



# REVIVE US

## A HEART READY FOR REVIVAL

### Session 4 Personal Study Guide

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Adapted from *Revive Us: A Heart Ready for Revival* by Robby Gallaty

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## PERSONAL STUDY 1

# To Be Filled

**If you had to choose one thing you could not live without, what would it be? Why?**

If we're being honest, we most likely won't give the most obvious answer to the above question: oxygen. We are designed with the inability to survive much less live without oxygen. Truthfully, the first things we think include our spouse, kids, car, job, hobby, house, phone, or coffee. The principle is true of our spiritual life and health. We cannot spiritually live without the Holy Spirit, but sadly, many of us live like we don't need Him the majority of the time.

**In the day-to-day, how much do you rely on the power of the Holy Spirit?**

If Jesus showed up and moved your home tonight, what would be the outcome? Would you be more confident? Would you be bolder in sharing your faith? Would you ask for help more often? If you are a follower of Christ, you have something just as good: the Holy Spirit lives in you.

## GOD GIVES HIS SPIRIT TO THOSE WHO ASK

**What do the following verses teach you about the Holy Spirit?**

**1 Corinthians 12:12-13**

**Romans 8:9**

**Ephesians 1:13**

**Ephesians 5:15-18**

**Luke 11:13**

*You were baptized with the Spirit at salvation.  
You are filled with the Spirit after salvation.*

There is no two-step process to receiving the Holy Spirit. At salvation the Holy Spirit is given as a deposit and indwells in you. Yes, it is also true that you and I desperately need to be filled with the Holy Spirit daily. Even though Holy Spirit lives in you, you still need to be filled by Him (Ephesians 5:18). The work of the Holy Spirit is what brings true revival. We gain a deeper understanding of this means by diving into the original language of the New Testament – Greek. Upon examination, a better translation for “being filled” is “being controlled” by the Spirit.

**BE FILLED IS:**

- An imperative command that requires continuous action.
- For every Christian.
- From God (In other words, you can't fill yourself with God's Spirit – God does it).

**Yesterday's filling is not good for today. Today's filling is not good for tomorrow. What does it look like to continually seek the Spirit? What practices keep us in touch with His power?**

Power never comes before prayer. Acts 1-2 tells us the disciples prayed for ten days, then they were filled with Spirit. Later, when the believers raised their voices to God in prayer together, Acts 4:31 tells us, “the place where they were assembled was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God boldly.”

*Every great movement of God begins by not moving.*

## GOD’S SPIRIT FUELS THOSE WHO ASK

**Has there ever been a time in your life when you would say you were on fire for Jesus? If not, why not? If so, what was different about you then?**

**In Luke 3:16, John the Baptist said that Jesus would “baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.” In Acts 2:3, the Holy Spirit’s coming manifested in a visible reality described as “flames of fire.” What do these descriptions teach us about the Spirit’s filling in our lives?**

Scripture refers to the Holy Spirit’s presence on earth in terms of fire to reveal some important truths to us about His power in our lives. One description of fire is that it’s consuming. Fire emanates light and heat. Light dispels darkness. When set on fire by Jesus, everyone around you is aware of it.

*The Spirit’s fire consumes.*

**If the Spirit's fire consumes, then why do we experience seasons when we would not describe ourselves (nor would others) as being on fire for Jesus?**

**What is the relationship between being on fire for Jesus and surrender?**

Fire burns at different levels of heat. Fire can occur and exist on a small ember or a large flame. With care, it can be contained or it can take off in any direction. The same is true of the Spirit's power in our lives.

The Spirit's fire consumes, but you can choose whether or not to surrender to it. Do you want to be full of self or do you want to be full of the Spirit? It's his power, but it's your choice.

**What do the following verses teach about that choice? What are some ways you can reject the Spirit's consuming power?**

**1 Thessalonians 5:19**

**Ephesians 4:30-31**

**What can you infer about revival from these verses?**

The great news is that the Spirit does not leave us. As a believer in Christ, Ephesians 1:13 says you are “sealed” with the Holy Spirit since He is living inside you. However, the Spirit’s voice can be silenced and His presence drowned out by our action or inaction.

*The Spirit’s fire can be quenched.*

**Based on Ephesians 4:31, are there some choices you’ve made recently that have grieved the Holy Spirit?**

In all honesty the Holy Spirit can be grieved, quenched or drowned out for years and you not be aware of it. Look at the first word of Ephesians 4:31 – *Bitterness*. Bitterness shows itself in anger, annoyance, resentment, jealousy, impatience, and irritability. That means you grieve the Spirit and quench His power in your life when you:

- Hold resentment toward someone for something in the past
- Lose your temper
- Are jealous of another family member, church member, or church
- Allow a political comment to make you lose your cool
- Speak with a condescending attitude toward your spouse
- Yell and fume as someone cuts you off in traffic

And the list goes on

**Read 1 Thessalonians 4:7-8. Why do those choices quench the Spirit’s work in your life?**

The Holy Spirit is holy. Therefore, he can’t work in unclean vessels. This is why we surrender to the Spirit’s work in our lives. He will not adjust to you – you must adjust to Him. The Holy Spirit is bribed, coerced, nor manipulated. He won’t be pushed or prodded.

**Are your words and actions in the day-to-day primarily determined by other people or by the Holy Spirit in you? Why?**

*It doesn't matter who you please  
if you displease God.*

**How can considering the ways we grieve the Holy Spirit be an act of surrender?**

**What would change in your life this week if you began to consider how you could live in step with the Spirit (Galatians 5:16)?**

As we become sensitive to how we're grieving the Holy Spirit, we will have fewer arguments, divorces, addictions, road rages, fights, and church splits – to name a few things. This growth in awareness and love for the Holy Spirit's leading will change how we talk to our spouses, disciple our children, do our work, respond to our parents, drive our cars, and converse with our enemies.

If we worried about how the Holy Spirit of God responds to us as much as we worried about people, we'd talk with a supernatural awareness and power.

*When you start worrying about grieving  
the Holy Spirit, it changes everything.*

## Personal Study 2

# WITHOUT LIMITS

We have the potential for God to do great things through because of the presence of the Holy Spirit living inside of us. Romans 8:11 tells that the same power that raised Jesus from the dead reside within every Christ-follower – yes that means *you*. The same power Jesus had that turned water into wine, multiplied bread and fish to a mass number of people on a hillside, walk on water, and perform miracles of healing is available through the Holy Spirit to you.

It is available to you in all of its fullness, but also, available for you to limit at will. God gives us the option and ability of choice of whether or nor you will live in His power or yours.

**Reread 1 Thessalonians 5:19 and review this week’s previous personal study.  
What has God taught you so far about stifling His Spirit?**

“Don’t stifle the Spirit” is a command. The Greek word for “stifle” can mean put out, extinguish, quench, block, or neglect. We are being commanded by God to never think of neglecting His Spirit’s power and work in our lives.

Stifling the Spirit is similar to putting out a fire and completely destroying all evidence it ever existed to begin with. Think on this: at the very moment of your salvation, God lit a fire in your heart. The intensity of the fire burning in your life is connected to your relationship with the Holy Spirit (2 Timothy 1:6).

## WE QUENCH THE SPIRIT WITH LIMITATIONS ON GOD

**Have you ever heard of something happening in the church and thought, “That’s not of God. There’s no way God would do that”? Explain.**

**Why are we prone to think spiritual movements we hear about are manipulated (at best) or completely false?**

Discernment should be exercised and not blind acceptance of every spiritual movement as genuine revival. John instructs to “test the spirits to see if they are from God” (1 John 4:1) because there is falsehood among us. Moreover, we should not automatically take a disingenuous mindset at spiritual movements either.

**Besides being unequivocally wrong, what is the problem with putting God in a proverbial box when it comes to revival?**

Yes, there is always the possibility that “revival” can be the result of manipulation or a plan produced by human effort. The other side of the coin is the complete reality of a true movement of the Spirit, or revival, that is applicable to Christ-followers that can be missed because our prayers are way too small and we’re not paying attention with the proper discernment.

*We limit God working in our lives by our unbelief.*

**Read the following verses to note a few extraordinary things God has proven He can do:**

- **Exodus 14:21**
- **Numbers 22:28**
- **Joshua 6:2-5, 20**
- **Joshua 10:12-13**

**How do stories like these challenge or encourage your faith?**

**Read Ephesians 3:20-21. What can God do? How does He do those things?**

*God wants to take the ceiling of your  
faith and make it the floor.*

**How, then, should you respond to the truth of Ephesians 3:20-21?**

The Spirit's work in our lives may very well be quenched by our expectations of God. We lack the ability to conceive of all that God can and wants to do. We must not limit God with small prayers. Don't limit God in your life with unbelief. The father of missions, William Carey, said, "Expect great things; attempt great things" in relationship to God.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> William Carey, "Expect Great Things; Attempt Great Things," William Carey University, 1792, <https://www.wmcarey.edu/carey/expect/expect.pdf>.

**What is one big thing you need to believe God will do in your life?**

**What is one big thing you need to believe God will do in the life of your family?**

**What is one big thing you need to believe God will do in the life of your church?**

**Why does surrendering to God involve believing in Him for big things?  
When have you experienced the necessity of that concurrence?**

Paul tells us in Ephesians 3:20 that God can do more than we can ask or imagine and He can certainly do more than we are able. When we drop our feeble plans in surrender to His sovereign authority and unlimited power, room has just been made for God to work outside the box and realm of human standards. In surrendering to God, we invite Him to disrupt our usual ways to show us something unusual.

## WE QUENCH THE SPIRIT WITH FORMALITY AND ROUTINE

**When you go join with your church for times of worship and Bible study, do you expect God to move in your life? Do you anticipate God wills peak to you, or is “church” just another activity on the calendar? Why?**

*Busyness may be the roadblock to God working in your life.*

For many of us, we are so locked in and bound to our schedules that the Spirit doesn't step in because we have not intentionally made time for Him. We have set up our calendars with no room to move or allowance for Him to move. Think about this, how quick are we to answer the phone but hesitant to answer the whisper of the Holy Spirit?

**Read 1 Kings 19:11-13. When Elijah was exhausted from *doing*, what did he need to do to hear from God? How did God choose to speak to Elijah?**

**How are you making room for God to work in your life? What do you need to do to hear and answer God's whisper?**

## WE QUENCH THE SPIRIT BY DISOBEDIENCE

The truth of the matter is that limiting God in unbelief is a sin (Hebrews 3:12). That's not the end of the story though. We can admit our unbelief, hear God's voice, and be led by His Spirit (Mark 9:24). Another hard truth: the busyness of formality and routine that prevents us from hearing God's voice is also a sin (Proverbs 28:9). The good news? We can enter into God's presence in stillness, hear His voice, and be led by His Spirit (Psalm 46:10; 62:5). John 14:15 tells us also that disobedience to God's commands throughout Scripture is a sin. God desires us to admit and acknowledge those sins so His Spirit can lead us in the everlasting way (Psalm 139:23-24).

**Read Proverbs 28:13. What two choices do you have regarding your sins?  
What are the effects of those two choices?**

**Why isn't confession of sins enough? What does it mean to renounce your sins?**

**What sins are you concealing? Why?**

The duration of the gap between convocation of sin by the Spirit and confession of that sin is a gauge of spiritual maturity in your life. Ignoring the conviction of sin by the Spirit is the main way we put out the fire of God in our lives. Danger is near and found when we live in sin and shush the Spirit. The hard truth is you can only silence Him so many times before He stops speaking.

One of the devil's ploys is to convince you that you don't need to hear God's voice. Our adversary wants to trick us into believing we don't need spiritual revival. His goal is to convince us we have our life all under control and we don't need God's help and direction. Truthfully: you *can't*.

The totality of God's invitation is wrapped up in two words: Total. Surrender. There is a truthful saying, modern day proverb, *partial obedience is total disobedience*. Also: *delayed obedience is disobedience any time*. Ask the Holy Spirit, "What are You leading me to do today?" And do it now.

*You cannot surrender to God's movement in  
your life and also reject His revealed will.*

# SILENCE AND SOLITUDE

## WAITING

Isaiah 64:4 tells us that God works for those who will wait on Him. How long would you be willing to wait for God to pour out His Spirit? Are you willing to say, “God I’m not going to move until you move in my life?”

### 20 MINUTES

*As a practical way of waiting on God, increase your time of silence and solitude this week to twenty minutes each day. As you do, try the 95/5 principle. Spend 95% of the time listening and 5% of the time talking. That means you’ll spend nineteen minutes not saying a word. Then, for one minute, respond verbally to God. Use the following two prompts to guide your time.*

**Ninety-five percent** *Recognizing you can’t be filled with God and full of self, invite God to reveal every area you need to surrender to Him.*

**Five percent** *Ask for a filling of His Spirit and to be set on fire for God.*

*Use the blank page provided to record what God reveals to you.*

*The difference between you and the power of God is  
the distance between your knees and the ground.*

