

June 10, 2018 **The Filling of the Holy Spirit**
Ephesians 5:8-21

Of all the ways that the Holy Spirit functions in believers, His “filling” is perhaps the most misunderstood...**and** the most dramatic to illustrate!

Why most misunderstood? Because some of our brethren have developed entire denominations from the idea that the filling of the Holy Spirit is a different experience than His indwelling at salvation. In fact, among these brethren, the Holy Spirit’s filling is known as “a second Blessing,” and is *always evidenced by the spiritual gift of speaking in tongues.*

I want to debunk this definition by simply explaining the scripture referring to the *filling of the Spirit*. I also want you to know that the presence & filling of the Spirit will never manifest itself in only one unique spiritual gift! And we’re going to investigate the gifts of the Spirit in September when we let God show us exactly how He has already put this body together, every member in ministry, just as He desires here at FBCT!

Why most dramatic to illustrate? Because the Holy Spirit’s filling is best seen in the sail of boat filled with wind. *But does the wind that fills the sail push the boat or pull it? Or, in the case of a Christian, does the Holy Spirit push or draw us? And what’s the difference?* We’ll answer these questions today!

READ: Ephesians 5:8-21

- 8) “...darkness, but now you *have or **are light*** in the Lord”
 - John identified Jesus as “the light;” thus, so is His Spirit
 - We “are light” b/c of our new spirit-identities – of Him!
- 9) The Holy Spirit is “*this light within you*” - *good, right, true*
- 10) *How are we to determine what pleases the Lord?* ASK!
- 13) evil will be exposed when the light shines...Judgment Day
- 14) Believers are called the second fruit of resurrection! J 5:25
- 15-20) Learn to live by the Holy Spirit: *His wisdom & power!*
 - HS produces in us a “supernatural, other worldly” life
 - He tells what we can’t know; He does what we can’t do
 - HS’s not our “helper” to live a better life; He’s Operator
- 17) 2nd reminder to live by the Holy Spirit, knowing God’s will

- 18) drunkenness & Spirit-filledness are contrasted as influences
 - one leads to debauchery/depravity; the other to holiness!
 - Pentecost: HS’s filling was mistaken for drunkenness!

Gk lesson: *be filled = present, imperative, passive

- Filled = *pleroo – to fill, fulfill, make complete*
- a command, in present time, to allow the Spirit to fill
- “...**be being filled with the Spirit**” (every time it’s now)
- Let God’s Spirit complete His work in you now, now...**

So, how does “be being filled with the Spirit” work?

- 1) Not quantitative, but qualitative: being operated by Him!
- 2) Spirit = *Pneuma* – also the word for wind. **John 3:8**

-Wind on a sail creates movement by a vacuum effect

** The Holy Spirit is not a wind pushing us forward, but a wind that creates dynamic pressure drawing us forward.

Wherever He leads, He has always been before us:

Holy Spirit draws us to enter where He already is!

God’s Spirit in us is not pushy! He draws us to follow Him by using the pressure created against us by the world we live in – the world that is not our home; not consistent with God’s rule; not like life in His kingdom. He causes us to want to follow!

Being filled with God’s Spirit is about our willingness to let Him “**fill our minds with His thoughts, our mouths with His words, and our hands with His work!**” We must learn to let Him operate us as He uses the pressure of the world to draw us into **real** life – God’s LIFE!

19-21) **the results of continuously being filled by the Spirit**

- song in our heart (*rather than anger, anxiety, bitterness*)
- spiritual content in mind & mouth; being music to God
- giving thanks for all things – *good and bad!*
 - because God will use all to our good!
- subjection/submission to one another
 - willingly coming under others to empower them!

INVITATION TO RESPOND PERSONALLY:

- 1) Is the Spirit in you to fill you?
- 2) Will you choose to **be being filled with the Spirit** now?

WORSHIP IN MEDITATION: Isaiah 60:1-3

1) “Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. **2)** See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you. **3)** Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Isaiah prophesies about the end of days when all will see God’s glory. Mankind has experienced God’s glory at different times and different ways throughout history: but every manifestation has prepared for God’s glory revealed in the man, Jesus Christ. And now, as a result of the New Covenant in Christ’s blood, *every believer* receives the glory of God to dwell within us...His Holy Spirit.

But the Spirit isn’t just in us to be with us; He’s in us to fill us up with the glory of God, permeating us with His goodness & righteousness. Today, we’ll look at what it means to “be being filled with the Holy Spirit.”

Sermon in a Sentence: The Filling of the Holy Spirit

Ephesians 5:8-21 (NLT)

8For once you were full of darkness, but now you have light from the Lord. So live as people of light! **9**For this light within you produces only what is good and right and true.

10Carefully determine what pleases the Lord. **11**Take no part in the worthless deeds of evil and darkness; instead, expose them. **12**It is shameful even to talk about the things that ungodly people do in secret. **13**But their evil intentions will be exposed when the light shines on them, **14**for the light makes everything visible. This is why it is said, “Awake, O sleeper, rise up from the dead, and Christ will give you light.”

Living by the Spirit’s Power

15So be careful how you live. Don’t live like fools, but like those who are wise. **16**Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. **17**Don’t act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do. **18**Don’t be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit, **19**singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, and making music to the Lord in your hearts. **20**And give thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Spirit-Guided Relationships:

21And further, submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

(June 4, 11:38) We at ADF (Alliance Defending Freedom) have exciting news! Minutes ago, the United States Supreme Court ruled that the State of Colorado violated Jack Phillips’ First Amendment freedom when the government punished him for operating his business according to his sincerely held religious beliefs about marriage. In other words, the court upheld Jack’s freedom to live and work consistently with his beliefs. **This is a big win—not just for Jack, but for every American who values freedom. Praise God!**