



SPG SERIES – Study 7 Saturation of the Presence of God

Saturation of the Presence of God (SPG) - Revival

"Revival can be described as saturation with divine presence, God as sovereign, laying hold of people, and sweeping through a community. It is God intervening in a life, church and/or community. A Saturation of the Presence of God: a manifestation of the Holy Spirit that transforms you and the community. Eph. 3:19; 5:18

Saturated by the Presence of God – What would it look like if I were saturated or full of the Spirit (Eph. 5:18) and loved the Lord with all my heart?

It would be the most exciting, peaceful, joyful life possible on earth. Imagine being joyful & peaceful no matter the circumstance: no longer striving for success to please the world, no longer seeking acceptance of many (just my God), no longer being characterized by worry, anxiety and stress, no longer managed by busyness and the activities of the world.

Solomon taught us in Ecclesiastes that pursuing power, influence, wealth, and entertainment to give satisfaction was chasing after the wind and who has ever caught that? He learned this by pursuing human wisdom to its fullest. He had every resource available to test and he tried them to the full, without lasting satisfaction in life. (NIV:)

Eccl 1:14 I have seen all the things that are done under the sun; all of them are meaningless, a chasing after the wind.

Eccl 2:1-11 I thought in my heart, "Come now, I will test you with pleasure to find out what is good." But that also proved to be meaningless. 2 "Laughter," I said, "is foolish. And what does pleasure accomplish?" 3 I tried cheering myself with wine, and embracing folly — my mind still guiding me with wisdom. I wanted to see what was worthwhile for men to do under heaven during the few days of their lives. 4 I undertook great projects: I built houses for myself and planted vineyards. 5 I made gardens and parks and planted all kinds of fruit trees in them. 6 I made reservoirs to water groves of flourishing trees. 7 I bought male and female slaves and had other slaves who were born in my house. I also owned more herds and flocks than anyone in Jerusalem before me. 8 I amassed silver and gold for myself, and the treasure of kings and provinces. I acquired men and women singers, and a harem as well — the delights of the heart of man. 9 I became greater by far than anyone in Jerusalem before me. In all this my wisdom stayed with me. 10 I denied myself nothing my eyes desired; I refused my heart no pleasure. My heart took delight in all my work, and this was the reward for all my labor. 11 Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the sun.

Eccl 2:26 To the man who pleases him, God gives wisdom, knowledge and happiness, but to the sinner he gives the task of gathering and storing up wealth to hand it over to the one who pleases God. This too is meaningless, a chasing after the wind.

Eccl 4:4 And I saw that all labor and all achievement spring from man's envy of his neighbor. This too is meaningless, a chasing after the wind.

Ecc 5:18-20 Then I realized that it is good and proper for a man to eat and drink, and to find satisfaction in his toilsome labor under the sun during the few days of life God has given him — for this is his lot. 19 Moreover, when God gives any man wealth and possessions, and enables him to enjoy them, to accept his lot and be happy in his work — this is a gift of God. 20 He seldom reflects on the days of his life, because God keeps him occupied with gladness of heart.

Reflect on the verses in the book of Ecclesiastes and write down what God reveals to you:

We have such a tendency to try to prove Solomon wrong. We say, “I’ll be happy when I make more money, when I get married or have children, when I’m in the lead, when I have a vacation home, when I retire and have time, etc. We try to answer our need for satisfaction through worldly fulfillment. There is no lasting satisfaction outside the love of God being full and complete in us. This satisfaction can be sought from the world as Solomon did or through our relationship with God, which is a gift from Him.

Ecclesiastes 3:13-14 That everyone may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all his toil — this is the gift of God. 14 I know that everything God does will endure forever; nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it. God does it so that men will revere him. NIV

Ecclesiastes 5:19 Moreover, when God gives any man wealth and possessions, and enables him to enjoy them, to accept his lot and be happy in his work — this is a gift of God. NIV

The gift here is the satisfaction, not just the things God gives us in wealth, possessions & work. Do you have the gift of satisfaction or are you still “toiling” to find satisfaction?

If toiling, why?

Too often joy is defined as happiness/blessing that is realized by earthly attainment or success. This is not joy! Joy is cheerfulness that comes from God and available every day. Wouldn’t it be great if that was what others saw in me? This joy is determined by the Saturation of the Presence of God (SPG), whether I am full of the Spirit!

SPG: dripping, overflowing, no room for anything else in my heart. This causes me to think, feel, act, have power, and be at peace like Jesus. This is God’s intent for me! I make choices, fulfill desires that exhilarate my heart, living life like no other way possible because I am living for Him in His presence!

We frustrate ourselves when we call out to God to fix our lives, provide us with things we want, satisfy our definition of success: spiritually, physically, professionally, emotionally and psychologically. Living in the Presence of God, we desire Him, His purposes, and His ways. God desires fellowship with us (1 John 1:3,4) and will not give us gifts that distract us from being intimate with Him. He desires to bless our lives for now and all eternity! Our identity won't be caught up in where we live, what we drive, how we look, who our friends are, what entertainment we last experienced, or the vacations we've had but rather whether we are experiencing the fullness of God and overflowing with the Spirit.

The enemy is fooling us when he gets us to believe our ways (worldly ways) will produce satisfaction and peace. The enemy's lie is that we are to be "better Christians", but God desires that we be "saturated". Man's plan takes in a little bit of God and includes Him in areas of his life. God's plan is inexplicably far superior to that. He is the center of all and saturates all areas of my life; partnering us with His power, bringing wisdom, fruitfulness, and having eternal impact! God's desire is that we love Him with all affection for Him, yearning for His presence daily. When we love and desire Him in this way, the result is a **saturation of Him in me**, and exhibiting Him in all my life. We will live our life with the fruit of the Spirit being present much of the time and bearing much fruit. (Gal. 5:22; John 15:8)

Unfortunately, we tend to make our spiritual life a duty, determined to fulfill that duty and disciplined to that end. Such a life is without love, adventure, and the power of God. Duty, discipline and determination are not bad things in themselves and need to be in our life as God means them to be: as part of a passionate journey of thirsting and hungering for Him, coming out of the desert experience into the lush adventure He has chosen. As long as the enemy can keep us distracted from trusting Jesus in everything and with everything (Prov. 3:5,6; Luke 14:33); he will keep us from having complete intimacy in a victorious Kingdom life. (1 John 5:4) We will miss the abundant life (John 10:10b) He desires us to have. The enemy keeps us hamstrung with a divided heart, one foot in the world and the other with Christ.

Matt 6:24 "No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money. NIV

The Lord explained that serving two masters doesn't work and that as a result, we forfeit God's abundant life in us and through us.

Is your spiritual life dry and lacking adventure because it is characterized by duty, discipline and determination? What's missing? What are you going to do about this?

Would you like a more adventurous and fulfilling life, finding satisfaction in life as a gift from God?

The choice is ours as to the degree we live the fullness of Christ and His Holy Spirit. Are you experiencing some of what He intended or all of it?

* being somewhat loving or characterized by love

- * having some joy or joy overflowing
- * some peace or peace no matter my circumstance
- * somewhat happy marriage or oneness in marriage
- * some fun times as a family or a purposeful, committed family unity
- * professional success or professionally excellent and powerful for His Kingdom
 - * scattered, miraculous experiences or daily seeing His power active in my life and those He desires to touch through me
- * times of prayer or continual fruitful prayer life
- * some patience or consistent patience because I live His purposes and loving others
- * some goodness when needed or continual goodness that seeps out of my life daily
- * occasional, imperishable fruit or imperishable fruit constantly produced
- * thankfulness when blessed or overflowing thankfulness
- * some hope or overflowing hope because I know He is at work in, for, and through me
- * some faith or a faith that moves mountains
- * some trust in God or trusting everything God says

Without being transformed into His likeness as a result of yearning for SPG, we are left with less than God intends. Reread the above phrases as to God's intention for you.

Eph. 3:16-19 I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, 18 may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, 19 and to know this love that surpasses knowledge — that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. NIV

When I am saturated, I believe what Jesus said in John 14:12: that I can be like Him and do what He did, and even more! How exciting and exhilarating is that? There is nothing to fear here! It is just embracing an adventurous, fully satisfying life that the Lord is offering. Will you desperately seek SPG, not allowing anything to get in the way of this taking place in your life?

Write out Paul's prayer [Ephesians 3:16-19] with your name in it:

Is there a need for SPG?

The need can be observed in a general irreverence for God and His house, a disregard for the Sabbath, a breakdown of the family and marriages, rampant self-love, greed, entitlement thinking, addictions of all kinds, the tyranny of time, preoccupation with success in every way, the lack of compassion for people, and evil closing in all the more on the Body of Christ. Consider what our Lord did as recorded in the book of Acts through the power of the Holy Spirit. God so empowered Peter, Paul & others, that even their cloaks and shadows would bring healing. People came distances to hear them, and God granted healing to the hearts and bodies of the seekers! They were anticipating God's presence and activity. They had faith that great and mighty things would be done. A similar thing took place in America in the 1700-1800's. God showed up in the revivals of Finney, Moody, Wesley, Whitefield and others. Millions were

impacted and came to the Lord. This was predicated by some **faithful people believing and praying for revival with all their hearts!**

SPG (the **Saturation of the Presence of God – Revival**) is taking place now in China, India, Africa, the Muslim world, & Latin America. In Nagaland, (a known head hunting people group, a state in NE India), there has been an amazing spiritual awakening. Today, 95% of the people have become followers of Jesus. (“From Head-hunters To Church Planters, Paul Hattaway, Authentic Press, 2006) Dare we hope for SPG in America today? Will you actively trust God now for a spiritual awakening in our nation? Our city? Your church? Your small group?

It begins with you, daily communing with the Lord. You must engage with Him in a different way. It’s not about fulfilling your old routine. No, it begins with a new expectation that you yearn to enter His presence each and every day and stay in touch throughout it. You are anticipating His Spirit working in, for and through you every day.

To be in His presence and remain there, requires not only being in Him, but also having Him purify your heart (James 4:8) – a heart that has no affection for the world. Such a heart is seen in our choices:

- God’s will vs. my will and focus
- desiring the presence of God vs. success on earth
- Kingdom purposes vs. “busyness activities” not vital to the Kingdom
- audience of one vs. audience of many
- listening and hearing God’s voice
- responding to what He says and wants: precisely/immediately
- hating wrong loves, sin patterns, and/or addictions
- rooting out any and all wounds within me
- turn away from the enemy
- awareness of Kingdom perspective
- touching His very presence within me and asking to be transformed to loving Him with “all my heart”

You can choose this life Kingdom life right now. Your life can be an adventure of living and walking in the Spirit, with His power. Don’t pass up this moment. You can choose right now how you will live each day for the rest of your life – continuous SPG and having no tolerance of sin in your life.

Let’s look at biblical characters filled with the Spirit:

- Jesus “Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert, where 40 days He was tempted by the devil.” Luke 4:1
- Peter and Paul – think of the miraculous things that they did in the book of Acts
- Stephen - When the disciples chose Stephen and 7 others to serve. “Brothers, choose 7 from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom...they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit...now Stephen, a man full of God’s grace and power, did great wonders and miraculous signs among the people...opposition rose...These men began to argue with Stephen, but they could not stand up against his wisdom or the Spirit by whom he spoke...Stephen, and they saw his face was like the face of an angel.” Acts 6:3, 5, 8-10, 15

We see “being filled with the Spirit” impacts all aspects of our lives. We over-simplify & confuse the filling of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit was pervasive in every area of the lives of the preceding biblical characters, indwelling their hearts – the very temple of God! It is from the heart that passions, motives, values, priorities, attitudes & purposes flow. Therefore, when the Holy Spirit indwells us, He impacts “all” of our life. We need complete understanding of what it means to be “filled”; we need to change & expand the way we think about “being filled”!

If you choose being Saturated with the Presence of God (being filled with the Spirit continually), then you will experience many of the things below:

THE BLESSINGS OF SPG

(Eph. 3:19; 5:18)

- having a joy & peace that passes all understanding, no matter my circumstance
- having a love for God that is full of affection & passion for His presence
- having a faith that moves mountains & heals my broken heart as well as others
- having a patience that is long suffering & steadfast without selfish agenda
- having a meekness/humility and mildness that cares for God’s people naturally
- having a goodness that comes from an upright heart
- having a gentleness from moral goodness and integrity
- having self-control [being without excessiveness in thought, action or feeling], experiencing every spiritual blessing
- being in the presence of God continually
- no longer drawn to wrong desires
- in the middle of the will of God continually
- being “in Him” and not sinning
- confessing and repenting immediately upon recognition of sin, remaining in His presence
- bearing store houses of imperishable fruit
- experiencing freedom from sin, without restraint and obligation, but because of my love for Him
- looking for the return of Jesus
- having a burning compassion for the lost
- experiencing holiness often
- being one with the Father and the Son
- being one in my marriage and family
- without responding to sinful cravings within me
- without dissensions from me that could cause divisions/factions
- without jealousy
- without coveting
- without sinful ambition
- without hate
- without deceit
- without participating in factions
- without malice and gossip
- without hypocrisy
- without boasting
- without lusting

- without false witness and slander
- without haughty eyes
- without manipulation and scheming
- without discord from me
- without anxiousness
- without worry and stress
- without lying
- without pride
- loving my enemies
- overflowing in thankfulness
- always in joyful obedience
- full of generosity
- giving grace to others
- compassionate at just the right times
- my righteousness God bubbling over from within me to others
- exhibiting justice at the right moments
- loving others actively and deeply
- finding satisfaction in life, which is a gift from God

All of this is possible in us only through SPG. They are gifts from God.

These statements will characterize us when we love the Lord with all our hearts (with all affection). We will be overflowing with His Spirit. We will have unquenchable passion for our Lord and be like Jesus in every way. We will attract many to the heart of Jesus.

Is this your greatest hope in life?

Is this your greatest hope for your church?

Eph 3:18,19 And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, 18 may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, 19 and to know this love that surpasses knowledge — that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. (NIV)

Eph 5:18 Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. (NIV)

John 14:12 I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. (NIV)

2 Cor. 3:18 And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. (NIV)

Matt 22:37 Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ (NIV)

Rom 8:5 Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. (NIV)

1 John 1:3 We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. (NIV)

1 John 5:21 Dear children, keep away from anything that might take God’s place in your hearts. (NLT)

1 Peter 1:15 But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; 16 for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.” (NIV)

Being Saturated with the Presence of God (SPG) is just another term for being “filled with the Spirit”. Our present understanding of being filled with the Spirit has been numbed down and we are non-responsive to it. The reality of what was meant: being filled is spectacular; having God saturate every aspect of your life so that you have the capacity to be like Jesus. We can not become like Jesus without the Spirit of God being full within us. Too often, as in Galatians 3, we try to attain to being like Jesus...we do not have the capacity outside of being filled with the Spirit. This is a sad commentary on how we minimize the work of the Spirit within us. What would it be like to be in a church where 1/3-1/2 of the church was “filled with the Spirit”?

Why not make a commitment now that you are going to live like this daily? You will not allow life on earth to distract you from being in His presence. Go ahead; make a covenant with God and His plan will bring you joy and hope.

Perhaps your covenant might read like this:

I, _____, desire to experience Your abundant life by seeking Your presence with all my heart and consciously living in Your presence. I will not allow anything to keep me from experiencing Your fullness!

Call someone and share with them about your commitment!

This kind of life begins with you making the choice! If you do, it’s possible that others, even your church will make this choice; one individual at a time.

Considering the Scriptures and statements made, what has God been saying to you?

Begin experiencing the presence of God by doing 3-3-1 daily!

Application - Begin this journey with a simple approach:

1. Daily recognize/record **3** things in which you saw the hand of God involved in your life.
2. Daily identify **3** things that you engaged in that were sinful. Confess and repent right now. (You may refer to the Blessings of SPG list as a stimulant.)
3. Daily identify **1** message God had for you.

Note: whether it's one thing or six things, the number doesn't matter, but it is important that you recognize and acknowledge what God is doing in your life.