

The Spirit of God
Week 18
Be filled with the Holy Spirit
Part Three

LBC 17/3/04

“This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would...If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.”

Galatians 5:16, 17, 25

Review:

How to be filled with the Holy Spirit:

1. Intense desire.
2. Fervent prayer.
3. Complete confession.
4. Absolute surrender.

Introduction:

Being filled with the Holy Spirit is not a one-off, once-in-a-lifetime event. You do not get filled with the Spirit and then forget about Him for the rest of your life. It is not like salvation or baptism – being filled with the Holy Spirit is a moment-by-moment, day-by-day experience.

ILLUSTRATION – Walk slowly down the centre aisle, taking one deliberate step at a time. This is the picture often used of the Christian life.

2 John 1:6 “And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it.”

1 John 2:6 “He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.”

Ephesians 5:8, 9 “For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light: (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;)”

Romans 8:4 “That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”

Walking in the Spirit is not an option for the Christian – it is a command of God: “Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.” But, how may we walk in the Spirit?

**** Tonight we shall study the subject of walking in the Spirit:**

1. You must be emptied of self.

Walking in the Spirit is the antithesis, the absolute opposite, to walking in the flesh.

Galatians 5:17 “For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.”

Before you put on the new man (new nature, or the inner man), you must first put off the old man (the flesh). In other words, before you can be filled with the Spirit, you must first be emptied of self. This includes a complete confession of sin and a laying down of one's will.

Ephesians 4:22-24 “That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.”

ILLUSTRATION – Before you put a glass before a guest and fill it with clean water, you must first wash the glass. You would not fill a **dirty** glass with **clean** water.

The biggest obstacle preventing you from walking in the Spirit is **YOU!**

2. You must be filled with the Spirit.

Ephesians 3:19 “And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.”

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

How to be filled with the Holy Spirit:

1. Intense desire.
2. Fervent prayer.
3. Complete confession.
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The key word in understanding the fullness of the Spirit is control. Most Christians are under the control of self – the Spirit-filled Christian is under the control of the Holy Spirit. When a Christian decides to be filled with the Spirit, he chooses to abdicate the throne of his life and give that throne completely to God.

3. You must yield to the Spirit in your daily decision making.

For you to remain filled with the Holy Spirit, you must continually yield to Him as you face temptation and make decisions throughout the day. Remember two sins that you might commit against the Holy Spirit:

A. Grieving the Holy Spirit: Disobeying a direct command of God.

B. Quenching the Holy Spirit: Deliberately resisting His leading.

When you commit either of these sins, you are no longer filled with the Holy Spirit, because you have taken back control of your life.

Definition: Walking in the Spirit is when a Spirit-filled Christian surrenders his will to God and follows the leading of the Holy Spirit throughout the day.

This is where the rubber meets the road!

Romans 6:12-14, 19 “Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. 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. For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace...I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.”

ILLUSTRATION – A wife submitting to her husband is not a one-time decision. It is a lifetime process where she daily decides to yield her will.

There are no little things when it comes to walking in the Spirit!

ILLUSTRATION – Why was Bro. Hyles such a stickler about keeping the speed limit?

What may cause you to lose the filling of the Holy Spirit?

- Being rude, thoughtless or unkind to your husband, wife, parents, siblings or children.
- Not being punctual, obedient and diligent at work.
- Losing your temper.
- Using ungodly language.
- Breaking the laws of the land.
- Oversleeping, overeating and other bad habits.
- Indulging in ungodly or doubtful entertainment.
- Not making time to walk properly with God.
- Refusing to witness.
- Not giving as you know you ought.
- Lack of mercy, patience and forgiveness towards others.
- Impure and ungodly thoughts.
- Not doing good to others when you have the opportunity.

Can anyone walk perfectly in the Spirit? No – and thus point 4...

4. You must repent and confess when you sin.

What do you do when you sin and lose the filling of the Holy Spirit?

1 John 1:6-9 “If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

You **MUST** keep short accounts with God.

5. You must be emptied and filled again, and again, and again!

Proverbs 24:16 “For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief.”

- 1) Be emptied of self.
- 2) Be filled with the Spirit.
- 3) Walk in the Spirit.
- 4) Repent and confess when you sin.
- 5) Be emptied of self and filled with the Spirit again.

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

If you look at the phrase “be filled” in the Greek, it is in the aorist tense, indicating continuous action. In other words, you could say, “be **being** filled with the Spirit.”

ILLUSTRATION – My relationship with Christina. When it is broken, I make things right, and we are close again. It is a step-by-step process as we walk through life together. Marriage was just the beginning – and salvation is just the beginning of our relationship with the Holy Spirit.

Conclusion: Are YOU walking in the Spirit?

REVIEW