

VESSEL

"Pastor, you often talk about being filled, but what does that feel like and how can I experience it?" The Bible talks about being "filled" with many things, these include; the Holy Spirit, the fullness of God, the glory of God, the fruits of righteousness, joy, wonder and other good things. However, there are far more negative connotations when referring to 'being filled'; which tells us that we can be filled with sinful things as well as godly things. So how can we make sure aren't full of things that are destructive - like anger, violence, bitterness, unforgiveness, envy, etc.? 2 Timothy 2:14-26 deals with this issue clearly and concisely. Verses 20 and 21 state, **"But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also utensils of wood and earthenware, and some for honourable and noble use and some for menial and ignoble use. So whoever cleanses himself from what is ignoble and unclean, who separates himself from contact with contaminating and corrupting influences will then himself be a vessel set apart and useful for honourable and noble purposes, consecrated and profitable to the Master, fit and ready for any good work"** (Amplified).

Herein is the key to being "filled" with the right things! You must see yourself as either a vessel of honour or a vessel of dishonour. But what is the difference? Simply, how clean the vessel is on the inside! When a vessel is cleansed it can be put aside and is useful to the Master. Notice how the emphasis is on preparation - *"fit and ready for any good work."* To be a vessel of honour you must prepare yourself by cleansing yourself! The Master can then "fill" you so that you are ready and equipped to do every good work. The next verse confirms this... **"Pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart."** However, earlier we are given a warning, **"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. But shun profane and idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness and spread"** (verses 15-17).

If you want to be "filled" with all the fullness of God, you must become a vessel of honour. This is entirely up to you – it's your choice! I am convinced that the Master is looking to fill vessels of honour with everything that pertains to life and godliness. He wants to pour out blessings so that we are unable to contain them. All He is asking us to do is to prepare ourselves for a great outpouring of His Spirit. Let's prepare ourselves to honour Him, and in so doing, He will honour us! Let's be diligent to present ourselves approved to God, workers who do not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. Greatness awaits you!