

# How You Can be Filled with the Holy Spirit

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## I. Introduction.

- A. 1<sup>st</sup> Century Christians turned the world upside down through the Holy Spirit, but many Christians today do not know about the Spirit today or how to appropriate its power.
- B. The same power from the 1<sup>st</sup> Century is still available today.
- C. This message can be life changing.

## II. Questions.

### A. Who is the Holy Spirit?

- 1. He is God, the Third Person of the Trinity.
- 2. The Trinity cannot be explained easily, but it is God of one essence in Three Persons.

### B. Why did He come?

- 1. He enables one to know Christ through the new birth. (John 3:3)
- 2. He glorifies Christ in and through us. (John 16:13-14)
- 3. He makes the Word relevant when one needs it.
- 4. The Spirit prays for us. (Romans 8:26-27)
- 5. The Spirit helps our weakness in the same way interceding.
- 6. He bears fruit in our lives. (Galatians 5:22-23)
- 7. He gives us power to witness faithfully. (Acts 1:8)

### C. What does it mean to be filled by the Holy Spirit?

- 1. "Filled with" means controlled and empowered by the Spirit.
  - a. To be filled with the Holy Spirit is to be filled with Christ. Through the Spirit Christ gives the believer the power to live out the high standards of the Christian life.

b. The relationship of the believer to the Spirit is both critical and progressive. It occurs originally apart from emotion, but the fruit of love and joy are formed within us.

2. Bearing fruit is the natural way of being a disciple. It validates one's relationship to Christ. (John 15:8)

3. There is an important balance between the Spirit of God and the Word of God. The results are very much the same. The Word and the Spirit are linked together in the believer's experience. (Ephesians 5:8, Colossians 3:16)

4. Obedience expresses the beauty of Christ and the fruit of the Spirit.

5. The Spirit filled life is an abundant life. (John 7)

D. Why is the average Christian not filled with the Holy Spirit?

1. Christians are not filled because of a lack of know-how.

a. If carnal a Christian knew the power of the Holy Spirit, then he would no longer be carnal, the speaker is convinced.

b. One can own the gift of the Christian life and not fully possess it.

2. Many are simply afraid of God and do not trust Him because of a lack of faith.

a. God is a loving heavenly Father completely worthy of our trust.

b. God always gives more than He takes away.

c. God's perfect love eliminates fear. (1 John 4:18)

E. How can one be filled by the Holy Spirit.

1. In the same way that we became a Christian—by faith. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

2. We walk by faith. (Colossians 2:6)

3. We receive the promise of the Spirit by faith. (Galatians 4:13)

4. Everything we receive from God we do by faith.

5. Ways to assure the filling: you must really desire the Spirit, you must surrender your life according to Christ's Word (Romans 12:1-2), and you must confess any sins that hinder us. (1 John 1:9)

6. Once having received Christ, one does not have to receive Him again. The indwelling and baptism of the Spirit are a onetime experience. The believer is to be continually filled or empowered by the Holy Spirit. (Ephesians 5:18)

7. Two important words:

a. We are commanded to be filled by the Spirit. (Ephesians 5)

b. We have assurance through the promises of God. We can trust God to fill us since He has commanded that we be filled. (1 John 5:14-15)

8. The Spirit is not given so that we might have a highly emotional experience.

9. Being filled by the Spirit is a way of life. The primary purpose of the filling is to be enabled to live holy lives and receive empowerment for witness.

### **Application questions**

1. What is required in order to be filled with the Holy Spirit? What does this mean?

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2. How is the Word likened to the Third Person of the Trinity? Explain.

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3. Are you being filled by the Holy Spirit for witness and obedience? What sins might you need to confess? How can you pass this message on to other believers?

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