Living the Spirit-Filled Life

(Selected Scriptures)
4/8/2001



Introduction:

**** Believers, We must be Spirit Filled!***

I. The <u>Command</u> to be Spirit-Filled (Eph. 5:18)

II. The <u>Nature</u> of being Spirit-Filled

III. The <u>Evidence</u> of being Spirit-Filled?

IV. The <u>Examples</u> of those who were Spirit-Filled.

V. The <u>Key</u> to being Spirit filled?

***Basically, the key to being Spirit filled is a <u>yieldedness</u> to God on a daily basis.**

1) Don't <u>quench</u> the Spirit (I Th. 5:19).

2) Don't <u>grieve</u> the Spirit (Eph. 4:30).

3) <u>Walk</u> in the Spirit (Gal. 5:16).

VI. The <u>Fruit</u> of being Spirit-Filled

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The following are the works of the Holy Spirit:

--The new birth of the Holy Spirit
--The baptism of the Holy Spirit
--The sealing of the Holy Spirit
--The indwelling of the Holy Spirit
--The filling of the Holy Spirit
--The power of the Holy Spirit
--The gifts of the Holy Spirit
--The intercession of the Holy Spirit
--The resurrection of the Holy Spirit

The following are evidences to be found in the believer's life proving that he possesses the Holy Spirit:

1) The Spirit produces fruit in the believer (Gal. 5:22).

2) The Spirit gives a love for God (Rom. 5:5).

3) The Spirit changes one's life (Rom. 8:1, 4, 5, 9; II Cor. 3:3; contrast with Jude 19).

4) The Spirit mortifies sin (Rom. 8:13).

5) The Spirit leads the believer (Rom. 8:14).

6) The Spirit witnesses with our spirit (Rom. 8:16; Gal. 4:6; I Jn. 4:13).

7) The Spirit gives power to obey God (I Jn. 3:24).

8) The one possessing the Spirit will often be persecuted (Gal. 4:29; I Pet. 4:14).

9) The Spirit illuminates one's mind (I Cor. 2:10-12, 2:14; Eph. 1:17).
   a) This enablement to understand God's truth is referred to as the "anointing" of the Spirit
   b) The concept of the "anointing" of the Spirit only appears in two places in the New Testament - II Cor. 1:21; I Jn. 2:20, 27) and in both contexts anointing refers to the believer's understanding of the Word of God.
      (1) The believer has the ability to believe God's promises (II Cor. 1:20-22).

(2) The believer has the ability to know God's truth (I Jn. 2:20-27).

This anointing (to know God's truth):
is from God (v. 20, 27)
is permanent (v. 27 - "abideth in you")
gives discernment (v. 27)

In order to comprehend spiritual truth, one's "spiritual eyes" must be anointed! (Rev. 3:18; Heb. 6:4).

The Filling of the Spirit
(The Spirit's work in controlling the believer)

See: Ephesians 5:18-20

Believers, We must be Spirit Filled!

*This point is crucial (necessary) to obeying the other points in the context: Namely Walking Circumspectly (Carefully); Understanding the will of God; and Redeeming the time.

I. The Command to be Spirit-Filled (Eph. 5:18)

A. THE WRONG CONTROLLING INFLUENCE (v. 18a)

"Be not drunk with wine"

"Wine" = Prov. 20:1 - "Wine is a mocker"
READ Prov. 23:29-35

Wine infers any external influence that controls you (rock music, drugs, bad habits, etc.)

"Excess" = wild and disorderly living produced

Cp. Tit. 1:6 - Pastor is not to be "accused of riot" (same word)

Cp. Luke 15:13 - Prodigal son "wasted his substance with riotous living"

Paul may be referring to people who worshipped a wine god called Dionysus. The worshippers felt that they were united, indwelt, and controlled by Dionysus, who "gave them special powers and abilities."

B. THE RIGHT CONTROLLING INFLUENCE (v. 18b)

NOTE: Contrasts:

1. "Drunk" with "filled" (causes of influence)
2. "Wine" with "Spirit" (source of influence)
3. "Excess" with "speaking" etc. (outcome of influence)

Key Text: Ephesians 5:18

II. The Nature of being Spirit-Filled

a. What is the filling of the Spirit?

1) The filling of the Spirit is the will of God (Eph. 5:17).

2) The filling of the Spirit is not an option, but an obligation. It is a command! To not be filled is to be disobedient to God and to be living in sin!

3) The filling of the Spirit is to be a continuous experience of the believer.

a) Proof: The present tense imperative points to the repetitious nature of the Spirit filling a believer throughout his life.

b) There is one baptism of the Spirit (Eph. 4:5), but there are many fillings!

4) The filling of the Spirit is a work of God.

a) Proof: The passive voice of the imperative - "be filled."

b) God is saying allow yourself to be filled. God does the filling as the believer does the yielding.

5) The filling of the Spirit is not a spiritual gift (The Ephesians had all the spiritual blessings in Christ - 1:3; the command for them to be filled proves that not all of the Ephesians were filled).

6) The filling of the Spirit does not refer to the baptism of the Spirit nor the indwelling of the Spirit. All Christians have the baptism and the indwelling, but not all are filled.

There is a distinction between the baptism of the Spirit and the filling of the Spirit.

7) The filling of the Spirit refers to the control of the Holy Spirit (verses 18-21).

a) Note the contrast between being filled (controlled) with "wine" (v. 18a, cp. Prov. 20:1, 23:29-35) which leads to "excess" ("riotous" living - Titus 1:6; Lk. 15:13); and being filled (controlled) with the Spirit which leads to spiritual singing (v. 19), thankfulness (v. 20), and Godly submission (v. 21).

b) Note: The filling of the Spirit is not you getting more of the Holy Spirit, but it is you letting the Holy Spirit get more of you!

III. The evidence of being Spirit-Filled?

1) An inward evidence (v. 19) (praise and joy)

The fruits of the Spirit are the evidence
(Gal. 5:22-23 - "The fruit of [produced by] the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering [patience], [lit. kindness], goodness, faith, meekness (and) temperance [self-control] . . .").

gentleness,
[gentleness],

2) An upward evidence (v. 20) (thankful heart to God)

3) An outward evidence (v. 21) (a submissive attitude and action)

IV. The Examples of those who were Spirit-Filled.

Who was Filled?	What did the Filling produce?
The disciples at Pentecost	The special ability to speak in foreign dialects ("tongues" - a first century sign to unbelieving Israel – I Cor. 14:21-22)
The Apostle Peter	Unction to preach God's truth (Acts 4:8)
The assembly of believers	Courage to speak God's Word (Acts 4:31)
The deacons	Leadership ability (Acts 6:5)
The deacon Stephen	Peace in the midst of persecution (Acts 7:55)
The Apostle Paul	Spiritual Discernment (Acts 13:9)
The Gentile disciples	Joy (Acts 13:52)

V. The key to being Spirit filled?

***Basically, the key to being Spirit filled is a yieldedness to God on a daily basis.**

God automatically fills the believer with His Spirit as he/she surrenders to Him. It is God's responsibility to fill us; our responsibility is to allow Him to do so. The Spirit's fullness can be the daily experience of every believer if there is a moment by moment submissive and open heart to the Spirit. Only then will He take full command of the believer's life.
Three conditions for being filled with the Spirit:

1) Don't quench the Spirit (I Th. 5:19).

You quench the Spirit by not allowing God to speak to you - via His Word (I Th. 5:20).

2) Don't grieve the Spirit (Eph. 4:30).

a) To grieve means to cause sorrow to the person of the Holy Spirit.

b) You grieve Him by sin (Eph. 4:29, 31).

*God does not fill dirty vessels!

3) Walk in the Spirit (Gal. 5:16).

This means to live a life of surrender or yieldedness to the Spirit so that the Holy Spirit can direct your steps, actions, and attitudes.

VI. The Fruit of being Spirit-Filled

When the Holy Spirit is allowed to minister in the life of a Christian, He gives him the following abilities:

1) The ability to worship (Jn. 4:24; Phil. 3:3).
24 God *is* a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship *him* in spirit and in truth.

2) The ability to pray with wisdom (Eph. 6:18; Jude 20).
18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

3) The ability to understand God's Word (I Cor. 2:10-12, 2:14; Eph. 1:17).
17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:

5) The ability to love God (Rom. 5:5).
5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

6) The ability to love others (Col. 1:8; Rom. 15:30).
8 Who also declared unto us your love in the Spirit.
30 ¶ Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in *your* prayers to God for me;

7) The ability to have unity with other believers (Eph. 4:3).
3 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

8) The ability to conquer sin (Rom. 8:13).
13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live

9) **The ability to <u>be strong</u> in the "<u>inner man</u>" (Eph. 3:16).**
16 That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;

10) **The ability to be <u>virtuous</u> (Gal. 5:22)** (the Spirit produces internal "fruit").
22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,
23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

11) **The ability to live life <u>without fear</u> (II Tim. 1:7).**
7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

12) **The ability to be <u>encouraged</u> ("comforted" - Acts 9:31).**
31 Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied

13) **The ability to have <u>boldness in witnessing</u> (Acts 4:8, 31).**
8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel,…31 And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

14) **The ability to serve God in <u>full-time ministry</u> (Acts 20:28).**
28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.
It is the Holy Spirit who "<u>calls men</u>" to the ministry (Ex. the pastorate - Acts 20:28).

15) **The ability to <u>preach</u> God's Word with divine <u>power</u> (I Cor. 2:4).**
4 And my speech and my preaching *was* not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: