

## YOU CAN BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

*“And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;”*  
(Ephesians 5:18)

The Holy Spirit is God himself in spiritual form. We first see Him as He moved upon the face of the waters just after creation. (Gen. 1:2) We see Him next as He was breathed into the nostrils of Adam and he [Adam] became a living soul. (Gen. 2:7) He is pictured as the oil in the lampstand in the temple worship. (Exo. 35:28) He is pictured and as a type in the account of Eliezer going out to seek a bride for Isaac. (Gen. 24:10) He came mightily upon Sampson. (Jud. 14:6) We see him in the rushing of the mulberry trees to give a sign to David to go to battle against the Philistines. (II Sam. 5:24) He filled the temple as smoke when Solomon dedicated the temple to the Lord. (I Ki. 8:11) He shows up in the valley of dry bones and brings the bones to life (Ezek. 37:5) and again when Isaiah saw the Lord sitting on His throne. (Isa. 6:4) He descended upon Jesus in the form of a dove at His baptism. (Mt. 3:16) He supplies boldness to His own. (Acts 4:13) He is one who leads us into the pathway of God’s will. (Rom. 8:14) He is our helper and assistant in prayer. (Rom. 8:26) He is the giver of wisdom. (Prov. 2:6) He is the comforter dwelling in the believer. (Jn. 14:16) He came down in fire at Pentecost. (Acts 2:2) (James 1:5) He is also our teacher. (I Jn.2:27)

Our relationship with the Holy Spirit is a marriage. We are joined together. *“But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.”* (1 Corinthians 6:17) *“Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.”* (Matthew 18:19) I believe this verse is speaking of the two natures of the believer. If my spirit and the Holy Spirit are in agreement, I will get my prayer answered. Jesus in His high priestly prayer prayed that we might be one in our relationship with the Father and the Son and that can only be done through the Spirit. *“That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.”* (John 17:21) As a believer we must be careful not to attempt to make a servant of the Holy Ghost and try to use Him to accomplish our will and meet our needs and desires. We must not seek to have the Spirit but allow Him to have us. Jesus taught that our desires and needs will be met as a result of doing His will and not ours. *“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”* (Matthew 6:33) I must allow Him to be in charge. When He speaks, I must listen. When He teaches, I must learn. When He prays, I must get on my knees. When He guides, I must follow and obey. It is about Him and not about me. Jesus said, *“Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.”* (John 12:24) And, *“For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.”* (Matthew 16:25) We are commanded to be filled with the Spirit. *“And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;”* (Ephesians 5:18) The result of obedience to this clearcut demand opens Heaven’s windows and brings almighty God on the scene. It is sad that so many must answer the question that Paul asked the Ephesians, *“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.”* (Acts 19:2). So many are not aware of the great potential and possibilities that are available to the believer. Let me share some things that the Bible tells us about the filling of the Spirit.

I. You must be born of the Spirit in order to be filled with the Spirit.

Jesus said to Nicodemus, *“That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”* (John 3:6) He also told him, *“Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”* (John 3:5) Unless the Spirit of God is in a person, there is no way that could be filled with Him.

It was quite amusing to some of us on a mission trip to the Ukraine when a Communist woman official was saved in one of our meetings. She was so excited. She explained that for years she had secretly wanted to get saved, but it would have meant the firing squad for her. Things had changed, and she now was able to invite Jesus into her heart. Then she asked, “Now that I’m saved, would it be possible for me to get born again, too?” It was so simple to us but difficult for her to understand. Once the Holy Spirit comes in and takes up residence with the believer, there is Someone in us that has contact with God.

II. You must be indwelt by the Spirit before you can be filled with the Spirit.

The apostle Paul explained *“Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?”* (1 Corinthians 3:16) Again he wrote, *“What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?”* (1 Corinthians 6:19) Then again he wrote, *“But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.”* (Romans 8:11) Like the woman in the Ukraine, it is difficult for us to know how to be filled, but to the indwelling Spirit it is a very simple matter. Indwelling is not an apartment rental agreement on a period of time, but He purchases the house and make it His own. *“For ye are bought with a price: therefore, glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.”* (1 Corinthians 6:20)

III. You must be baptized by the Spirit before you can be filled.

The word “baptize” means to “incorporate into” or “make a part of.” Paul tells us, *“For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.”* (1 Corinthians 12:13) The Holy Spirit puts aside all differences (race, nationality, scholarship, financial standing, religious preferences, and such) and joins us together in the body of Christ and begins to make us one in Christ. Unless this putting aside has happened to us, we could never be filled with the Spirit. Individuality is surrendered for the sake of the whole body. The heart and lungs do not function for their own benefit but for the sake of the 600 muscles and the 208 bones as well as the rest of the body.

IV. You must be yielded to the Spirit in order to be filled with the Spirit.

*“Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.”* (Romans 6:13) We are called “instruments of righteousness” in this verse. A piano is a musical instrument. The piano has no mind of its own. The pianist takes control of the instrument and produces the music. If the piano did its own thing and played jazz or rock and roll for the Sunday worship service instead of “The Old Rugged Cross,” or “Amazing Grace,” there would be problems. A believer must allow the Holy Spirit to do His thing through the mind, heart, and fingers to produce the will of God. Yielding brings filling.

V. You must allow the Spirit to use you and not you try to use the Spirit.

Jesus prayed, *“Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless, not my will, but thine, be done.”* (Luke 22:42) God has a will about everything. He wants the believer to be so close to Him that His will becomes understandable and clear. The Bible teaches that we can know what His will is in any situation. *“If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.”* (John 7:17) This is simply a matter of letting God be God instead of taking hold on our lives and doing our own will. The latter attitude violates the first commandment, *“Thou shalt have no other gods before me.”* (Exodus 20:3) The modern sayings, “do your own thing,” “if it feels good, do it,” “have it your way,” and many others are in complete opposition to the teachings of the Bible and lead away from God.

VI. You will have access to God when you are filled with the Spirit.

Imagine being able to enter into the very presence of the almighty God. Paul stated, *“For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.”* (Ephesians 2:18) On one occasion I was privileged to shake hands with and get my picture made with President Ronald Regan. I framed that picture and displayed it in my office. That was a big deal to me. I met with Colonel Harlan Sanders and Governor Lester Mattox and many world renowned preachers and a lot of other luminaries and considered every one a big deal, but there is no comparison to entering into the very throne of God and talking with Him. When I am filled with the Spirit, talking with Him is possible anytime day or night. He extends an invitation to all who are indwelt and filled to come to Him at any time. He says, *“Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”* (Hebrews 4:16)

VII. You will be led by the Spirit when you are filled with the Spirit.

The children of Israel were led by the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night through the wilderness for forty years. They had God’s presence giving them direction for the entire forty years. This is a type of the believer being led by the Holy Spirit in the church age. Paul wrote to the Corinthian church that, *“all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.”* (1 Corinthians 10:11) He also wrote to the Roman believers, *“For*

*as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.*" (Romans 8:14) Dr. Lee Roberson while teaching our Sunday School workers took hold of a little boy's hand who was sitting on the first row and began to walk back and forth and around the area. He explained that the little guy was allowing him to do all the deciding on where they would walk. The little fellow was enjoying the matter. Dr. Roberson then explained that this was what God wanted to do for every Christian. Jesus explained, "*Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth.*" (John 16:13) When we are filled with the Spirit, we will believe right and make right decisions as we follow the leading of the Lord.

VIII. You will have the help of the Spirit in prayer when you are filled with the Spirit.

The Holy Spirit knows what is best and He also knows what God will do for us. The Bible says, "*Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.*" (Romans 8:26) When filled with the Spirit, we will know what His will is about a matter and will pray accordingly. We can get one hundred percent of our prayers answered if we follow this teaching. The Bible says, "*And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.*" (1 John 3:22) It also says, "*If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.*" (John 15:7) And then, "*And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.*" (1 John 5:14-15) In all these verses we are assured that if we follow certain steps, we will get our prayers answered. The Holy Spirit knows exactly what these steps are and promises to help us pray accordingly. It all depends on being filled with the Spirit.

IX. You will enjoy the fruit of the Spirit when you are filled with the Spirit.

Another wonderful benefit of Spirit filling is that we will have the fruit of the Spirit in our lives. In his writing to the Galatian Christians, Paul tells them, "*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*" (Galatians 5:22-23) These nine attributes are worth so much more than fame and fortune. I have a sermon called, "How to Have the Benefits of a Million Dollars Without Having All the Headaches and Problems That Would Be Involved." Everybody is looking for happiness, contentment, and satisfaction, but none of these come through money. These blessings are produced in our lives by the Holy Spirit and the more of us that He has, the more of these we have.

X. You will enjoy the gifts of the Spirit when you are filled with the Spirit.

There is a great difference between the "gift" of the Spirit and the "gifts" of the Spirit. When Jesus was teaching His disciples about prayer, He gave an example of a dad responding to his son's request for bread, a fish, or an egg, and pointed out that he obviously would not give his son a stone, a serpent, or a scorpion. He then stated that

the Heavenly Father loves us far more than a human father could love his son and would give the Holy Spirit as a gift to those who asked. He said, *“If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?”* (Luke 11:13) This refers to the salvation experience. Our body becomes the dwelling place of the Spirit of God at the time of our salvation. Now, later the apostle Paul gives a list of the “gifts of the Spirit” which have nothing to do with salvation. *“For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will. For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.”* (1 Corinthians 12:8-12) These are gifts for service and the Lord gives them to whom He will. He knows what needs to be done and selects who He wants to get it done. When I am filled with the Spirit, I will understand what my gift is or what my gifts are and I will cover my base and be rewarded for doing so. If I am not in harmony with the Holy Spirit and I refuse to die to my own goals and ambitions, then I will be like the corn of wheat that amounted to nothing because I refuse to die. (John 12:24)

XI. You will have the power of the Spirit when you are filled with the Spirit.

A person filled with the Spirit will experience the supernatural instead of just the natural. It is the difference between God’s power and man’s effort. When the Holy Spirit came on the scene at Pentecost, they had 3,000 saved, then 5,000, then 20,000 the first week, and 80,000 people the first year. Instead of joy, they experienced joy unspeakable; (I Pet. 1:8) and instead of peace, they had peace that passed all understanding; (Phil. 4:7) instead of life, they had abundant life; (John 10:10) and instead of getting a prayer answered occasionally, they received all they could ask or even think. (Eph. 3:20) This is the same power that opened the Red Sea, brought the fire to consume Elijah’s sacrifice, helped David to kill Goliath, protected Daniel from the lions, protected the Hebrew children in the furnace, and worked in the lives of many others that experienced God in the time of need. D.L. Moody stated that the world has yet to see what God would do through a man who was completely surrendered to God. He then said, “by His grace I will be that man.” We are told that over a million people were converted in his ministry. Jesus told his disciples, *“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”* (Acts 1:8) Then we read, *“And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.”* (Acts 4:33) That same power is available to any believer who is filled with the Holy Spirit.

XII. You will have the wisdom of the Spirit when you are filled with the Spirit.

Paul wrote to the Corinthian church about the difference between the wisdom of God and the wisdom of this world. He said, "*Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought [nothing]: But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory.*" (1 Corinthians 2:6-7) Man has knowledge about history, geography, science, math, and such, while a Spirit-filled believer has discernment and insight. Paul also said, "*But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*" (1 Corinthians 2:14) Solomon was given this special wisdom by the Lord as an example for all believers. He became the wisest and wealthiest of all mankind. The Lord said to him, "*Behold, I have done according to thy words: lo, I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart; so that there was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee.*" (1 Kings 3:12) The Lord has said to all believers, "*If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.*" (James 1:5) It would really pay handsomely to anyone who would pursue the filling of the Holy Spirit to have the wisdom of God.

XIII. You will be taught by the Spirit when you are filled with the Spirit.

One of my college mates, Orman Norwood wrote a poem that said,

How do we find out what is right from wrong?

How get we power to keep us strong?

How grows our faith from a tiny seed?

Open the Bible and read.

The Bible is a closed book to the natural mind. The Spirit of the Lord opens the Bible to the believer. Jesus said, "*But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.*" (John 14:26) John explains this enlightenment in these words: "*But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.*" (1 John 2:27)

XIV. You are sealed by the Spirit when you are filled with the Spirit.

"Once saved; always saved," is the term used by many to explain the security of the believer. The Bible uses the words "eternal life" and "everlasting life" to explain the gift the Lord gives a person when he receives Christ as his Saviour. "The Bible says, "*He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life:*" (John 3:36) It also says, "*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*" (John 3:16) Jesus said, "*And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my*

*hand.*” (John 10:27-28) Paul explained that the Holy Spirit seals the believer. He wrote, “*In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise.*” (Ephesians 1:13) Again he wrote, “*And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.*” (Ephesians 4:30) As Grandma poured wax on top of the peach preserves in the Mason jar to seal off the air so they would not spoil, even so the Holy Ghost seals or preserves us until the day our bodies are redeemed at the Rapture or the Resurrection.

The difference between victory and defeat is found in these words. It is a matter of success or failure. It comes down to going out to meet God to hear Him say, “Well done, good and faithful servant,” or lying on our death bed saying, “I wish I could go back and live my life over again.” “*For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.*” (2 Timothy 1:7) It would be well for us to get a grip on the words of David, “*Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.*” (Psalms 37:4)