

The Holy Spirit

Part 2

SESSION 8



Life Change Objectives

- To gain a clear understanding of the difference between the baptism of the Holy Spirit and the filling of the Holy Spirit.
- To immediately begin to recognize and live out the truth that you are filled with God's Spirit.

Review

Before Jesus' resurrection and ascension into heaven, the Holy Spirit would come upon certain individuals at special times for a special reason. He never lived inside of a person permanently. But the Old Testament prophecy of Joel 2:28 was fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit was poured out on believers in Jesus Christ. Since that time, all Christians have been baptized with the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation.

We looked at four aspects of the Holy Spirit's work in us: regeneration, baptism, indwelling, and sealing.

1. Regeneration means "new birth." When I came to Christ I was given a new birth; I was born again.
2. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is:
 - a. God placing me into the body of Christ (the church) and into Christ himself.
 - b. A once-for-all-time event which happens at the moment of salvation.
 - c. A universal experience for believers (1 Cor. 12:13).
 - d. Receiving all of God at one time; I don't receive God one day, Jesus later, and the Holy Spirit at another time. God is a Trinity—three in one.
3. The indwelling of the Spirit means that God comes to personally live in me.

4. To be sealed by the Holy Spirit means that God places his mark of ownership and protection on my life.
5. As a deposit, God's Holy Spirit also guarantees that all that has been promised to me by God will be mine one day.

In this study we'll look together at the filling of the Holy Spirit.

Our Need for the Filling of the Holy Spirit

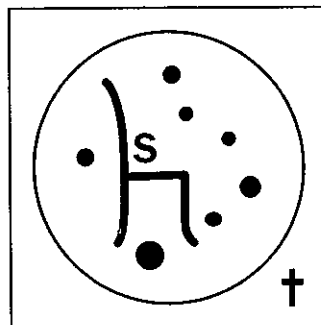
The Bible says that everyone is in one of three spiritual positions:¹

The _____ man

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.

—Ephesians 2:1-2

But the man who isn't a Christian can't understand and can't accept these thoughts from God, which the Holy Spirit teaches us. They sound foolish to him, because only those who have the Holy Spirit within them can understand what the Holy Spirit means. Others just can't take it in.



—1 Corinthians 2:14 (LB)

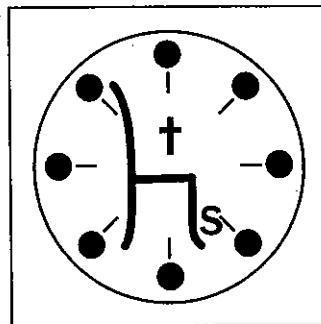
The _____ man

But the spiritual man has insight into everything, and that bothers and baffles the man of the world, who can't understand him at all.

—1 Corinthians 2:15 (LB)

The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace.

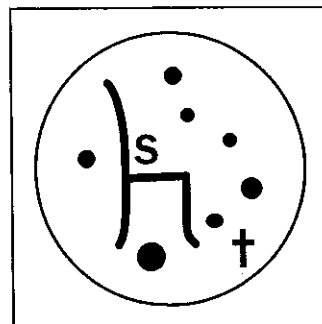
—Romans 8:6



The _____ man

Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly—mere infants in Christ. I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men?

—1 Corinthians 3:1-3



In Romans 7, the word *I* is used twenty-seven times. In Romans 8 the word *Spirit* is used nineteen times. What made the difference between the defeat that characterizes Paul in Romans 7 and the victory he describes in Romans 8? The filling of the Holy Spirit.

What Is the Filling of the Holy Spirit?

Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

—Ephesians 5:18–21

Four truths from Ephesians 5:18–21

The grammatical construction of these verses implies four truths:

1. The verb used for “filled” is plural, implying _____.
2. The verb used for “filled” is present tense (be filled), implying _____.
3. The verb used for “filled” is passive, implying the filling is _____.
4. The verb for “filled” is imperative, implying _____.

Baptism of the Holy Spirit	Filling of the Holy Spirit
A positional* truth	An experiential* truth
Not commanded	Commanded
A one-time event	A continuous event
Puts believer in the position to receive power	Power itself
*Positional truth is who we are because of our faith in Christ. Experiential truth is how we are to live based on that position. One is a root, the other is a fruit.	

Signs of the filling of the Holy Spirit

There is often confusion over “signs” that indicate the Holy Spirit has filled someone. We’ll look at this in three sections: experiences that may or may not accompany filling, false ideas about filling, and true signs of the filling of the Spirit.

Personal experiences that may or may not accompany filling

Emotionalism: emotion or feeling is not necessarily part of being filled.

Exceptional ability: God works within the framework of our limitations and natural abilities.

Personal charisma: may be mistaken for filling.

Tranquillity of mind and spirit: great Spirit-filled believers have experienced frustrations, discouragement, and disappointments.

Tongues: throughout history, some Christians speak in tongues when filled, others do not.

False teachings concerning what accompanies filling

Freedom from problems: Filling doesn't make all problems disappear. It does give us the strength and wisdom to better face our problems. The apostle Paul is an example (2 Cor. 6:3-10).

Total freedom from temptation: Jesus faced one of the greatest times of temptation immediately after the Spirit came upon him following his baptism. Some who are filled experience more temptation than when not filled.

Sinless perfection: Obviously this is not true. Every Christian sins and must trust in God's forgiveness and ask for renewed filling every day.

Biblical and universal signs of filling

The gifts of the Spirit:

A spiritual gift is given to each of us as a means of helping the entire church.

—1 Corinthians 12:7 (NLT)

The fruit of the Spirit:

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

—Galatians 5:22-23

The power of the Spirit:

The Holy Spirit gives power to witness (Acts 1:8; Eph. 3:20).

The apostles were not brash or egotistical, but they had confidence and boldness because of the filling (Acts 4:29).

How Can I Be Filled with the Holy Spirit?

The filling of the Holy Spirit comes when we are cleansed from every known sin and every area of our life is surrendered to Jesus Christ.

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

—John 14:16–17

1. _____ for filling and desire it.

On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.” By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

—John 7:37–39

2. _____ sins and receive God’s cleansing.

But if we confess our sins to him, he can be depended on to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong. (And it is perfectly proper for God to do this for us because Christ died to wash away our sins.)

—1 John 1:9 (LB)

My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.

—Jeremiah 2:13

3. _____ to the Holy Spirit’s control.

- Let Jesus be Lord daily.

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

—Galatians 2:20

- Deny self daily.

Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it.

—Mark 8:34–35

4. _____ to fill you as he said he would.



Acting on the Truth

1. Which circle represents your life at this moment? The natural, the spiritual, or the carnal? Probably, like most of us, you would like to “fudge” on this and say, “Well, I know that Christ is in my life, and although he’s not Lord in everything, he’s Lord in this or that area.” The Bible doesn’t give us a fourth option: we can’t be partially carnal or partially spiritual. At this moment, Jesus is either Lord in all you know and understand of him or he is not. If he is not, will you give the throne in your life back to him?
2. Have you ignored or denied your thirst for God and right relationships? Can you admit your deep thirst today and come to him for the quenching of that thirst? Or have you been trying to dig your own well to satisfy your thirst?
3. What sins have separated you and God from fellowship together? What do you need to confess to him and repent of? Perhaps you need to spend some extended time with God, asking his Holy Spirit to reveal to you where you are wrong so you can trust again in God’s forgiveness and ask to be filled again.
4. In what area of your life do you need to trust God for the power to do what he is leading you to do? Where do you need to act in faith? Who do you need to serve? How do you need to use the gifts that God has given you?

**Finish memorizing memory card 4, “The Truth about the Holy Spirit.”
As you put these truths into your heart, expect the Lord to use
them to encourage you, and to encourage others through you.**



Discussion Questions

1. Where do you cross the line between being an imperfect Christian living the Spirit-filled life to being a carnal Christian living a self-centered lifestyle?
2. Some Christian leaders say that up to 95 percent of believers are living worldly lives—lives characterized by some of those struggles we talked about in this session. The question that begs to be asked is why? Discuss in your group two or three reasons why you believe it is so easy and common to settle for less than God's best in our spiritual lives.
3. If you could pick one place in your life where you would like to see God working in greater ways, where would it be?
4. If you could pick one of your character traits that you would like to see God develop in a greater way, what would it be?
5. What does it feel like to be filled with the Holy Spirit? What kinds of thoughts do you have when you're filled with the Spirit?
6. We learned that being filled is something that God does to you. What part, then, do you play in being filled with the Spirit? What is one small thing that you could do *tomorrow* to be more consistently filled with the Spirit?
7. As believers in Christ we cannot live the Christian life on our own power. We must have the daily power and filling of the Holy Spirit. There is likely nothing more important you could do for one another as a group than to be aware of and to pray for one another's needs in this all-important area. Take some time before you leave to make a list of each person's answer to what one thing they could do to more consistently be filled with the Spirit. Copy the list on a 3 x 5 card for each person in your group so you can all pray for each other. The list would look something like this:

Specific prayer requests for my group—for each one's "one thing" to be more consistently filled with God's Spirit:

John: A daily quiet time

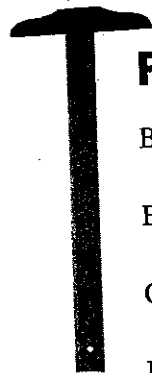
Mary: Trusting in God's forgiveness

Bill: Thinking about God at the beginning of each hour

Ellen: Taking the time to pray for my family

Steve: Choosing to say yes to God

Jan: Seeing the people at my work as people Jesus loves



For Further Study

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- Elwell, Walter, ed. *Topical Analysis of the Bible*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker, 1991.
- Graham, Billy. *The Holy Spirit: Activating God's Power in Your Life*. Dallas: Word, 2000.
- Ryrie, Charles Caldwell. *The Holy Spirit*. Chicago: Moody Bible Institute, 1965.
- Sanders, J. Oswald. *The Holy Spirit and His Gifts*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 1973.
- Stott, John. *The Baptism and Fullness of the Holy Spirit*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 1964.
- Swindoll, Charles R. *Flying Closer to the Flame*. Dallas: Word, 1993.



Answers to Fill-Ins

- natural
- spiritual
- carnal
- all are to be filled
- repeated action
- something done to you

- a command
- recognize your thirst
- repent of your
- yield all of yourself
- trust God