

# The Holy Spirit Brings Christ's Presence

by Zac Poonen

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*The sermon emphasizes the importance of being filled with the Holy Spirit and overcoming lukewarmness to sit with Jesus on his throne.*

**Duration:** 58:59

**Scripture:** Matthew 16:24, John 7:37-38, John 14:16-18, Revelation 3:20-21

**Topics:** "Holy Spirit", "Spiritual Transformation"

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## Description

This sermon emphasizes the importance of being filled with the Holy Spirit, highlighting the need to open every area of our lives to God and allow Him to transform us completely. It discusses the significance of overcoming lukewarmness and being wholeheartedly devoted to God, drawing parallels to marriage and the commitment required. The message stresses the necessity of responding to God's call to surrender all areas of our lives, seek forgiveness, and be willing to pay any price to be filled with the Holy Spirit for a transformed life.

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## Transcript

In Hebrews chapter 8 we read And verse 7 If the first covenant had been faultless, there'd be no need for a second So why did God make two covenants? It was very important that first man should see his need And then as he responds to God to that need, God shows him the way out of it So God gave the law We can say it was like an x-ray to show man's condition In the book of James We are told that looking into the law is like looking at a mirror James 1 verse 23 It's looking at his face in a mirror So the law was like a mirror That shows me the dirt in my face And if James were writing it today, he would say it's like an x-ray that shows what's inside Or like a scan, a scan of our body But the x-ray cannot heal you The scan cannot heal you That will only give you a picture of your inside So the old covenant law was like that It could not deliver anybody from sin But it showed man his condition So just like a doctor does it in two stages First you take a scan I show you what's wrong with you And then he says, now do you want me to do a surgery and remove that problem?

It's going to be painful But it can cure you of your sickness So that's why there are two covenants The first is the law And the law shows us our need, do you want to be free? Somebody says no, I don't want this surgery, it's very painful So somebody says, no, the surgery is very painful So they will say, then do this, die with cancer Those who want to be free The doctor says, I can guarantee you, 100% cure So that is what the new covenant does So even today when God's word is preached There are these two stages

First you see your need That's like a scan And like the doctor says, do you want to go now for surgery?

It's going to be expensive You don't have to do it, if you want to do it, you come So the Lord also says If you see your sin And you acknowledge there is a sin there You can look at a scan and say, no, no, no, I don't agree with this You can look at a scan and say, no, no, no, I don't agree with this Yes, there is something wrong with the machine, I am completely fine There are some people who say the word of God in clear words And then they say, no, it's not like that So the doctor says, no, I am not forcing you to do the surgery But it's no use arguing with the scan or the scanning machine It's better to face up to the truth about yourself And say, Lord, I want to be free from this And the Lord says, it's going to be expensive Not in terms of money There is no money required, it's free

But it's going to be expensive In terms of your self-life That you must allow your self-life to die There are many people who, as I said, understand the foundation but not the superstructure There are many people who don't build the superstructure Their sins are forgiven But they never enter into this new covenant life Where they can overcome Let me turn you to Revelation 3 verse 21 If you read in the book of Revelation To the seven churches Two churches were very good and five were quite bad But to all seven, the Lord gives a promise to the overcomer If you overcome This is your reward So I want you to look at the last church This is the worst Because if you read the letters to the seven churches The two good ones Five bad ones But even among the five bad ones Four of them have got some

good qualities But the fifth one is so bad It doesn't have any good quality The Lord says to the church in Laodicea verse 14 The last part of verse 17 You are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, naked And it is written there that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, naked At the end of verse 17 You are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, naked I want to ask you Answer me honestly Do you believe That the Lord can say to you You are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, naked There are some Christians who believe Jesus can never speak like that He can say, I'm okay That's what the Pharisees said Did Jesus speak these words These are the words of Jesus Not to unbelievers To believers You think everything is okay with you But you are wretched You are miserable, poor, blind, naked You are

wretched, miserable, blind, naked If he says that to unbelievers, we can understand But he says say this to the church And in verse 22 And in verse 22 he says Those who have ears, listen What does the soul say to the church To believers in a church You are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, naked But in the midst of such a bad situation The Lord says in verse 20 If in the midst of you If there is one person who hears my voice If in the midst of such a bad situation If there is one person who hears my voice Listening means He accepts himself That yes Lord, I am wretched, miserable, poor, blind, naked You have shown good things to people But you know my heart I want you to come inside me And bring me a transformation If you hear my voice And open the door Then I will come and eat with you

And your life will change You will not be wretched, miserable, poor, blind, naked And you will see in verse 21 That's what I want you to hear The word of the Lord Is never a message of condemnation He doesn't say You are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, naked Full stop, go home No You are like this But please listen to my voice And open the door Do you hear me saying That you are not the type of person I want you to be You know there are people who say Well, I am not on fire for the Lord But I am not cold What is the word of the Lord for such people It's possible many of you are sitting here like that Yeah, brother Zach, I am not on fire for God I acknowledge that But, I am not cold Something is better than nothing See what the word of the Lord is Verse 16 Because you are not hot or cold

You are lukewarm What will I do I will spit you out of my mouth Now, there are some people who say Jesus can never speak like that Is that Jesus Or is it the devil who is saying that You know many people have a false picture of Jesus That he only says Okay, I will comfort you Don't worry, I don't condemn you Come, I will give you rest And never will say You are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, naked And will never say I will spit you out of my mouth That is another Jesus The bible says The glory of God was seen in Jesus Full of grace and full of truth No, the glory of God Is seen in grace and truth So, it is not just one side He does speak words of comfort Saying I don't condemn you But, he also speaks words of truth Like if you go to a doctor For a scan, he will show you the scan There

is something wrong here And if it is a very serious condition He tells you this is very serious So, what do we learn from verse 16 It is very clear That God wants you to be Wholehearted on fire for him And he says I don't want you to be lukewarm In the christian life Something is not Better than nothing We can read verse 15 like this 16 rather Either everything or nothing But not Just something Not Lukewarm Either hot or cold See, it is like You know the relationship With Jesus and a man Is like a husband and wife Supposing your wife tells you Listen Listen Let's have half and half Half the year I will be with you And half the year I will be with another man You say no Okay, we have a deal then 11 months with you And one month with another man Husband says no Okay, 364 days with you And

only one day with another man How many husbands will accept it, tell me The wife says you mean one day also You won't let me go to be with another man No husband will want that How do you believe that Jesus will want that This is the meaning of Lukewarm Whether it's six months away from Jesus Or one day away from Jesus God says If you want to go like that Go 365 days with another man Either all the year with me Or all the year with somebody else But not half and half This is the meaning of Not hot nor cold I would rather you be cold Rather than half and half lukewarm We can understand that in a man getting married The bible says we are only engaged to Jesus The marriage has not yet taken place The bible says We are engaged to Jesus But we are not married And after the second coming of

Jesus We will be married to Jesus When we think about marriage If the wife says I will stay with you for 6 months And The man says no You have to be with me the whole year And if the girl says No I can't be with you the whole year What will the man say I don't want to get married to you Go with that man the whole time I don't want you to be lukewarm Half here and half there We can understand that in marriage How many of you men would marry a woman like that Are you surprised that Jesus says I don't want one who is half and half But there are many Christians like that There are people who say I am not a very serious Christian It's like a girl saying I am not really seriously committed to you I like to go around with other people too The man will say Go with that man forever Don't come back

to me That's exactly what Jesus is saying If you don't come to me Go with the world and go with them forever Don't come back here We understand that in marriage It is like that But we don't think that Jesus can be like that I want to tell you That the devil is always trying to Give you a wrong picture So that you will finally be with him forever Yeah, the devil wants you to be with him forever And that's why he tells you It's okay It doesn't matter if you are part of the time with Jesus Or at least 70% 70% with Jesus and 30% with the world But Jesus says no Either be hot Or cold Be an overcomer And here is the promise now See the lord gives us warnings And promises The lord gives us warnings And promises Some people just like to listen to the promises They think Jesus is all grace No,

there is truth as well Jesus looked at Peter and said Blessed are you Simon Because my father gave you this revelation Turn to Matthew chapter 16 When Jesus came To a certain place He asked the people

Who do you say that I am Verse 15 He asked his disciples Simon said Simon Peter you are the Christ The son of the living God And see what Jesus says in verse 17 Blessed are you You are a blessed man Simon Because my father revealed this to you Okay, one minute later He says to Peter Verse 23 He said to Peter Get behind me Satan You are a stumbling block to me Is this the same Jesus Who one minute ago said Blessed are you Simon This is the true Jesus Who will say blessed are you And when you are a stumbling block Will say to you get behind me Satan You are a stumbling block to me If you want

to see the real Jesus See it in scripture The devil portrays a false picture of Jesus Either that he is always condemning you That you are good for nothing Or who always says I don't condemn you I don't condemn you He is not like that There is grace and truth So he says I want you to be hot or cold Don't be lukewarm Be faithful to me 365 days of the year Or get out and go somewhere else I don't want a wife who is going to be Half with me and half with somebody else And so he tells us in Revelation 3 Verse 21 If you overcome You will sit with me on my throne Just like I overcame And sat with my father on his throne So I want you to see one simple thing here You overcome Just as I overcame So Jesus was also tempted like us And he overcame And he overcame by the power of the Holy Spirit That

is why in the new covenant The first thing that God did Fill people with the Holy Spirit This is very very important It's not enough Just to have our sins forgiven We must be filled with God's Holy Spirit And many people are confused about this So I want to make it very simple to you So that you can understand You don't have to go to a very emotional meeting And pray and pray and pray and scream To be filled with the Holy Spirit We need to be filled with the Holy Spirit Regularly All the time But I remember when God met with me And filled me with the Holy Spirit The first time It was not in a meeting It was in my home And God met with my wife and filled her with the Holy Spirit She was in her room, I wasn't there God meets with us one on one What happens in a lot of emotional meetings

Where people are screaming and yelling And there is a lot of emotional excitement And they say, I got filled with the Holy Spirit But then there should be a tremendous change in your life It's like putting on the light in a dark room This is being filled with the Holy Spirit You go to a dark room and you put on the light There is a tremendous change And that light gets, as we walk with the Lord Gets brighter and brighter and brighter But you don't have to get that In a meeting with others God can meet with you there God can meet with you there I know a lot of people Where God met with them in their room And the most important thing is You should have that thirst John chapter 7 If you have that thirst God will completely change your life If anyone is thirsty Let him come to me Some people

say, everybody can come to Jesus I say no Jesus said, only those who are thirsty can come What does it mean to be thirsty?

There can be different degrees of thirst Right now, you may say Yeah, I don't mind having a glass of water right now I'm a little thirsty But supposing I tell you Yeah, you can have a glass of water But it costs a hundred lakhs Rupees The cost of one glass of water Is a hundred lakhs rupees Are you thirsty? It's one crore The value, one crore rupees For this glass of water And you say, no thank you I'm not that thirsty It's free or cheap, I can take it But one crore is too much If it's free or cheap I can take it But supposing you've been wandering In a desert for one week And you're dying of thirst now And I offer you a glass of water And I say, you have to give me all your life savings If you want this glass of water And I say, you have to give me all your life savings If you want this glass of water So you'll say, no please give it to me Because I'm dying So at that time All your life savings Will be ready to give To save your life That is the type of thirst Jesus is saying here Lord I'm willing to pay Any price to be filled with your Holy Spirit I'll tell you I've found

very few Christians like that Many Christians You ask them, do you want to be filled with the Holy Spirit Many people say, yes I want to be filled with the Holy Spirit It's like All those who want a piece of cake Come forward All those who want to be filled with the Holy Spirit Come forward They come forward, they get nothing So many meetings, people go forward Somebody lays hands on them What does he get?

Some man puts his empty hand On somebody's head, what does he get? Nothing Don't be deceived When you're desperate When you say, Lord I'm willing to pay any price To be filled with the Holy Spirit I'm willing to give every area of my life To you To tell you You'll be filled with the Holy Spirit within 24 hours I can guarantee that So You read there If anyone hears my voice and opens the door I will come in, we read that So when we pray Lord fill me with the Holy Spirit Think of your heart As a house With say 10 rooms One room we can call the guilt room Where I feel guilty of all the sins I committed in my life And that's the first room we all want The Lord to come in Please I open the door Please remove all the guilt of my past life And the Lord comes in And he's cleansed you He has come in, but you're not filled Because the other 9 rooms are still dark So you look at this house It's got 10 rooms One room the light has come So you ask a question, is there light in that house?

Yeah there's light Is it filled with light? No Has the Spirit of Christ come into that person? Yes His sins are forgiven Is he filled with the Holy Spirit? No Why? Why? Because the other rooms have not been opened So the Lord comes and knocks at another door Can I come into your television room? Can I sit down and see All the programs that you watch on television? You say no Lord, please don't come Because there are some programs I like to watch You may not like to watch So we keep that door room locked And the Lord says, no no, I won't come into If you don't open the door, I won't come Can I come into your library?

The Lord says, to see what all books you read What all magazines you look at What all pictures you see And you say, Lord, don't come there Because I like to read some stories you may not like Okay, the Lord says, I won't come It's another door, can I come into your Finance room? To see how you're earning your money Is it all in righteous ways? And how you're spending it Are you a miser holding on to everything? Are you generous and rich towards God?

And you say, no no Lord, you may discover Certain things about the way I earn my money And spend my money, which I don't want No, I don't want you to come into that room Because of how I earn And so That door is also shut So there are areas like this Maybe an unforgiveness The Lord says, I want you to forgive that person You shut that door, no I cannot Don't ask me to do that Lord, I'll never forgive that He has done so much harm to me He has done so much evil about my children I will never forgive him Okay, the Lord says, I will not enter that room And like that there can be rooms, you know That you keep locked up Or the Lord says Don't you know you hurt that person Don't you think you should go and ask forgiveness from him No no no no You have 101 justifications For why you should not

ask forgiveness Okay And if the Lord sees the slightest Hesitation on your part He will not come in Supposing you knock at somebody's door And he says, it's not very convenient For me to meet you now I think all of us will go away That's how the Lord leaves us And then so many rooms remain dark And you can go to a hundred meetings And pray, Lord fill me with the Holy Spirit And you can get emotionally excited With the songs and all that And you think you are filled with the Spirit You are not There is darkness in 90% of your heart Because you don't want to pay the price Of opening those rooms It's expensive Not in terms of money But you have to give up something That you love so much You remember once Jesus called somebody to follow him And said, you have to give up your money He said, no

that's too much I can't give up all my money What did Jesus say Did he say, okay give 10% now 20% next year Jesus said, goodbye You can go He never went after him I've often thought of that rich young ruler He got the same call that Peter got Or that Matthew got Come, follow me Give up that which you are holding on to Peter dropped everything and came Matthew dropped everything and came You go to Peter and Matthew today And say, what did you lose By giving up all that They are in heaven today And you go and ask them What did you give up Nothing compared to what I got You ask them, Peter, Matthew Do you regret giving up your fishing And your tax collection I'm so glad I responded to Jesus immediately Then you go to that rich young ruler Who the lord told him, give up your money He said, no

I don't know where he is today Maybe he's gone to hell You go and ask him Do you regret the decision you made that day You could have been an apostle But you clung on to something Thinking that will last forever What do you think his answer will be today That day he thought he was a smart guy That he could keep all his money I want to ask all of you My brothers and sisters Do you find that sometimes The lord tells you to give up something To give up a friendship Which is not in his will To go and ask forgiveness from someone Or to forgive someone Or to stop watching some dirty program on television Or something on the computer Or on your phone And you say no Think of that rich young ruler who said no For some years he kept his money But ask him today After 2000 years Do you think you made

the right decision that day He'll have such sorrow Do you remember what Jesus told about a rich man who went to hell And burning in hell he said He told Abraham Please send someone to tell my 5 brothers who are still on earth They are living just like me Tell them if they don't repent They'll come here where I am These are the stories that Jesus said That was not a parable That was a true story Some people think it's a parable But in no parable Did Jesus use the names of living people Like Abraham and Lazarus That is a true story That the moment that man died He went to hell These are stories that Jesus said Not to scare us But to teach us the reality of life after death We can live a spirit filled life If we open every area of our life to the lord If that rich young ruler had said Yes

lord whatever you tell me to give up I'll give up He could have been an apostle So today the lord tells you to give up something Give up that wrong habit I want to fill you with the holy spirit Go and ask forgiveness from that person Forgive that person Don't be such a tight fisted miser Be generous, open your heart I'll fill you with the holy spirit I don't want your money But I want to free you from loving yourself But I want to free you from loving yourself To free you from selfishness If your sins are forgiven I want to say to everyone here That Jesus wants to fill you with his holy spirit I can say that my whole life was changed When god filled me with the holy spirit I would not be the person I am Or have the ministry I have If god did not fill me with the holy spirit Think of what

the disciples were Before the day of Pentecost They had seen Jesus You think if I see the risen Jesus Boy my life will be changed They had seen him after resurrection 8 days later they again saw him after resurrection But they were still sitting inside closed doors Because you can't get rid of fear Just by looking at the risen Jesus Because he wasn't there all the time He would appear Then he'd go away When he was there they'd be happy Then he'd go away 7 days later he'd appear again They'd be happy But when they were filled with the holy spirit It was like having the risen Jesus with them all the time You know how in the gospels Whenever Jesus was there There was no problem There was never a problem That anybody brought to Jesus Which he could not solve I remember taking a Bible study

series on all the Gospels And all the miracles that Jesus did And my title for the series was this There is no problem God cannot solve That is the message I get from all the miracles There is no problem God cannot

solve Not enough food and drink at a wedding Not enough food and drink at a wedding Okay, Jesus can solve it Huge crowd of people No place to buy food for them He can solve that Man possessed with 2000 demons Jesus can solve it Which problem is there in the gospels That Jesus could not solve Storm in the lake He can solve it That's what I see in the gospels That's what the lord wanted to teach his disciples Every problem you face I can solve it If Jesus was not there Then they were full of fear and doubt Do you know what the holy spirit does when he fills us It's not just

speaking in tongues Speaking in tongues is to me A private language That I speak to the lord It is entirely in private Speaking in tongues is to speak to the lord But more important than that Is the presence of Jesus with me So that if I face a problem I can take it to him Just like those disciples Lord there is a storm here Lord there is a shortage of food There is a shortage of food There is a big need 5000 people How to meet the need of these people Everything The lord can solve That is what the holy spirit's presence brings That for me anyway It has been like that Most of my life is Preaching the gospels Gospel means Not just forgiveness but victory over sin Building the church, building the family, everything I say lord Who can do this Who can do this day after day Day after day Year

after year I can't do it But if you are with me And you tell me what to say Then I can go for a thousand years And preach every single day There is nothing that cannot be done If Jesus is with you And that is the whole purpose Of being filled with the holy spirit When you think of all the provocations That you face in one single day In one day Lord can I live one full day Without ever getting angry If you are with me yes Can I live one more day like that Can I live one more day like that And can I go whole year like that Without getting angry And then five years like that Ten years Yes if he is with me If he is not with me Even two three hours will be difficult What about living a whole day Without any anxiety If Jesus is there yes What about living A whole day without any Fear and

without any grumbling Can you live a whole day without any fear If Jesus is there yes That is the purpose of being filled with the holy spirit Many people haven't understood that See John chapter 14 John 14 When he spoke about the coming of the holy spirit John 14 16 Read verse 16 to 18 Slowly and carefully Slowly carefully Read it in your bible What does it mean to have the holy spirit Filling us I will ask the father And he will give you another helper Who will be with you forever Someone who will be with you all the time The holy spirit Now the last part of verse 17 Now he is with you In that day he will be inside you Now he is only with you But in that day he will be in you That is on the day of Pentecost And when that happens Verse 18 I will come to you So the holy spirit coming

inside Jesus is saying it's me coming with you Then You will not be like an orphan Without a father or mother Verse 18 So the fullness of the holy spirit Is to make Jesus With me all the time I sometimes picture that If Jesus is right there Always Wouldn't it be wonderful That is the spirit filled life You husbands and wives How will you talk to each other If you realize that Jesus is standing there Right between you Tell me how will you talk to each other Tell me You know supposing in a house husband and wife are fighting Suppose Husband and wife are fighting Screaming at each other And they hear a knock at the door Everything stops They open the door And some brother comes in All of a sudden Husband and wife are very nice to each other All of a sudden This is a brother Not even Jesus

Imagine if Jesus came in Supposing one day You heard a knock at the door And Jesus was there And he says can i come and stay with you for a few days What will you say Certainly lord And you give him your best room And you give him the best food And you will be so nice to your husband and wife Every day Because Jesus is in the house And really you will be experiencing heaven And after 2-3 days If he says i

am going And he goes away What will you say Now we can relax and be ourselves That proves That Jesus Has never been in your house Or not with you anyway This is why we need to be filled with the holy spirit If a husband and wife are filled with the holy spirit Really Not just once 10 years ago But every day It is like having Jesus And he says i will be with you I long for that I long for

that in my life all the time Not just at home When i proclaim the word I say lord i want you to be there with me Whatever your need is Whatever your problem is In every area of your life And say lord whatever you want me to give up i will give up Spend some time with the lord tonight And say lord show me What are the rooms in my life I am locking up I want to open it all to you I will not close any door In my life to you Whatever you want me to give up i will give up Whatever money i have to return i will return Whoever i am to ask forgiveness from I will immediately call up and ask forgiveness And whoever you want me to forgive i will forgive And show me lord What do you want me to do Which door have i locked Which door have i locked It is open for you now Fill me with the holy spirit

There will be no delay on god's part There will be no delay on god's part Seek the lord tonight I can't fill you with the holy spirit I cannot fill you with the holy spirit John the baptist said i can baptize you in water Go to him Jesus My hands are empty His hands are nail pierced Ask him to put his hands on you My empty hands will do nothing The lord put his nail pierced That's what i used to often pray I said lord Put your nail pierced hands on my head All the time I want to be filled with the spirit Every single day He will do that for you Let's pray Heavenly father Every one of us is a needy person We want to be filled with your holy spirit We want you to fill us with your holy spirit Thank you for hearing us In the name of jesus Amen

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