

# Led By the Spirit

Romans 8:14

## Intro

Dr. Billy Graham (well known world evangelist) wrote some years ago, “We cannot escape the tremendous emphasis of the Holy Spirit in the lives of the early believers. The church today has all the tools for conquest, money, organization, education and methods. But today we lack the God-given spark to ignite these things into a spiritual fire that could sweep our society and community. That spark is the infilling of the Holy Spirit in the life of every believer, without which the church has no spiritual power.”

Graham also said, “The situation in the organized and institutional church today is desperate. We are losing the battle for the minds and hearts of people through materialism and secularism; and unless the trend is radically reversed, the institutional church may well go into an eclipse.”

The church, believers need to be filled with the Holy Spirit, we need the infilling. How many believers have been living their lives without experiencing what it is like to have the “Power of the Holy Spirit operating in their lives?” To be quite honest, I believe that some of us have had the Power of the Holy Spirit turned off for a long time. We need the infilling of the Holy Spirit.

## The Problem with most Christians

I have heard Christians express more of their weaknesses than their strengths.

They say, “I can't do this or that.” “I can't witness to others.” “I don't feel comfortable doing that.”

All such expressions are denying the power of God which has been given to each of us who have received Christ and His Spirit.

1 John 4:4, “Greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.”

This is true for each and every one of us. The Holy Spirit's power is in us, and it flows in us and through us. But it's our attitude and disobedience, more than anything else, that determines whether or not Spirit's power infills us.

Our “can't do” attitude closes the door. Our “can do” attitude opens the door.

A. W. Tozer said, “Every Christian has the Holy Spirit but the Holy Spirit doesn't have every Christian.”

## The Infilling of the Holy Spirit

Dr. R.A. Torrey said, “The infilling of the Holy Spirit is a definite and distinct experience. A Christian will know whether he has received the Spirit or not. Jesus commanded His disciples to wait in Jerusalem until they received power from on high. If this were not a definite and distinct experience, the disciples would not know whether they had complied with Christ's command.”

The endowment of power of the Holy Spirit for the believer is absolutely crucial. We need the Holy Spirit's infilling. In Zech. 4:6 the Lord says, "*Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the LORD of hosts.*"

In Ephesians 5:18 it teaches:

*"Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit."*

### **Quenching and Grieving the Spirit**

The voice of the Spirit of God is gentle that unless you are living in complete fellowship and oneness with God, you will never hear him. The sense of warning and restraint that the Spirit gives comes to us in the most amazingly gentle ways. And if you are not sensitive enough to detect His voice, you will quench it. Also deliberately living in sin is another way of stifling the Holy Spirit and in the end your spiritual life will be impaired and you will live in defeat.

We read in Eph. 4:30-31, "*And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.*"

All sin is painful to God, but sin in His children breaks His heart. When believers refuse to change the ways of the old sinful life for the ways of the new, the Holy Spirit grieves.

Grieving can lead to quenching and to lose out on the power and blessing.

This is picked up in 1 Thess. 5:19 where it says, "*Do not quench the Spirit.*" That word quench literally means not to extinguish or stifle the power of the Holy Spirit. Don't smother the Holy Spirit's work within you.

### **Reasons Not to Grieve & Quench the Holy Spirit**

1. The Holy Spirit empowers us to overcome temptation, lust and sin.

Gal. 5:16 teaches, "*So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.*"

2. The Holy Spirit brings us into intimacy with God.

Gal. 4:6-7 explains, "*Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, 'Abba, Father.' So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.*" Abba means Daddy, a term of intimacy and endearment.

3. The Holy Spirit helps us in our prayer life with intercessory power.

Rom. 8:26 says, "*In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.*" A prayer language is available to Spirit-filled believers and is intended to be ongoing.

4. The Holy Spirit helps us know God's will and agenda for our lives.

In Eph. 5:17, the verse before verse 18 which speaks of being filled with the Spirit says, "*Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.*"

5. The Holy Spirit gives us the power to witness and proclaim the word of God.

The Apostle Paul a few times mentions in his epistles that the Gospel he proclaimed came with the power of the Holy Spirit.

1 Cor. 2:3-5, “I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling. 4 My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power, 5 so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God’s power.”

1 Thess. 1:4-5, “For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you, 5 because our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction.”

We need the unctioning, the anointing of the Holy Spirit to proclaim and teach God’s word.

6. The Holy Spirit guides and leads us. We should never grieve or quench Him in our lives.

Gal. 5:16, “So I say, walk in the Spirit...” To “walk in the Spirit” is to follow the Spirit’s leading. It is essentially to “walk with” the Spirit, allowing Him to guide your steps.

Romans 8:14, “For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.” The Holy Spirit leads us and prompts us. It’s like giving a spiritual nudge.

Promptings or leadings are a common experience for the Christian believer:

- Simeon was “*moved by the Spirit*” to go into the temple where Joseph and Mary were dedicating Jesus to God (Luke 2:27).
- Jesus was “*led by the Spirit*” into the desert to be tempted by the devil (Luke 4:1).
- “The Spirit told Philip, ‘Go to that chariot and stay near it.’” That was the chariot of the Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:29).
- Paul was “*compelled by the Spirit*” to go to Jerusalem (Acts 20:22).

My experiences in São Miguel this October 2016...

### **Conclusion**

I don’t believe in luck or fate, I believe in divine providence. God still leads and directs people, especially His people. Are you sensitive to His leading and the promptings of the Holy Spirit? Walk by faith and go to where God is leading you. A miracle is just around the corner – the miracle of a precious soul coming to Christ, the miracle of someone needing God.

Some believers want the benefits and the work of the Spirit, but they do not want to pay the price. I want to say something dangerous. Did you know that it is possible to work for God and lead an exemplary life without being filled with the Holy Spirit?

What could take place in our homes, community if Christians could know something of the fullness and power of the Holy Spirit? Are you willing to pay the price? Renewal will come when God’s people are ready to pay the price!

Finally, while the indwelling of the Spirit happens at conversion, the infilling of the Spirit happens continually (Ephesians 5:18). As such, we daily seek the Holy Spirit to empower us whether in our prayers to God, in living out our lives or in our proclamation of the good news, the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Let’s be filled with the Spirit and be led by the Spirit every day of our lives.