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# CROWN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

## THE FILLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

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The Crown of Righteousness is acquired through the filling of the Holy Spirit. We are filled with the Holy Spirit when we are in fellowship with God through the confession of sin. We find the crown of righteousness introduced in 2 Timothy 4:7-8.

**Read and write 2 Timothy 4:7-8 here.**

The word 'righteousness' is translated from the Greek word 'dikaisoune.' You might remember it means "conformity to the specifications of the blueprint." Because we are all designed specifically by God, we all have a specific blueprint which outlines our entire life. We are called to follow that blueprint with the help of the Holy Spirit.

According to 1 Corinthians 12:11, God has given each believer a unique blueprint. Many people believe that the Bible is our blueprint; however, the Bible is the building code for our unique blueprint. God has given each of us a separate, special ministry or blueprint. We are to use the Bible as our instruction guide to help us carry out that ministry. God will reveal our blueprint to us as we are yielded to Him under the control of the Holy Spirit. He has given us the Bible, His Word, the Mind of Christ, as a guideline or code to our unique blueprint.

We are awarded the crown of righteousness when we live in conformity with the blueprint He created for our lives. The only way to do this is through the confession of sin and under the

control of the Holy Spirit. 2 Timothy 4:8 reveals that a crown of righteousness is saved for the believer who has the appearance of Christ. What is the only way to have the true appearance of Christ? Through fellowship with God!

1 John 2:28 promises that when we constantly abide in Christ we will not be ashamed when He returns. In other words, if we continually live a spirit-filled life, we won't have any need for excuses when we reach the Judgment Seat of Christ.

Ephesians 5:18 commands us to be filled with the Holy Spirit. In the Greek, the word for 'filled' means to be "saturated to the point of control." We must allow the Holy Spirit to have complete control of our lives.

As believers, we MUST utilize 1 John 1:9 as often and as quickly as we need to. When we confess our sins to God, or speak the same with God, we are basically telling God what we did. He already knows, but we need to recognize our position of sinfulness. We are unrighteous; we are not in conformity with His plans. When we confess our sin, we are turning from the wrong we committed and back to Him.

Remember also, that we are in a constant battle: our desire to do our own will, the desires of others, the pressures of this world and the desire of our sin nature all fight to keep us from the righteousness of God.

**Read and write Romans 7:15.**

**Read and write James 1:14-15.**

We are either spiritual or carnal. We can never be in a state of duality. Our deeds are never, 'all right' or 'okay.' They are either sin or righteousness. When we are out of fellowship with God, we are unable to understand the things of God according to 1 Corinthians 3:1-3. When

we are in fellowship with God, we are able to understand the mysteries of God according to 1 Corinthians 2:14-16.

**Make a list of the characteristics of the Old Sin Nature listed in Galatians 5:19-21.**

**Make a list of the characteristics of the Fruit of the Spirit according to Galatians 5:22-23.**

What a difference between these two lists! It is amazing how important fellowship and the confession of sin is in our lives as believers. It is the focal point of our relationship with God and the only route to spiritual maturity. It also leads us to the acquisition of the crown of righteousness. The more often, and the quicker we confess our sin when we are out of fellowship, the easier it is for us to recognize our sin. We will be in fellowship with God more often and will be able to understand the things of God.

Let us take an honest look at our relationship with God. How often are we in fellowship? How often do we ignore the fact that we aren't in fellowship? Let's heed this study and take the time to give our relationship with God an honest evaluation. It is so easy to go about our day without pausing to think about our relationship with God and our fellowship with Him.

**Take time to pray and talk with God about your relationship with him.**