

**FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT**  
**Ephesians 5:18-20**

You might be tempted to think that “indwelling” and “filling” are the same, but they are not. The indwelling of the Spirit happens upon our conversion and He is within us forever (John 14:16). Filling happens continually in the life of a disciple (Acts 2:4; 4:31; 13:52). What does it mean to be filled with the Holy Spirit? [It’s often illustrated like a tank of gas or air in a balloon, which we use up or leak out.] But if we think in terms of relationship, being filled has more to do with influence or control – who or what has full authority in the relationship? While this is experienced internally, it is evidenced throughout our life’s expression. If I say someone is full of foolishness, or mischief, you have a picture of their behavior. Likewise, a person who is full of the Holy Spirit will live their life in evidence of that filling. If a person is full of whiskey, they will be under its influence – it’s evident to others they are under the control of alcohol. To be filled with the Holy Spirit is to be under His controlling influence so much so that His transforming presence within you is evident to all. There are many who claim to be Christians, but they do not think, speak, or behave as though they are filled with the Holy Spirit. Is it evident to others that you are being continually filled with the Spirit each day?