

WHAT'S ON THE INSIDE?

"Stephen, full of grace and power." Acts 6:8

When a man squeezes a tube of toothpaste he expects it to be filled with Crest if it bears that label. When God squeezes an ALL IN man He expects him to be filled with the character of **Christ** if he bears His name as a Christian. Whatever fills a man flows from a man especially during the pressures, stresses and trials of life (Jam 1:1-3; Rom 5:3-6). The problem is not what presses a man from the outside but proceeds from the inside! Men are too often filled with **violence** (Gen 6:11), **fear** (Ex 14:13), **rage** (Luke 6:11), **anger** (Luke 4:28), hate (Prov 29:10), **lust** (Matt 5:28), **contempt** (Ps 123:3), **trouble** (Prov 12:21), **idols** (Is 30:27), **chemicals** (Ex 23:33), **bitterness** (Eph 4:31), **jealousy** (Acts 5:17), **confusion** (Rom 15:14) or **themselves** (Rom 1:18-28; Gal 5:19-21; II Tim 3:1-5). In contrast, God's ALL IN men chose hourly to be filled with the Spirit's **love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control, knowledge** of His will, **wisdom, forgiveness, humility, mercy**, and the **fear of God** just to name a few (Gal 5:23-24; Col 1:9-12; Eph 4:32; Prov 9:10). **How has God squeezed you in the past 2 weeks? What came out? What would your wife/kids say came out? If nasty, did you clean it up?**

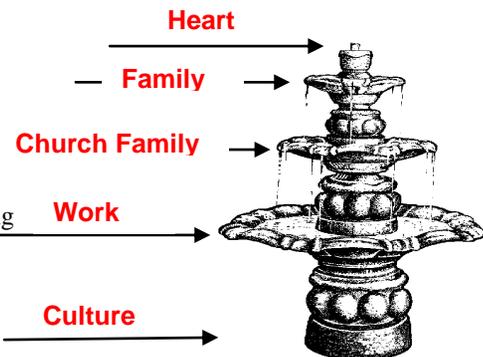


In **Acts 6:1-8** the early church needed a fresh filling of Christ's character in some areas as the leaders were neglecting their time alone with God studying His truth as well as connecting with Him in prayer for the power to apply the truth. As a result, they were making poor decisions and their priorities were out of alignment with God's. Some deep seated favoritism (borderline racism) set in as they cared for the Jewish widows but neglected the Greek (pagan) widows. To correct the problem they once again focused first on the Lord in **Word** and **Prayer** and then chose 7 ALL IN men to care for the widows. What 5 things filled these men chosen to serve as deacons (stir up the dust)? Are these qualities in your life? Example? What was the result in verse 7?

- **SPIRIT (:3,5)**
- **WISDOM (:3)**
- **FAITH (:5)**
- **GRACE (:8)**
- **POWER (:8)**

PRINCIPLE OF OVERFLOW

What would you rather be, a flowing **river** or stagnant **reservoir**? What does Jesus teach in **John 7:37-39**? How about Paul in **Ephesians 5:18-6:20**?



THE CHRIST FOLLOWERS RUN ON EMPTY

Mark 6:34-52

- 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish
- 5,000 men (20,000 people including women & children)
- 800 groups of 25 people
- Who do you feel like "sending away" because you don't have much to give them?
- Each disciple **came to Jesus 66 times** with an empty basket



Mark 8:1-21

- 7 loaves of bread
- 4,000 men (15,000 people including women & children)
- 600 groups of 25 people
- Forgot bread when alone with Jesus in verses 16-17 (**1 Time**)
- Each disciple **came to Jesus 50 times** with an empty basket



TOTAL Each disciple **came to Jesus 117 times** with an empty basket. Who has Jesus asked you to 'feed' but your basket feels empty? *"My God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus."* (Phil 4:19) *"God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed."* (II Cor 9:8) According to **Mark 6:52 and 8:17** what was the disciple's **real problem** which kept them from becoming ALL IN?



Exodus 3:12-14 God is saying, "Whatever you need for Me **TO BE, I AM** already that to you!"



TAG TEAM DISCUSSION

1. Where is God squeezing you and what is coming out?
2. Is there any evidence of a hard heart in sending people away or pridefully not coming to Jesus to fill your basket?
3. Jesus said in **Mark 10:43-45** that a Great Man is a servant to others. How are you becoming a Great Man?