

Being Filled with the Holy Spirit

John, Ephesians, and Galatians

John 14:15¹⁵“If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. ¹⁶“And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; ¹⁷that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you, **and will be in you.**

²⁵“These things I have spoken to you, while abiding with you. ²⁶“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you. ²⁷“Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives, do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.

In our study on Key Roles in the Gospel Mission, we saw in Acts 1:8:

The act of being a witness is a natural outflow of being filled and controlled by the Holy Spirit. If you are filled, you will witness. Look at the immediate and permanent change that happened to the disciples when the Holy Spirit came on them.

A very obvious and important question then is, “How can you be ‘filled’ with the Holy Spirit?”

“The tragedy is that so many are converted and so few Spirit-filled.” – Swindoll

“Even though every believer has the Holy Spirit, it is possible to operate ourselves apart from His control.” – Swindoll

About 18 months ago we had a lesson discussing the work of the Holy Spirit. Let’s first review that:

The Work of the Holy Spirit – John 16:7-15

⁷“But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper shall not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. ⁸“And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin, and righteousness, and judgment; ⁹concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; ¹⁰and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you no longer behold Me; ¹¹and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged. ¹²“I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear *them* now. ¹³“But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. ¹⁴“He shall glorify Me; for He shall take of Mine, and shall

disclose *it* to you. ¹⁵“All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said, that He takes of Mine, and will disclose *it* to you.

I. Holy Spirit’s Work in General

- A. Convict of Sin
- B. Convict of Righteousness
- C. Convict of Judgment
- D. Bear Witness of Christ
- E. Comfort
- F. Glorify Jesus

II. Holy Spirit’s Work before Pentecost

- A. Spoke through Prophets
- B. Empowered Judges
- C. Inspired Writers
- D. Incarnation of Christ

III. Holy Spirit’s Work in the Believer

- A. Convict of Sin, Need for Salvation
- B. Act of Redemption - John 3:5-8
- C. Seal of Redemption - Ephesians 4:30; Romans 8:9, 14
- D. Baptism of Spirit – the act of bringing a new believer into the family of God
- E. Indwelling of Spirit

Rom. 8:9 - However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.

F. Filling of Spirit

“... the baptism of the Spirit isn’t the ‘second blessing.’ It is the *first* blessing. So many people are looking for the second blessing and can’t enjoy the first one.

The *filling* of the Spirit is the second blessing and the twentieth blessing and the one hundredth blessing!” David Jeremiah, God in You

G. Assurance of Salvation

H. Intercession for Believers - Romans 8:26

I. Spiritual Gifts (Power)

J. Fruit of Spirit – An apple is red, sweet, juicy, nutritious, high in fiber, full of energy, and if you plant it, it will produce an apple tree. The Holy Spirit fruit is ... There are lots of things that are red that are not apples. There are lots of people who have patience who are not filled with the Spirit.

K. Resistance to Sin

L. Instruction

M. Power to Witness

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit	The Filling of the Holy Spirit
Happens once	Can happen many times
Past event	Present reality
For all believers	For obedient believers
Never commanded	Commanded
Positional truth	Experiential and practical
Places the believer in the body of Christ	Enables the believer to live for Christ
Holy Spirit resident in the life	Holy Spirit is president of the life
Brings into union	Brings about communion
Identification with Christ	Fellowship with Christ
Instantaneous act of God at salvation	Repeated experience when a believer is fully yielded
Finished work	Improves the product
Greek grammar in 1 Cor. 12:13: Aorist tense = once for all past action	Greek grammar in Eph. 5:18: Present tense = continuous ministry of the Holy Spirit
Single act of placing into body of Christ	Diverse ministry in helping believers to serve the body of Christ

From David Jeremiah, God in You

Evidence of Being Carnally Minded – 1 Cor. 3:1

(From Andrew Murray, The Master’s Indwelling)

^{3:1}And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to babes in Christ. ²I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able *to receive it*. Indeed, even now you are not yet able, ³for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men?

Protracted infancy – Cannot help himself. Always needing help, instead of helping others.

Sin and failure continually

Can be side-by-side with blessing and giftedness (As evidenced by Peter when he cut off Malcus’ ear one minute and then denied Christ three times the next, and Paul in Romans 7:24)

²⁴Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death?

^{2Ti 3:5} Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

Inability to receive spiritual truths

How to be spiritually minded:

You must nail the flesh to His cross.

Would a painter put much work into a painting on a canvas that belonged to someone else and could be taken away at any time?

You cannot achieve spiritual maturity in one day, but you can move from carnal minded to spiritual minded immediately.

Evidence of Being Fleshly Minded – Matt. 16:24-25

(From Andrew Murray, The Master’s Indwelling)

²⁴Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. ²⁵“For whoever wishes to save his life shall lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake shall find it. ²⁶“For what will a man be profited, if he gains the whole world, and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

“How can I get rid of this life of compromise? ... A new life from above, the life of Christ, must take the place of the self-life; then alone can we be conquerors.” Andrew Murray, The Master’s Indwelling

Self-will – Pleasing self. It is at the root of all compromising with the world.

Self-confidence – Trusting self

Self-exaltation – Pride

How to live the Christ-life:

Deny yourself.

Follow Him. Set your heart on Him. Listen to His teachings. Give yourself to Him.

Php 1:21 For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

Ga 2:20 “I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me.

Ga 5:24 Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

Ga 6:14 But may it never be that I should boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

Ro 6:4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. ⁵ For if we have become united with *Him* in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall be also *in the likeness* of His resurrection, ⁶ knowing this, that our old self was crucified with *Him*, that our body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin;

Evidence of Not Being Filled with the Spirit – Gal. 5:16-21

Known and unconfessed sin.

Conducting my life in the energy of the flesh

Walking against God’s will

Lack of forgiveness

In marriage, not submitting to the other’s will and desires.

¹⁹Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality,

²⁰idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, ²¹envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you just as I have forewarned you that those who practice such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

Jealousy, Division, Idolatry, Selfishness, Hatred, Adultery, Anger, Unsubmissive, Drunkenness, Sorcery, Immorality, Debauchery, Complaining, Unkind words, Worry, Ungrateful, Not giving Christ glory.

Evidence of Being Filled with the Spirit – Eph. 5:19-21; Gal. 5:22-23

Nothing interfering with your relationship

Under active control of God’s Spirit

Predetermined “yes” to His direction

Immediate obedience to His promptings

¹⁹speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; ²⁰always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father;

²¹and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.

The fruit of the Spirit

²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Being Filled with the Spirit – Eph. 5:18

Definition:

“To the extent that we understand and claim for ourselves the Holy Spirit’s work, to that extent do we obtain for ourselves the fullness of power in Christian life and service that God has provided for us in Christ.” R. A. Torrey

“Over a hundred years ago, a group of pastors had gathered to make plans for a citywide evangelistic campaign. One of the men suggested that the well-known evangelist D. L. Moody be considered as a possible speaker. The pastors discussed the suggestion and several spoke favorably about Moody. But one young preacher who wasn’t in favor of inviting the evangelist stood up and said with a note of sarcasm, ‘From the way some of you talk, you’d think Mr. Moody had a monopoly on the Holy Spirit.’

The room became quiet. Then another pastor spoke up.

‘No,’ he mused, ‘Mr. Moody doesn’t have a monopoly on the Holy Spirit. But the Holy Spirit does have a monopoly on Mr. Moody!’” – David Jeremiah, God in You

“When you received salvation, you got all of the Spirit there is for you to get. The real question is this: Does the Spirit have all of you?” – David Jeremiah

¹⁸And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit,

<5:18> καὶ μὴ μεθύσκεσθε οἴνω, ἐν ᾧ ἐστὶν ἄσωπία, ἀλλὰ πληροῦσθε ἐν πνεύματι,

4137 πληροο pleroo {play-ro'-o} from 4134; TDNT - 6:286,867; v

AV - fulfil 51, fill 19, be full 7, complete 2, end 2, misc 9; 90

1) to make full, to fill up, i.e. to fill to the full

1a) to cause to abound, to furnish or supply liberally

1a1) I abound, I am liberally supplied

2) to render full, i.e. to complete

2a) to fill to the top: so that nothing shall be wanting to

full measure, fill to the brim

2b) to consummate: a number

2b1) to make complete in every particular, to render perfect

2b2) to carry through to the end, to accomplish, carry out,

(some undertaking)

2c) to carry into effect, bring to realisation, realise

2c1) of matters of duty: to perform, execute

2c2) of sayings, promises, prophecies, to bring to pass,

ratify, accomplish

2c3) to fulfil, i.e. to cause God's will (as made known in the

law) to be obeyed as it should be, and God's promises

(given through the prophets) to receive fulfilment

Imperative – command

We are never commanded to be baptized in the Holy Spirit, be indwelt by the Holy Spirit, be gifted by the Holy Spirit, or be sealed by the Holy Spirit. We are only commanded to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Plural – all

Passive – you can't do it yourself

Present – continuous appropriation

How To Be Filled with the Holy Spirit

If you *want* to be filled with the Holy Spirit, ... (Desire)

John 7:37-39: ³⁷Now on the last day, the great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “**If any man is thirsty**, let him come to Me and drink. ³⁸“He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, ‘From his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.’” ³⁹But **this He spoke of the Spirit**, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet *given*, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

Confess and repent of all known sin (Denounce)

“I don’t ever have to wait very long when I ask the Lord to show me what’s wrong in my life. This is one prayer He seems to answer every time! (Have you ever noticed that?) I pray from my heart, ‘Lord, show me if there’s something I’m doing that isn’t pleasing to You.’ And sometimes the answer comes before I’ve even finished my prayer.” ...

“You may be afraid to ask that question because you don’t want to know the answer! Nevertheless, if you want to be filled with the Spirit, it has to start with confession and denunciation. You have to come to the place where you say, ‘I want God’s Spirit to so control my life that nothing will get in the way of His doing that.’” David Jeremiah, God in You

Commit to say, “yes” every time God calls (Dedicate)

Rom. 12:1-2: ^{12:1}I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship. ²And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

Ask Him to fill you

“This is Your day, Lord. I want to be at Your disposal. I have no idea what the next 24 hours will contain. But before I begin, before I sip my first cup of coffee, and even before I get dressed, I want You to know that from this moment on throughout this day, I’m Yours, Lord. Help me to be a branch that abides in the vine, to lean on You, to draw strength from You, and to have You fill my mind and my thoughts. Take control of my senses so that I am literally filled with Your presence and power and dynamic. I want to be Your tool, Your vessel today. I can’t make it happen. Without You I can accomplish nothing. And so I’m saying, Lord, fill me with Your Spirit today.” Swindoll, Flying Closer to the Flame

Now you're filled with the Spirit!

You will continue in that state as long as you keep saying, "Yes," to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. 1 Thess. 5:19: Do not quench the Spirit;

The instant you withhold obedience you quench the Spirit and are no longer filled. Then you must repeat the process above.

What might it cost?

"They say, 'We're in the church, but we're not going to get fanatical about it. We come on Sunday because it's the respectable thing to do. But we want to leave as many options open to ourselves as we can, for if we were to be filled with the Spirit, there might be some things He wants us to do that we really wouldn't want to do. Or, conversely, there may be some things the Spirit of God tells us *not* to do that we really enjoy.' So we're in this twilight zone of being in the faith—but not walking according to the Spirit of God." David Jeremiah, God in You

Remember, since most Christians are not Spirit-filled, God may well call you to do some things that stand out, even compared to other churchmembers.

What's in it for me?

Complete peace - obvious presence of God

Stop sinning – Gal 5:16

Know God's will

Avoid unnecessary problems and trials

Effective ministry – Spiritual gifts, and Acts 1:8. You **will** be His witness!"

Fulfillment of obedience

Marital harmony – If both are filled with the Spirit, it would be absolutely impossible to be divorced.

Parental confidence