

The Spirit-Filled Christian

Pastor Jerry Lawson – Daystar 2.22.04

Eph 5:18 NKJV

And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit.

Introduction:

- A. Let's try an experiment based on historical events.
 - 1. What do you think of when I say these things?
 - 2. Death of Princess Diana, WMD in Iraq, Assassination of JFK.
- B. If the experiment worked, these items produced questions.
 - 1. What caused Diana's death?
 - 2. Where are the WMD's in Iraq?
 - 3. Who killed JFK?
- C. Let me offer another subject that will bring about questions in your mind: being filled with the Spirit.
 - 1. We want a Spirit-filled church.
 - 2. The church is people – we need Spirit-filled people.
- D. But what does that mean?
 - 1. Should I be filled with the Spirit?
 - 2. What are the benefits of being filled with the Spirit?
- E. God is the same yesterday, today and forever.
 - 1. In spite of how our culture (church, society, tradition) changes, God stays the same.
 - 2. His Word never changes.

F. For the basis of this study we will abandon cultural norms & seek only to search the Scriptures.

1. One question you need to settle in your heart:
2. *“Is it better to obey God or man?”*
3. I’ve decided to obey God no matter what the costs!!!

I. What Does It Mean To Be “Full of the Spirit”?

A. Not the same as being “baptized” by the Spirit – baptism makes you a part of the body of Christ.

1 Cor 12:13 NIV

13 For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body...and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

Rom 8:9 NIV

if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.

1. It is the role of the Holy Spirit to “baptize” us into the body of Christ.
2. Baptism into the Holy Spirit is a second work of Grace.

Acts 19:2-6 KJV

He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. 3 And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. 4 Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. 5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.

3. Notice the obvious:

- They were believers (“since you believed...”)
- They were baptized (salvation)
- After all of this *“they Holy Ghost came on them and they spoke with tongues.”*

B. The key is control:

Romans 8:5-6 NLT

“...those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit ... if the Holy Spirit controls your mind there is life and peace.”

1. If a man is filled with anger = anger has control.
2. Filled with greed = greed has control.
3. Filled with the Holy Spirit = H.S. has control!!!

“Being filled with the Holy Spirit does not mean I have more of the Spirit, it means he Spirit has more of me” (Raoul Comminos).

II. How Does the Bible Describe a Person Full of the Spirit?

John the Baptist – Luke 1:15 NIV

For he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even from birth.

A. WEIRD!

Matt 3:4 NIV

John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey.

1. But Jesus said there was not a greater born among women (Mt 11:11).
2. God uses a different measuring stick.
3. Normal with God is often “weird” among lost or spiritually dead Christians.

B. BOLD!

Matt 3:7 NIV

You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?

C. PEACEFUL!

Acts 6:15 NIV

All who were sitting ... looked intently at Stephen, and ... his face was like the face of an angel.

D. FORGIVING!

Acts 7:59-60 NIV

59 While they were stoning him, Stephen ... cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he (died)."

E. EVANGELISTIC!

"Phillip...proclaimed the Christ" Acts 8:4

Acts 1:8 NIV

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses

F. AVAILABLE!

Acts 8:26-30 NIV

"Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Go...'. So he started out... the Spirit told Philip, 'Go...'. then Philip ran..."

III. Why Should I Desire to be “Full of the Spirit”?

A. Most Spirit-Filled Christians in the Bible were persecuted.

1. John the Baptist – beheaded.
2. Stephen – stoned.
3. Jesus – crucified.

B. It benefits your relationship with God.

Galatians 5:16 NIV

Live by the Spirit & you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.

C. Overcome doubts about your salvation.

Rom 8:16 NIV

The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

D. The Bible repeatedly commands us to be:

“Be filled with the Spirit” (Eph 5:18).

IV. How Do I Become “Full of the Spirit”?

A. Empty yourself of other things that control you.

“Do not get drunk on wine...” (Eph 5:18).

- The Holy Spirit cannot control a person that is already controlled by sin.

B. Obey the commands of God.

“Do not grieve the Holy Spirit” (Eph 4:30)

- Disobedience grieves the Spirit.

C. Yield yourself to the control of the Spirit.

“Let the Holy Spirit fill and control you” (Eph 5:18)

D. Come together in corporate worship.

Eph 5:19-20 NASB

“Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with our heart to the Lord; always giving thanks...”

- Worship opens the pathway of the Holy Spirit.

Conclusion:

A. Jesus said the promise of the Spirit was to you, your children, your children’s children...

1. We are commanded to earnestly desire the gifts of the Spirit.
2. Attitude: *“If You’re giving, I’m receiving – If it’s of You, I’ll take it!”*

B. Facts Concerning Receiving the Holy Ghost:

1. The Holy Ghost has already been given...we must receive Him.
2. If you have given your life to Christ (saved) you are a candidate to receive.
3. You will begin to feel a powerful presence of God, words will form in your mind (every NT believer who was filled with the H.S. spoke with tongues).
4. In FAITH, speak what the Spirit gives you.

C. *“The Spirit is subject to the prophet (believer).”*

1. I can engage the gift.
2. I can suppress the gift.
3. ***“THEY spoke...as the Spirit gave the utterance.”***

* Adapted from a sermon by Chris Talton (SermonCentral.com)