

28th August, 2011

BEING FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

TEXTS: *Eph 5:17-18*

INTRODUCTION

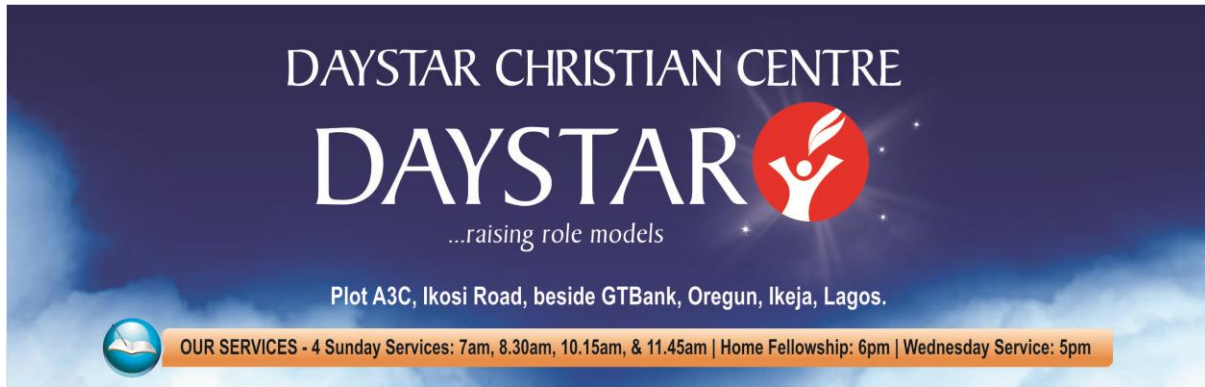
The advent of automobiles has made life a lot easier for mankind. But they cannot work without fuel. And when used for a while, the fuel gets depleted and needs to be refilled. In the same vein, the believer is powerless without the Holy Spirit. And to be effective, he needs to be filled with the Holy Spirit, i.e. to be under the influence of the Spirit of God in your thoughts, words, and actions. The influence is reflected in your attitude towards life, your capacity for vision, faith, and courage. Over time, this influence gets depleted, as we go about our day-to-day activities. Hence there is need to be filled with the Spirit on a daily basis. How to be filled and remain filled with the Holy Spirit will be the focus of today's discussion.

DISCUSSION

1. What are the effects of being drunk with wine? (*Prov 23:29-31, 31:4-7, 20:1*)
With respect to the explanations above, what can you say about being drunk with the Holy Spirit? Discuss.
2. The following are steps we can take towards being filled and remaining filled with the Holy Spirit;
 - Desire the in-filling of the Holy Spirit. 1 Cor. 14:1
 - Spend time in prayers. Acts 4:31
 - Spend time in the presence of the Holy Spirit. 2 Cor. 13:14
 - Spend time reading the Word, listening to messages, and reading anointed books. Col 3:16, 2Tim 3:16
 - Spend time in meditation. Connect with the supernatural in the realm of thought. Joshua 1:8, Psalms 1:1-3
 - Pray in the Spirit always. Jude 1:20

CONCLUSION

The bible compares drunkenness with wine to the in-filling of the Holy Spirit. Just as excessive intake of wine can alter the state of one's consciousness, the in-filling of the Spirit make a believe operate at a supernatural frequency, inspires godly visions and also makes us to experience peace and calmness even in the midst of turbulence. To be filled with the Spirit is not a one-time event. It takes a deep longing and pursuit for us to be filled. Spend time in His presence, let Him fill you, and you will experience supernatural results in our daily life. You will succeed in Jesus' name.



28th August, 2011

TEENS FELLOWSHIP

TOPIC: GETTING “HIGH”

TEXTS: Eph 5:17-20, Acts 8:26-40

INTRODUCTION

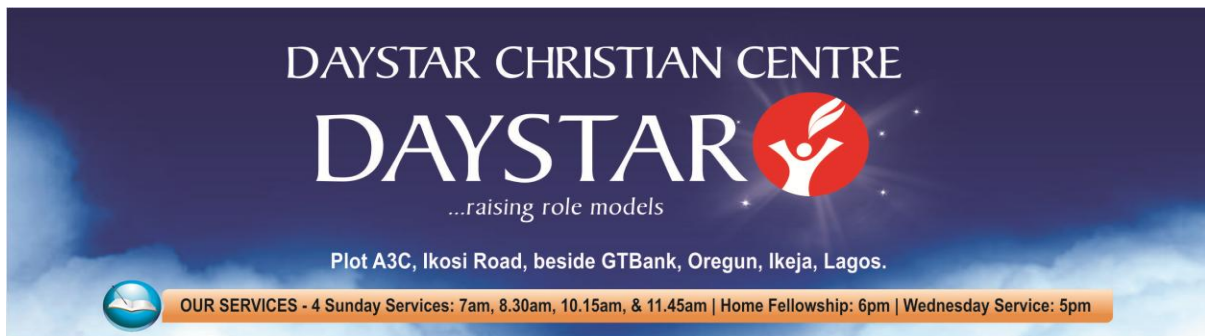
One of the reasons most teens love to party is because they are invited by a group of influential friends and want to have a sense of belonging. There are usually drinks and music in such an environment which causes you to be free and out of control (like an internal force influencing you). Being controlled by the Holy Spirit can bring similar experiences where you function at a frequency you never had before. Let's explain how we can remain in a consistent high frequency in the Holy Spirit.

DISCUSSION

1. Why do people get hooked to drugs or alcohol?
Have you ever felt the presence of the Holy Spirit? Discuss.
David felt the presence of the Holy Spirit and was moved to fight Goliath. Read 1Sam 17.
2. God wants us to get high and do extraordinary things for Him. Here are ways we can connect to such a “high” frequency:
 - Spend time with God;
Talking to God (*Phil 4:6*)
Reading the bible, books (Christian literature) (*1Tim 3:16*)
Listening to messages, Christian music (*Eph 5:19*)
 - Keep godly friends (*1Cor 15:33*)
 - Attend church and Christian programs (*Heb 10:25*)

CONCLUSION

God can do more things through you and for you if you allow Him. Get intimate with the Holy Spirit as you would with your closest friend and see your life on a regular “high”.



28th August, 2011

KIDDIES OUTLINE

TOPIC: MIND WHAT YOU WATCH

TEXTS: *Matt 6:22-23*

INTRODUCTION

Sola woke up at 3am panting. He has had a nightmare again. Someone was chasing him with a gun and that person changed into a monster ready to eat him up. In the morning, he went to his mum and said; "I had a bad dream again". His mum prayed with him. In the afternoon, Sola's friend, Timi, came to play with him and they got talking.

Sola: "I had a bad dream this morning"

Timi: "It is your mind that is dirty. What do you do with your time?"

Sola: "I love watching scary movies and cartoons into the night with uncle Tunde."

Timi: "Sola, stop watching it for a week and read your bible stories and let's see."

After a week, Timi saw Sola and asked about the dreams. Sola reported that it has stopped. His sleep is beautiful and he wakes up most times singing praises.

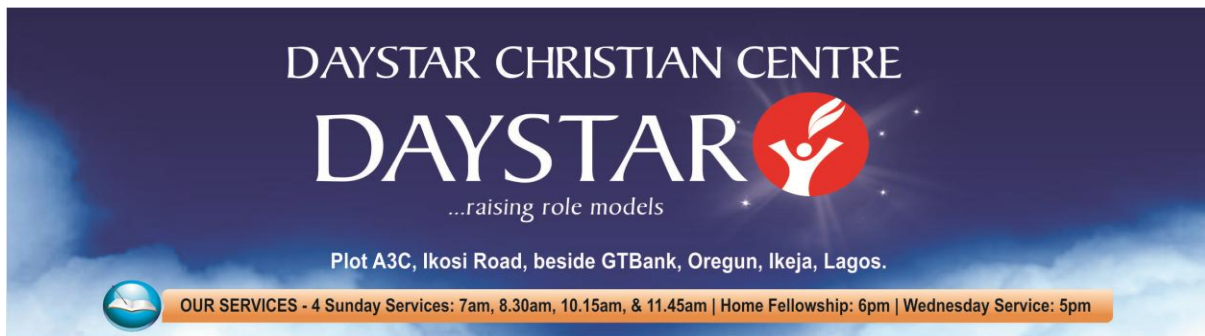
KIDDIES TALKBACK

1. Do you watch television into the night?
What kind of movies do you watch?
Is it good?
What do you gain by such?
2. What do you do with your time?

Aside from all these listed, work to read your bible daily and pray every night before you sleep.

MEMORY VERSE: *Prov 4:23*

"Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it flows the issues of life".



28th August, 2011

BUSINESS OUTLINE

TOPIC: THE SPIRIT FILLED ENTREPRENEUR

TEXT: Eph 5:17-18, Rom. 8: 11

INTRODUCTION

Many Christian entrepreneurs shortchange themselves by consulting the help of the Holy Spirit only as an escape route from business challenges. Those in this habit only enjoy the 'crumbs'. There is a better way to enjoy the leadership of the Holy Spirit, which comes when we pursue a constant fellowship with Him and thirst for His infilling. His presence in our lives is what distinguishes us in our business endeavours and aids us to function in a unique way. In this outline, we shall discuss the impact of the infilling of the Holy Spirit in your business operations.

DISCUSSION

1) Being filled with the Holy Spirit can be likened to being drunk with wine because in both circumstances, you operate under the influence of an external force. In this state, your perspective to issues changes, you become emboldened and your speech and actions are different. However, unlike being drunk with wine, the infilling of the Spirit produces tangible and tremendous results without regrets.

Have you come across people that operate at this level in your experience as a business practitioner? If yes, discuss their key attributes.

2) The business environment is filled with many challenges that often put us under pressure and require us to make swift decisions despite many unknowns. This makes us prone to error in judgment, but the presence of God's Spirit empowers us to function well above our natural abilities. Instead of being overwhelmed by the problem, we become solutions to the challenges confronting us. Below are some of the benefits of being filled with the Holy Spirit.

- It enables us to see circumstances/challenges from God's perspective and gives us unusual insight to problem solving. (**Dan 2:27-30, 45-48; 1 Jn. 2: 20**)
- It alters our emotions positively and frees us from worry and depression that could result from business pressures. (**Isa 61:1-3, 41: 10 – 13; Phil. 4:7**)
- It gives us unusual courage and boldness. (**2 Tim. 1:7; Acts2:4, 12 – 14, 4:29, 31**)
- It gives us assurance of security as we adopt His ideas and obey His instructions. (**Acts 27:22-25; Lk. 2: 25-26**)
- It fills our hearts with love and make us effective witnesses even as we transact our business activities (**Rom. 5:5; Gal. 5: 22 - 25**)

CONCLUSION

Do not let the hustle and bustle around you deny you of the privilege of operating under the influence of the Holy Spirit. Make a deliberate effort to study and meditate on God's word on a daily basis. Also hunger and thirst for an indwelling of His Spirit. Don't seek miracles, pursue a relationship with the Helper and miracles will be common place in your business endeavours, and every challenge before you will be surmounted by His grace. You will success in Jesus name.