numerous times in Acts that they were “filled with the Holy Spirit.” And it was always evident that God’s power and presence was with them. If you and I want to live out the reality that God will always be with us, we must have the Holy Spirit poured out upon us and allow Him to fill our lives.

**Digging Deeper**

**Barriers that prevent us from being filled with the Holy Spirit...**

**Ignorance**

- The Holy Spirit poured into our lives is a gift from God. It is His living presence in our world. We don’t have to do anything to earn it, but we must be dialed in to receive it. Are you cognizant of the Holy Spirit’s guidance of your life? How do we discern between our own thoughts and His leading?
- What are some things the New Testament tells us about the many ways in which the Holy Spirit can direct and shape our lives?

**Unavailability**

- Being filled again and again with the power of the Holy Spirit is a gift given to everyone who shows up to receive it. Do you consider Sunday morning worship a critical time of the week for spiritual connection and renewal? Do you feel strangely “off” when you are unable to be at church for whatever reason?
- We can encounter God at any time and in any place. But there are certain times and places where we are likely to have a “head-on” collision with His Spirit. Aside from Sunday morning worship, where and when do you feel most connected to the Lord?

**Pride**

- Has pride been standing in the way of you and the Holy Spirit? Remember, you can’t be full of the Holy Spirit if you are too full of yourself. Perhaps if we practice humility and receive the in-filling of the Holy Spirit with a child-like faith, we might notice our “I can do it on my own”

attitude slowly start to fade away. Do you struggle with relinquishing control or with putting your full trust in someone else? How has pride gotten in the way of something you felt God calling you to do or say?

### **Fear**

- Do you have fears, hang ups or hurts that might be quenching the fire of the Spirit God placed in you? The Bible tells us over and over again not to worry or be afraid. Yet we are troubled by so much: how we look, what others think, what true discipleship might cost, etc. God has given us His Word to remind us to take heart for He has overcome our every fear with the precious blood of Jesus Christ. Could fear be preventing you from receiving all God has in mind for your life? How can you use the promises found in Scripture to combat your fears?
- Of the 365 times the Bible reminds us not to worry or be afraid, what are some favorite verses that you call upon when fear and anxiety begin to plague your mind? If you don't have any, find one today you can hide in your heart to use as a weapon against the attacks of fear that the enemy will surely use to try to dim your light.

### **Conclusion**

Keeping our eyes fixed on the One who holds it all, showing up to worship Him, putting His agenda before our own, and trusting in Him fully are the keys to breaking down the barriers that prevent us from being filled with His Spirit. Don't allow ignorance, unavailability, pride, fear, or anything else keep you from enjoying life as God intended. Be filled with the Holy Spirit so you can live knowing God is always with you.