

## BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT

[jkroberts\\_us@yahoo.com](mailto:jkroberts_us@yahoo.com)

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Ephesians 5:15-21

1. Here Paul wrote, "...do not be drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit." 18
  - a. A command.
  - b. "Do not be under the influence and control of alcohol, but be under the influence and control of the Holy Spirit."
2. How can we know if we are filled with the Spirit or not?
3. Some teach that the biblical evidence of being filled with the Spirit is to speak in "tongues" and that if you have not done so you cannot claim to be filled with the Spirit. **NOTE:** Neither the Bible or church history supports this subjective teaching.
4. The Apostle Paul made it clear in I Corinthians 12:27-31 that not all Christians would speak in tongues, but that the Spirit of God would manifest His presence in different ways in different people's lives. 1 Cor 12:27-31

"Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it. 28 And God has appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, various kinds of tongues. 29 All are not apostles, are they? All are not prophets, are they? All are not teachers, are they? All are not workers of miracles, are they? 30 All do not have gifts of healings, do they? All do not speak with tongues, do they? All do not interpret, do they? 31 But earnestly desire the greater gifts. and I show you a still more excellent way."

NOTE: These are all rhetorical questions with the same answer-no.
5. Jesus promised, "...but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses." Acts 1:8

The evidence of being filled with the Holy Spirit is a Spirit empowered witness for Christ.
6. What constitutes a Spirit empowered witness for Christ? **OUR WHOLE LIFE!**

### I. A Spiritual Mind Set. Romans 8:1-11

- A. Paul said we fulfill the Law of God as we walk *according to the Spirit*. 4  
-The controlling influence in our life is not the flesh, but the Spirit of God.
- B. Those who are controlled by the flesh have a fleshly mindset, and those who are controlled by the Spirit have a spiritual mindset. 5
  1. Those with a fleshly mindset think about how to gratify the flesh.
  2. Those with a spiritual mindset think about how to please God.
- C. Paul makes the same point in Col 3:1-3.

"Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. 3 For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God."
- D. Note also Romans 8:6-8.
- E. One aspect of a Spirit empowered witness will be a spiritual mindset.

## II. A Spiritual Lifestyle. Romans 8:12-17

- A. We are no longer controlled by the flesh. 12
- B. Rather, by the Spirit, we are putting to death the deeds of the body (a process).
  - 1. “But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.”
    - a. The law of sin still works in our members. Romans 7:23
    - b. But a greater law is at work in our lives. Romans 8:2
  - 2. Note Jesus promise in John 7:37-39.

Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. 38 "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow **rivers** of living water.'" 39 But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

**NOTE:** Jesus spoke in the plural because He was speaking about the fruit of the Spirit.
  - 3. Galatians 5:22-23.

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.”
- C. We need to remember that the deeds or works of the flesh are not all overtly sinful (fear, timidity, laziness for example). 2 Timothy 1:7

“For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but (a Spirit) of power and love and discipline.”
- D. The second aspect of a Spirit empowered witness will be a spiritual lifestyle.

## III. Spiritual Insight and Understanding. 1 Corinthians 2:6-16

- A. The Spirit of God **enlightens** us in order that we might enlighten others. 12-13
- B. Notice that He **enables** us to express spiritual truth.

**NOTE:** “...comparing spiritual *thoughts* with spiritual *words*.”
- C. “We have the mind of Christ.” 16
- D. The Holy Spirit is our teacher.
  - 1. 1 John 2:20

“But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know.”
  - 2. 1 John 2:26-27

“These things I have written to you concerning those who are trying to deceive you. 27 As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him.”
- E. A third aspect of a Spirit empowered witness will be spiritual insight and understanding related to the Word of God.

**NOTE:** There is a dangerous lack of spiritual discernment in the church today.

#### IV. A Spiritual Ministry.

- A. Through the exercising of our spiritual gifts. 1 Corinthians 12:4-11  
“As each one has received a (special) gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.” 1 Peter 4:10
- B. Through prophesy-forth-telling and not foretelling. 1 Corinthians 14:1-4  
“Pursue love, yet desire earnestly spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy. “For one who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God; for no one understands, but in his spirit he speaks mysteries. 3 But one who prophesies speaks to men for edification and exhortation and consolation. 4 One who speaks in a tongue edifies himself; but one who prophesies edifies the church.”  
-Some would disagree, but I see Paul downplaying tongues as they were being manifested by the Corinthians and elevating the clear proclamation of God’s Word.
- C. Through good works and the manifestation of God’s love.
1. Eph 2:8-10  
“For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.”
  2. Gal 6:9-10  
“Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary. 10 So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.”  
**NOTE: The life we live before men either authenticates or contradicts our message.**
- D. A fourth aspect of a Spirit empowered witness will be a spiritual ministry.

#### APPLICATION

1. We need to remember that the Holy Spirit is a person and that a person cannot be partially present.
2. The Holy Spirit can be ignored, grieved, quenched and insulted, or He can be welcomed, acknowledged, honored, surrendered to, obeyed and depended upon.  
**NOTE:** Many people have experienced a wonderful manifestation of the Holy Spirit’s presence and have had their spiritual lives transformed because they earnestly desired the Holy Spirit’s fullness and subsequently surrendered totally to Him.
3. To the degree that you have a spiritual mindset, a spiritual lifestyle, spiritual insight and understanding, and a spiritual ministry you are filled with the Spirit, because only the Spirit of God can account for these things.
4. Thank God for what He has done in your life, for what He is doing in your life, and for what He will yet do in your life.
5. Tell God that you want to be continually filled with the Holy Spirit and ask Him to help you to yield fully to the Holy Spirit.