

His Presence
(Week 3)

What it means to be filled with the Spirit

SMALL TALK

1. Where are you on the scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being “I feel Empty” and 10 being “I am Full & Overflowing”? Explain.

VIEWPOINT

2. **READ Ephesians 5:18-6:18.** God commands his people to live full of the Holy Spirit. What are some hints of what this might mean from the verses that follow? Which “departments” of life did Paul describe needing to be filled by the Holy Spirit’s influence?

Christians should submit to the Spirit’s control in every department of their lives. Paul mentions every major sphere of life: church, home, marriage, parent/child relationships, business, employer/employee relationships, and the whole area of spiritual warfare.

3. The same word “filled” is used in John 12:3. How does this use of the word confirm the idea that every part of the believer’s life should be under the influence of the Holy Spirit?
4. How does the grammar of the verb “be filled” affect our understanding of Ephesians 5:18? Grammatically this verb in the Greek is a second person plural, present, passive, imperative.
 - Second person Plural= addressed to “You” as in “Y’all” all believers. So, being filled is not the command for the elite spiritual leaders, but for all.
 - Present = ongoing, and repeatedly, not a once and for all
 - Passive = we can’t fill ourselves, we come to be filled by the Spirit.
 - Imperative = command. This isn’t a suggestion, but a vital command for our own good.
 - So...This command means “keep on being filled by the Holy Spirit”.

GETTING PERSONAL

5. Pick one of the departments listed from question #2 and describe where you need more grace supplied to you by the Holy Spirit.
6. Is there any way you have not allowed the fragrance of Christ (from question 3) to fill that department? Is there a lack of submission in that department (grieving the Holy Spirit)? If so, what can you do immediately, to “be filled with by the Holy Spirit”?

PRACTICE!

Many people want to grow but don't want to change. There is no growth without change. What will you change in order to grow in the following life practices? What do you hope to change through the following practices?

- a. Devote Daily:
- b. Live Authentically:

May 9, 2021

His Presence--(Week 3) What It Means To be Filled with the Spirit

I have heard it said, “God pity the preacher who never has sensed God's presence!” That is sad, but sensing His presence isn't just for preachers. God pity any believer who has never sensed God's presence!

- What does it feel like and what does it look like to be Spirit filled?
- This is an extremely important topic.
- Based on my experience, I am guessing that many of you are excited to hear more on this topic and you are thinking, “*You have my attention! I'm ready to listen.*”
- But not everyone is like that. If by chance you are feeling apprehensive, or nervous about this topic. Like this is your first visit and you are now thinking, “*What in the world? This sounds scary and weird, I wish I had not come today. Filled with a Spirit!? Like possessed!? Yeah, no thanks. I'm out of here!*”

Uh... before you leave, I think you might want to hear what Jesus has to say first. I think you will want to hear more and experience more of what he describes.

I. A promised GIFT

John 4:10 (CSB) Jesus answered, “If you knew the gift of God, and who is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would ask him, and he would give you living water.”

John 4:13–14 (CSB) Jesus said, “Everyone who drinks from this water will get thirsty again. ¹⁴ But whoever drinks from the water that I will give him will never get thirsty again. In fact, the water I will give him will become a well of water springing up in him for eternal life.”

John 7:38 (CSB) The one who believes in me, as the Scripture has said, will have streams of living water flow from deep within him.”

- Doesn't that make you want more? It does for me.
- Do you ever feel empty, and want to be filled with life, meaning, and significance? I do. And I want to come back to that flow of living water. I don't want a few drops on Sunday. I don't want a sip! I want the RIVER! (NIV) "*rivers of living water*" overflowing from within me.
- I want **more** experiences that feel full of "His Presence" don't you?

II. A commanded RESPONSIBILITY

*Ephesians 5:18 (CSB) And don't get drunk with wine, which leads to reckless living, but **be filled by the Spirit**:*

When you are filled with the Spirit, you are filled with an overflowing supply of grace, everything you need for a good and beautiful life that pleases God.

- Too many believers miss out because they don't realize their responsibility and how this works.
- If we fail on our end, we can block God's overflowing supply. When this happens, we grieve the Holy Spirit.

*Ephesians 4:30 (CSB) And don't **grieve** God's Holy Spirit...*

1. The Holy Spirit is a personal being, not an impersonal force.
2. What keeps you from being "filled with the Spirit" is not the Holy Spirit but you when you grieve Him and have not reconciled your relationship with God.

*Ephesians 5:18 (CSB) ...but **be filled by** the Spirit:*

Grammatically this verb in the Greek is a **second person plural, present, passive, imperative command**. I don't want to get into a confusing grammar lesson right now, so let me keep things simple. This command means "*keep on being filled by the Holy Spirit*". It is a command. And it is our responsibility.

III. Receive ONCE and be filled REPEATEDLY.

SPONGE Lesson: Let's compare this sponge to baptism. I'm a sponge, and I was plunged into water when I was baptized. (See Acts 2:38). I receive the Holy Spirit. I declare that "I'm All In" Jesus. And Jesus promises that he is All in me. I'm in Christ, and Christ is in me.

But I leak. Sometimes I'm empty. I am commanded to be FILLED again and again. Sometimes I'm clinched. When I'm clinched I'm not filled with the Holy Spirit, because I have not given the Holy Spirit access to all of me. **This grieves the Holy Spirit.**

Why does it grieve Him? I need to give you a longer answer than you are expecting, so bear with me here.

***John 14:16–17 (CSB)** And I will ask the Father, and he will give you **another Counselor** [paraklete, counselor, advocate] to be with you forever. ¹⁷ He is the Spirit of truth. The world is unable to receive him because it doesn't see him or know him. But you do know him, because he remains with you and will be in you.*

Believers in Jesus have two "counselors" working together on their behalf.

Jesus is the wonderful counselor (Isaiah 9:6). The Apostle John also wrote a little letter where he calls Jesus the counselor.

***1 John 2:1–2 (CSB)** My little children, I am writing you these things so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have **an advocate** [paraklete, same word as John 14, applied to the Holy Spirit] **with the Father**—Jesus Christ the righteous one. ² He himself is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours, but also for those of the whole world.*

Jesus our "counselor / advocate" gave us another "counselor / advocate", the Holy Spirit.

Jesus is our advocate in Heaven.
The Holy Spirit is Jesus' advocate in us.

Jesus is my advocate in Heaven representing me before my Father. Jesus is working for my best interests. As if my advocate is in court saying, *“He’s forgiven. I have paid all his debts. He’s covered. He’s exonerated. He is mine.”*

The Holy Spirit is Jesus’ advocate in me, working for Jesus’ best interests by applying everything from Jesus’ victorious crucifixion and resurrection to me, and thereby honoring Jesus. The Holy Spirit applies the victory and affirms it in me:

“You are forgiven, Jesus paid all your debts, He’s covered you, exonerated you, and you are His. Be filled with his grace. All glory and honor and power belong to Him, and he is withholding nothing from you! Glorify him. Thank Him, be set free by him. Live in the fullness of all his blessings! Be filled by him!”

When we mess up, the Spirit convicts us, ***not to condemn us but to bring us back to the glory of Jesus’ victorious accomplishment of grace*** through the cross and resurrection.

Questions to ask yourself:

Have I given Jesus the master key to every room of my life?
Is he my guest, or my master?

Imagine you had a guest stay at your house. How would you feel if you came home one day, and you found your guest going through your stuff? Let’s say that somehow he found your hidden fire safe lock box and opened it up, and you caught him snooping through your important private and personal files! What are you feeling? Anger! You feel violated. Why? He was snooping around where he was not welcome or invited!

Do you see my point? Is he your guest or master?

In an audience like this there are often opposite reactions to the same message. It isn’t that they hear different words, it is something else.

With teachable believers even hard to hear messages are received with gratitude. *You are so right. I confess, I've been wrong. I need to change that. Lord, help me.* And they know, I'm just the messenger.

Then there are believers where Jesus is really only a guest in their lives, not a master. They think, *"How dare you say such a thing. It's my life. Stop meddling with what I should do with my money, or my life choices. Who do you think you are, anyway!"* And they forget that I'm only the messenger.

You cannot be filled until you give full access.

Back to main verse

*Ephesians 5:18 (CSB) And don't get drunk with wine, which leads to reckless living, but **be filled by the Spirit:***

There is a compare and contrast in this verse: Why? **How does a man get drunk?** By drinking. How does a man stay drunk? He keeps drinking. He's under the influence of alcohol.

How is someone filled with the Holy Spirit? By drinking something better, God's grace. How is he continuously filled? He keeps drinking in God's grace. As you do this you are under the influence of something far better!

Common mistake: When you are cold toward God, or feeling empty, you are mistaken if you think that you have to try harder to work your way back. No. Come again, as a sinner in need. Confess. The Holy Spirit then advocates for Jesus' honor!

The Spirit bids us cease from trying to get peace by our efforts, and to come to Jesus as a sinner and rest in what He has done. As we do so, the burden of striving and self-reproach slips away from our hearts, and the Comforter whispers peace to our hearts....

We are not merely on the winning side, but on the side that has already won; we do not fight **for** victory but **from** it.

Roy Hession, *Be Filled Now*

Be filled by the Spirit. If you miss out on this, you are really missing out!