

A photograph of a sailboat on the ocean at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright glow and reflecting on the water. The sky is a mix of blue and orange. The sailboat's mast and rigging are visible in the foreground. The text 'Life in the Spirit!' is overlaid in a large, white, serif font.

Life in the Spirit!

Experiencing the Fullness of Christ

#9 The Filling of the Spirit

Life
in the
Spirit!

Section 2: Christian Growth



2



The
Filling of
the Spirit

Session
#9

Introduction

- God wants you filled with His Spirit.
- God's special joy and purpose is to fully restore us by His Spirit.

Caution of Pride

- God's people are one body.
- The one Holy Spirit leads all of us.
- Harmony is an important part of being filled with the Spirit (Ac 2:44-46).
- Carefully examine the Scriptures.
- We love each other even when we have different perspectives (Ep 4:2-3).
- The church worldwide has done a horrible job managing these differences.



- Right attitudes is part of having right doctrines—doctrine of love and humility, being like Jesus.
- Insist on unity, each person is an important part of the whole.

Outline

**A) Old Testament uses
of 'Filled with the Spirit'**

**B) New Testament uses
of 'Filled with the Spirit'**

SPECIAL FOCUS ON ACTS

**C) Ephesian's command to
be 'Filled with the Spirit'**



A) Filled with the Spirit in Old Testament

“And I have filled him with the Spirit of God in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all kinds of craftsmanship” (Ex 31:3; 35:31).

“Now Joshua the son of Nun was filled with the Spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him; and the sons of Israel listened to him and did as the LORD had commanded Moses” (De 34:9).

- ‘Filled him with the Spirit of God’ (Ex 31:3) intimates God’s special impartation of ‘knowledge’ through the filling of His Spirit.
- “In wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all kinds of craftsmanship” (Ex 31:3; c.f. De 34:9) – special talent to get God’s work rightly done (later seen in spiritual gifts).

A) Filled with the Spirit in Old Testament

“On the other hand I am filled with power-- with the Spirit of the LORD-- and with justice and courage to make known to Jacob his rebellious act, even to Israel his sin” (Mic 3:8).

- Micah the prophet announces how the work of God’s Spirit animated him with courage to rebuke Israel with hope that she might hear God’s Word and respond by repentance from her sin (see this later in boldness).
- Many other instances, like Samson, Saul, David, etc., where God’s Spirit came upon different individuals for special tasks.

Summary: The Spirit of God worked more selectively in the OT by filling certain individuals with His Spirit empowering them to carry out God’s special purposes, setting a pattern for the NT.

God’s filling → **God’s purpose**

B) Filled with the Spirit in New Testament

At John the Baptist's Birth

“For he will be great in the sight of the Lord... and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, while yet in his mother's womb” (Lu 1:15). “...when Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit” (Lu 1:41). “...Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied” (Lu 1:67).

Jesus' Ministry

“And the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came out of heaven, “Thou art My beloved Son, in Thee I am well-pleased” (Lu 3:22; Mk 1:10; John 1:32). “And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led about by the Spirit in the wilderness” (Lu 4:1; Mat 4:1; Mk 1:12).

B) Filled with the Spirit in New Testament

“But you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now” (Ac 1:5).

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you” (1:8).

“And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance” (Ac 2:4).

“And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak the word of God with boldness” (Ac 4:31).

“The Holy Spirit fell upon them, just as He did upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how He used to say, ‘John baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit’” (Ac 11:15-16).

“And the disciples were continually filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit” (Ac 13:52).

The Church

- Baptize=anointing of Spirit
- Common experience of true believers
- Not naturally exuberated but Spirit-filled
- The saints ministered in fullness of the Holy Spirit
- Identify baptism with filling
- Disciples continually filled

B) Filled with the Spirit in New Testament

Is speaking in tongues the proof or needed evidence for being filled with the Spirit?

Jesus

Jesus was greatly filled with the Spirit and His gifts but speaking in other languages is not at all seen.

Book of Acts

Many Christians assert this because of a casual look at three incidences in the Book of Acts. Let us respectfully look at where this understanding derives.

“For they were hearing them speaking with tongues and exalting God. Then Peter answered, ‘Surely no one can refuse the water for these to be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we did, can he?’” (Ac 10:46-47)

Remember our point is not to debate the existence of the gift of speaking in languages today!

B) Filled with the Spirit in New Testament

Book of Acts

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth” (1:8).

- A. Gospel in Jerusalem: Origins (1:12-7)
- B. Gospel in Samaria and Judea: Transition (8-10)
- C. Gospel in the Uttermost Parts: Expansion (11-28)

Jerusalem (e.g. at Pentecost)

“And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance....” (Ac 2:3-4).

Judea and Samaria (e.g. Caesarea)

“For they were hearing them speaking with tongues and exalting God” (Ac 10:46).

Uttermost Parts (e.g. Ephesus)

“And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking with tongues and prophesying” (Ac 19:6).

We do see the filling of the Spirit associated with the immediate speaking of foreign languages.

B) Filled with the Spirit in New Testament

Is speaking in tongues the proof or needed evidence for being filled with the Spirit?

- Confirms the immediate speaking of foreign languages provided clear outward evidence of the Spirit's inner filling (Ac 10:46; 11:15-16).
- All 3 incidences paralleled Acts' outline of working with different kinds of people at the birth of the church (1-7; 8-10; 11-28).
- Affirms that God came to similarly fill His people as Joel stated at the birth of the church (New Covenant), "*It shall be in the last days, God says, 'That I will pour fourth of My Spirit upon **all mankind**'*" (Ac 2:17).
- Incidental rather than typical because many places 'filled with Spirit' is not associated with languages but other results: joy, exalting, prophesying, boldness in witnessing, etc., "And the disciples were continually filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit" (Ac 13:52; 9:17).

Purposes

- *One God, same work
- *Inclusive (Jew/Gentile)
- *One church and leadership
- *No one is inferior
- *Unity of church regularly taught in NT (Eph 3; Rom 1:16; Rev 5:9-10).

Conclusion: A person's filling will bear results but need not proof!

C) Filled with the Spirit (Eph 5:18-21)

Old Testament

- The Spirit only rarely fills select individuals.
- The Spirit imparts special gifts like wisdom, knowledge, revelation (prophecy).
- The Spirit comes to accomplish a certain project (e.g. properly build tabernacle).

In the OT the Holy Spirit could not come close to God's people due to their sinfulness (God's presence was shielded in the tabernacle/temple).

New Testament

- The Spirit comes upon the whole church (Ac 1:8; 2:17).
- The Spirit in the NT grants all sorts of gifts for edifying the body of Christ.
- The Spirit comes to accomplish God's program through the people of God.
- The Spirit necessarily shapes and influences the believer's whole life (temple).

In the NT the Holy Spirit can and does come and indwell in His people due to the forgiveness of sin through faith in Jesus' death on the cross.



C) Filled with the Spirit (Eph 5:18-21)

17 So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. 18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit (Eph 5:17-18).

- Contrasts the world with the church:
 - ◆ World's parties: "...get drunk with wine"
 - ◆ Church's *Koinonia* (fellowship): "filled with the Spirit"
 - ◆ Identifies grand expectations for our lives when the Holy Spirit fills His people!
- "Filled" speaks of an abounding amount, wholly influenced by the Spirit (walk, guided, empowered).
- "Be filled with the Spirit" is a command!
- Reminds us of our heritage, warns us of the world's temptations, and redirects us to God's purposes for our lives.

C) Filled with the Spirit (Eph 5:18-21)

18 But be filled with the Spirit, 19 **speaking** to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, **singing and making** melody with your heart to the Lord; 20 always **giving thanks** for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father; 21 and **be subject** to one another in the fear of Christ (Eph 5:18-21).

- (1) “Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs” (19) – announcing the truth to others in song
- (2) “Singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord” (5:19) – personally ‘in tune’ with God
- (3) “Always giving thanks” - Focus on God’s goodness and intimate work in our lives.
- (4) “*Being* subject to one another in the fear of Christ” (5:21) – Necessity of good relationships rather than arrogance.

God has opened for us “an abundant life” (John 10:10) through the way the Spirit of God stirs and guides our spiritual lives. The focus here is on being rather than the gifting.



Filled with the Spirit

- **Being (He transforms)**
- **Gifts (For His service)**

Significance

I'm important

Careful!

I'm better

Focus on the Giver not the gifts!

Summary

The World's 'Filling'

- Exclusive to physical and emotional
- Drug Induced (at parties)
- Negative side affects (hangover, stds, problems)
- Lonely and sad

The
Filling of
the Spirit

The Church's Filling

- Spirit's indwelling
- God's spiritual temple
- Filled (not some) with Spirit
- Transformed by Holy Spirit (being)
- Differently gifted by Spirit
- Community with others of Spirit
- Bear fruit of Spirit (joy, love, etc)
- Serve God's purposes

Discussion Questions

- How are the world's way of gaining excitement through drugs and alcohol different from the Christian?
- What are three characteristics of a person being filled by the Holy Spirit?
- What does it mean for you to be filled with the Holy Spirit? Please explain.

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C) Filled with the Spirit (Eph 5:18-21)

Excesses & Extremes

- Slain
- Division
- Laughing
- Jealousy
- Barking (animal noises)
- Speaking gibberish
- Arrogance

What should we expect?

- Boldness
- Spiritual gifting
- Speaking in languages
- Humble working with others
- Delight in God's Word
- Spreading of Gospel
- Making of disciples