

The importance of understanding the filling of the Holy Spirit to advance to grow spiritually

- 1) The indwelling of the Spirit and the change from "with" the believer to "in" the believer. Matt. 10:20; Luke 12:12; John 7:38-39, 14:17
 - a. 14:17 - παρ' ὑμῶν μένει καὶ ἐν ὑμῶν ἔσται. He abides alongside you and He will be in you.
 - b. The future ministry of the Spirit promised. **John 14:26; 15:26, 27; 16:13**
 - c. **John 20:22** - The disciples are commanded to receive the Spirit. Was it in them but not filling them at this point? John 7:38-39 states that the indwelling ministry of the Holy Spirit as promised would not occur until Jesus was glorified. Luke 24:49
 - d. When did the promise begin? (more passages on the promise - Matt. 3:11; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16; Acts 1:5, 1:8) 2:4.
 - e. Since the promise of the Spirit coming "upon" the believer for power was fulfilled and evidenced in Acts 2:4 by the Spirit "filling" the apostles, the power of the Spirit "upon" the believer is the filling of the Spirit. (upon - Acts 10:44,45; 11:15)

- 2) Ephesians 5:18
 - a. This is the only command in the Bible to be filled with and by the Holy Spirit. Error in understanding this command can lead to minimizing the Spirit and put a halt to spiritual growth.
 - b. Context: Ephesians 4:17-24 put off the old and put on the new, 4:25-31 extended detail on specific things of the old to stop and actions of the new to replace the old. 5:1-6 - become like Christ and relate to the inheritance in the kingdom, 5:6-14 - separate from those who live according to the world.
 - c. The amount of exhortation on removing self from the old way of life should not go unrecognized.
 - d. Verse 15 begins a new section of exhortation.
 - i. Verse 15 - Based on the previous instruction, see or watch how accurately you are walking. Is it in wisdom?
 - ii. Verse 16 - and based on the evil that exists all around you, make good use of your time, which is acting wisely. To not grow spiritually in an evil world is to eventually become evil.
 - iii. Verse 17 - to sum up the previous verses, do not be stupid or without reason but rather put together in your mind what the will of the Lord is. Romans 12:2.
 - iv. Verse 18 - "AND" lets us know that we are to simultaneously follow this command while doing the previous command.

- v. Do not get drunk with wine. μεθύσκω - This word is used in the Septuagint for drenching, filling, or intoxication. The New Testament seems to use the word for intoxication based on being filled with something.
 - vi. Wine is found in the dative form to show that it is the instrument or means of intoxication. However, one cannot be intoxicated without the content of wine being in them.
 - vii. Why is there a command to not get drunk by wine? Because it is ἄσωτία. 1 Peter 4:3-4. This word is the negative form of salvation. It is doing that which will certainly not provide deliverance in life. This describes what the world does to cope with everyday struggles and issues in life.
 - viii. Becoming drunk with wine is an excellent model to show how the Holy Spirit works in us.
- 3) Rather let yourself be filled with and by the Spirit. This command must be taken with consideration to being drunk by wine.
- a. To be drunk by wine is to be influenced by wine, while to be filled by the Spirit is to be influenced and empowered by the Spirit.
 - b. To be drunk by wine requires the presence of wine in you, while to be filled with the Spirit requires the presence of the Spirit in you.
 - i. You do not get more of the Spirit but the Spirit gets more of you.
 - c. To be drunk by wine requires a volitional choice to become drunk, while being filled by the Spirit also requires volition to become filled. You do not ask to be filled!
 - d. Volition remains present while being drunk and volition remains present while being filled with the Holy Spirit.
- 4) How then is the believer filled by the Holy Spirit? There are 3 main issues to consider:
- a. Attitude toward sin - Ephesians 4:30 - Stop grieving the Holy Spirit. This deals with what you should not do. This is not only confession of sin (1 John 1:9) but attitude following confession of sin (1 John 2:1).
 - b. Attitude towards the will of God - Ephesians 5:10, 17. This deals with understanding and seeking to fulfill the will of God. It is what you should do. A negative attitude toward the will of God will result in quenching the Spirit. 1 Thess. 5:19
 - c. Faith - Trust in what God can do through you, not trust in what you yourself can do. Making this distinction is critical!
- 5) The filling of the Holy Spirit at salvation and throughout the life of the believer.
- a. The believer is filled with the Holy Spirit at the point of salvation (Acts 10:44-47, Ephesians 1:13). Faith, proper attitude toward sin and toward the will of God are present at salvation.
 - b. The believer continues to be filled by the same principle, but the will of God for the believer is different than for the unbeliever.
 - i. This became a problem for the Galatians. Gal. 3:1-5

- ii. Paul apparently had a short struggle with depending upon the means of fulfilling the will of God. He wanted to do good and did not want to sin yet he was unable to do the things he wanted.
Romans 7:15-8:17

- 6) There is only one command to be filled with the Spirit because we are to be occupied with Christ and not the Holy Spirit.
 - a. The Spirit works in us to focus our attention on Jesus. John 15:26, 27
 - b. Even though Paul knew of the power that worked in him, he prayed to God the Father for strength and enlightenment. Ephesians 3:14-19
 - c. We do not pray for the filling of the Holy Spirit, but rather the Spirit helps us to pray. Romans 8:26
 - d. Though the terminology is only found once as a command, the necessary adjustments to be filled are stated many times. Romans 6, 8, 12, Col. 3, 1 John
 - e. Colossians 3:16 assumes the filling of the Holy Spirit rather than define the filling of the Holy Spirit.

- 7) Evidence of Spirit filled believers in the Book of Acts reveals the reality of the Holy Spirit's power working in believers. Acts 2:4-16, 4:8, 4:31, 6:3, 6:5, 7:55, 9:17, 10:44, 11:15, 11:24, 13:9, 13:52
 - a. The filling of the Holy Spirit is not an emotion, and is not known by one particular experience.

- 8) The filling of the Spirit empowers us to fulfill the Divine mandates of God's Word. Ephesians 5:19-6:9

Eph 3:20, Now to Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us [Holy Spirit].