

**Are You
FILLED
with the Holy Spirit?**



**How to Check And See If You Are Filled with
God's Holy Spirit
Ephesians 5:18**

Filled With the Holy Spirit

Filled With the Holy Spirit

How to Get Filled and Stay Full of God's Holy Spirit

Ephesians 5:18

Pastor Craig Ledbetter
Sept 14, 2014 PM
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I. Introduction (Ephesians 5:18)

A. Just a drop of anything is actually nothing

1. I don't want a drop of coffee – I want a cup of coffee that is filled
2. I don't want a bite of a sandwich – I want a sandwich that is filled with loads of stuff
3. I don't want an empty church – I want a church that is filled! Amen?
4. I don't want just a sprinkling of God's blessings – I want God's blessings in their fullness and overflowing!
5. I don't want just a bit of forgiveness – I am so glad God gave me a kind of forgiveness that is FULL and MORE THAN ABUNDANT!

B. Now turn it around - God doesn't want just a bit of you and me, but all of us!

1. He wants to FILL us
2. Yet too, too many make no room for Him in their thoughts, in their time, in their wallet

C. Let's learn about being filled with God's precious Holy Spirit

II. Message

A. There are Different Spirits

1. Unclean spirits – unholy spirits
 - a. Satanic Spirits – thoughts that we think are right (Mt 16:20-23)
 - b. Evil Attitudes
 - 1) Haughty spirit (Proverbs 16:18)
 - 2) Spirit of Anger, Revenge (Luke 9:52-55)
 - 3) Spirit of Jealousy (Numbers 5:14)
 - 4) Spirit of Disobedience (Eph 2:2)
 - 5) Spirit of Heaviness (Isa 61:3)
 - 6) Spirit of Whoredom/Adultery/Pornography/Lust (Hosea 4:12)
 - c. Familiar spirits (Leviticus 19:31)
 - d. Spirit of Fear (2Tim 1:7)
 - e. The spirit of the antichrist (1John 4:3)
 - f. Be careful that your wounded spirit (Prov 18:14), and offended spirit and broken spirit does not become a playground for the DEVIL to fill with anger, wrath, bitterness and ruin!
2. And then there is the Holy Spirit
 - a. Excellent spirit (Daniel 6:3; 5:14)
 - b. Faithful spirit (Prov 11:13)
 - c. Controlled spirit (Pr 16:32)
 - d. The spirit of Christ (Romans 8:9)!
3. We are always filled with some spirit!
4. What spirit are you known for?

B. Many Times in the Old Testament the Holy Spirit Empowered an Individual – supernaturally enabled them to do something they could not have done without Him!

1. Gideon (Judges 6:34)
2. Jephthah (Judges 11:29)
3. Sampson (Judges 14:6,19; 15:14)

Filled With the Holy Spirit

4. King Saul (1 Sam 10:6-10)
5. Young David (1Sam 16:13)
6. Many others
7. But God wants to do more than EMPOWER now

C. The Holy Spirit is ALWAYS at work on us

1. He Birthed You (1Peter 3:18)
2. Humbling us – breaks us down first
 - a. Not empowering us
 - b. But breaking us down
3. Convicting us
 - a. He works to reveal OUR sins against God – we can easily see the sins of others. It is OUR own sins that the Holy Spirit has to expose!
4. Conquering us (1Chron 12:16-18) – bringing us under submission
 - a. Breaking bonds of sin and temptation (Romans 8:13-15)
5. Builds you (Eph 2:22) – adds to you everything you need to live and be a wonderful temple for God to be praised in!
6. Enables you and me to Bear one another's burdens (Num 11:17)
 - a. Gives us Compassion – Caring about others
 - b. Carrying what others cannot carry at that moment
 - c. Gives us calmness when someone is yelling at us – knowing that they are not the problem (Eph 6:12)
7. Leading us – showing us God's will
8. But most of all He wants to FILL us!
 - a. To put in and occupy the whole of me
 - b. To furnish – as in furnish a house, with every possible spiritual blessing of God
 - c. To inflate something that is empty and vain
9. But he DOESN'T fill anyone who won't LET Him!

D. What would it be like if we were FILLED with the Holy Spirit for extended periods of time? Shouldn't that be the norm?

1. Jesus was FILLED (Luke 2:40)
2. The apostles were filled (Acts 2:4)
3. It is available to ALL believers (Eph 5:18)

E. How to Get Filled and Stay Full of the Holy Spirit

1. **Humble Yourself** (Isaiah 57:15; Ps 34:18; 51:17; 1Peter 5:5)
 - a. It will be the hardest first step you ever take
 - b. Constantly NOT reacting in your own interest
 - c. Not becoming a wimp, but just not being there at all – honouring the other person
 - d. THAT is the container the Holy Spirit seeks to fill
2. **Worship the Person of Jesus Christ** (John 16:13,14) – seriously worship Him
 - a. Your body is a place of WORSHIP, no longer a place of WICKEDNESS (1Cor 6:19,20)
 - b. Don't worship the Holy Spirit primarily
 - c. Stay in love with the Person of Jesus Christ (1Peter 1:8)
 - d. Worship His Name, bow the knee to HIM!
 - e. So, have right thoughts
 - f. Use Right music (Eph 5:19)
3. **Be Thankful** (Eph 5:20)

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- a. For everything – I cannot repeat that enough
 - b. In the middle of the night, praise and thank God (Acts 16:25; Psalm 34:1)
4. ***Desire a Biblical Purpose for the Holy Spirit in your Life*** (Rom 12:6-8) – a reason to be emptied of your filling!
- a. God fills a believer not so that they feel better about themselves
 - b. But rather for a specific purpose (Luke 4:18,19)
 - 1) Soul-winning
 - 2) To BE like Christ
 - 3) To conquer a stronghold in your life
 - 4) To teach a Sunday School class
 - 5) To preach the Gospel
 - 6) To have courage
 - c. Pursue the Filling, not the FEELING and the feeling will come!
 - d. Remember, the purpose of your filling is to be emptied out again, and then to go and get filled AGAIN, to be emptied again!
5. ***ASK for His filling*** (Luke 11:11-13)
- a. You NEVER need to ask for His presence - He already is in you (John 14:17; Gal 4:6). He entered the moment you repented and believed the Gospel!
 - b. But He should be in every area of your life: of your heart, thoughts, actions, reactions
 - c. In every room of your life – He has to be invited in to:
 - 1) Into your past
 - 2) Into your pains
 - 3) Into your secret sins
 - 4) Into your loves – He will tell you what should stay, and what should go!
 - d. Ask, every time you think of it! ASK!
6. ***Willingly Put-up with whatever God's Will is for your life*** – YIELD (Rom 12:1,2)
- a. People want God's power, and God's blessings, but they won't put up with God's will
 - b. Wherever God has you, serve Him THERE!
7. ***Protect the Filling*** – don't grieve, hinder or frustrate Him in you (1Thes 5:19)
- a. Take note of when the Holy Spirit has filled you... And seek to protect it
 - b. Guard your eyes! TV, the internet
 - c. Guard your ears – no bad reports!
 - d. Guard your tongue
 - e. Guard your time – make time for your walk with God

Are You FILLED With the Holy Spirit? Part 1

Are You FILLED With the Holy Spirit? Part 1

How to Check and See If You Are Filled with God's Holy Spirit

Ephesians 5:18

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Sept 28, 2014 PM
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I. Introduction (Ephesians 5:18)

- A. These have been some very practical lessons on living the Christian life
- B. We have learned about
 - 1. Memorizing and meditating on Scripture
 - 2. Personalising Scripture as we read it
 - 3. Walking in the Spirit
 - 4. And now, learning about being FILLED with God's Holy Spirit
- C. The Christian life is SPIRITUAL as much as it is PHYSICAL
- D. And if you and I are not right SPIRITUALLY, nothing we do in the flesh will amount to anything

II. Background

A. You GET the Holy Spirit at Salvation

- 1. You received Christ Himself (John 1:10-12)
- 2. God the Father moved into you, spiritually (John 14:23)
- 3. And the Holy Spirit came along too (John 14:17)

B. You CANNOT Lose the Holy Spirit's Presence – not in total

- 1. The Holy Spirit lives permanently in every Christian.
 - a. Rom 8:9 “if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his”
 - b. Gal. 3:2,3 “Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?”
 - c. Gal 4:6,7 “And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. Wherefore thou art no more a servant (that can be dismissed, see Matt 25:30), but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.”
 - d. Eph 1:13,14 “after that ye believed, ye were **sealed** with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest (only the BEGINNING) of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession (which is US)”
- 2. Our good works could not earn His grace before we were saved, and neither can our good works earn us His grace now that we are saved (Romans 4:1-5; 5:1-11). If our good works could not save, and cannot presently save us, then neither can our struggles with the flesh condemn us to hell. If Jesus died for us when we were yet enemies of God, how much more will He now work with us after we have become born again (Romans 5:8-11)?

C. Why His Presence is Important

- 1. Of the two dozen vital reasons for the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life (i.e., he restrains sin, etc), these four are pretty important!
- 2. He seals you – secures you for heaven! Without Him you have no assurance, no security
 - a. King Saul lost the Holy Spirit
 - b. King David worried about losing Him
 - c. No Christian loses Him now! We are sealed until pick-up day!
- 3. He helps you pray – don't forget just how important HE is to your and my praying! Without Him, our prayers are dead!!!
- 4. He strengthens you (Eph 3:16,17)
- 5. And He FILLS you so that you can walk with God in this world – so that you can be holy!

Are You FILLED With the Holy Spirit? Part 1

D. Amazingly, He wants to FILL us! (Eph 5:18)

1. He didn't want to just save me, He wants to FILL all of me with ALL of Him that I can hold!
2. It means to occupy the whole of me
 - a. Every minute of time
 - b. Every remembrance of mine
 - c. Every dark closet I hold
 - d. Every past sorrow untold
 - e. God's Holy Spirit wants to fill and bring light and life into!
3. To furnish me – as in furnish a house, with every possible spiritual blessing of God
4. To inflate (fill) me because without Him, I am empty and vain
5. To make me holy (1Peter 1:15,16)
 - a. Not boring, unable to do anything fun
 - b. But to have the joy of the Lord in my life (John 10:10)

E. But you CAN LIMIT His work in your life, and limit His fullness in your life (Psalm 78:41). There is no Calvinism in the Bible!

F. How?

1. **By not caring about HIS feelings – grieving** (Gen 6:6; 18:20; Eph 4:30)
 - a. You and I worry about everyone else's feelings
 - b. And we worry about how WE are feeling – being offended!
 - c. A Christian worries about offending the Holy Spirit in their life!
 - d. Our bad ATTITUDES upset Him, because He is right in the middle of what we are feeling and thinking! (Isaiah 63:10; Eph 4:31,32)
 - 1) ANY bitterness grieves Him
 - 2) ANY wrath grieves Him
 - 3) ANY anger grieves Him
 - 4) ANY clamour grieves Him
 - 5) ANY evil speaking grieves Him
 - 6) ANY malice grieves Him
 - 7) So, ALL must be constantly put away from you – mortified, disowned, hated, rejected
 - 8) That is IF you want to be filled with God's Holy Spirit!
 - e. So, WHY be kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you? So that you can be FULL of Christ's spirit!
2. **By not yielding to His tugging to humble yourself** (John 16:8; Act 7:51)
 - a. When He calls you to DO something (Acts 13:2) – and you won't yield
 - b. When He tries to STOP you from doing something (Acts 16:6) – and yet you push on
3. **By not honouring and worshipping Jesus** (John 16:13,14)
 - a. Start worshipping a FEELING
 - b. An idol
 - c. People
 - d. Yourself and what YOU want
4. **By abusing your body** (1Cor 6:19,20). If you are born again, your body is OWNED by God, and is a place of worship and holiness – not for abuse with DRUGS or HARLOTS

G. Next Week, How to Test to see if you are FULL of Him, or FULL of YOURSELF!

III. Conclusion – Let's Review...

- A. You GET the Holy Spirit at Salvation
- B. You CANNOT Lose the Holy Spirit's Presence – not in total
- C. His Presence is VERY Important
- D. Amazingly, He wants to FILL us! (Eph 5:18)

Are You FILLED With the Holy Spirit? Part 1

E. But you CAN LIMIT His work in your life, and limit His fullness in your life. How?

1. *By not caring about HIS feelings – grieving Him*
2. *By not yielding to His tugging to humble yourself*
3. *By not honouring and worshipping Jesus*
4. *By abusing your body*

Are You FILLED With the Holy Spirit? Part 2

Are You FILLED With the Holy Spirit? Part 2 *How to Check And See If You Are Filled with God's Holy Spirit* *Ephesians 5:18*

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Oct 5, 2014 PM
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- 1. The Holy Spirit lives permanently in every Christian.
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C. His Presence is Important Because...

- 1. He seals you – secures you for heaven! Without Him you have no assurance, no security
- 2. He helps you pray – don't forget just how important HE is to your and my praying! Without Him, our prayers are dead!!!
- 3. He strengthens you (Eph 3:16,17)
- 4. And He FILLS you so that you can walk with God in this world – so that you can be holy!
- 5. You cannot live without Him – any more than
 - a. A candle can burn without oil
 - b. Or a car engine could run without oil
 - c. You may be able for a little while, but after that, you are crocked!

D. Amazingly, He wants to FILL us! (Eph 5:18)

E. But you CAN LIMIT His work in your life, and limit His fullness in your life (Psalm 78:41). There is no Calvinism in the Bible!

F. How?

- 1. **By not caring about HIS feelings – grieving** (Gen 6:6; 18:20; Eph 4:30)
- 2. **By not yielding to His tugging to humble yourself** (John 16:8; Act 7:51)
- 3. **By not honouring and worshipping Jesus** (John 16:13,14)

Are You FILLED With the Holy Spirit? Part 2

4. **By abusing your body** (1Cor 6:19,20). If you are born again, your body is OWNED by God, and is a place of worship and holiness – not for abuse with DRUGS or HARLOTS

III. Message

- A. We are always filled with some spirit! And it naturally will NOT be God's Holy Spirit – THAT takes effort!

B. Test to see if you are FULL of Him, or FULL of YOURSELF!

1. God will test your fullness (Dt 8:2, "to know what was in thine heart")
 - a. By allowing troubles into your life, pressures
 - b. God allowed Israel to hunger and thirst and do without.
 - c. To show them what was in their hearts!
 - d. God allows false prophets to prove, test, His people's commitment to truth and sound doctrine (Dt 13:3)
2. Satan will test your fullness
 - a. By trying to deceive you into yielding to another spirit (2Cor 11:2-4)
 - b. Only a Christian, full of the Holy Spirit can discern false spirits, and resist the devil (1John 4:1; Rev 2:2)
3. YOU yourself should test your level of fullness, and be very aware of how LOW it is, and maintain a high level of fullness!

C. Examples of Spiritually Full People

1. Stephen (Acts 6:5)
2. Jesus (Luke 4:1)
3. Barnabas (Acts 11:22-24)
4. The 120 in the upper room (Acts 4:21)
5. Not just in Bible times, but throughout history, there have been people who have experienced the fullness of the Holy Spirit – and without speaking in tongues!

D. What it is like when you are full of the Holy Spirit (Acts 4:31-37)

1. You pray instead of complain - when they had prayed (4:31)
2. Everyone will know you are full - the place was shaken (4:31)
3. You love being together with other believers – assembled (4:31)
4. You are bold, courageous in telling what God says (4:31) - they spoke the word of God with boldness
5. Unity amongst the believers (4:32) - And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul
6. Powerful demonstration of Christian living (4:33; 16:26) - God showed Himself mighty in their midst
7. Great grace was present (4:33) – overlooking things – not knit-picking and fault finding, but great love of each other!
8. Give stuff away (4:32,34-37) - neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common
9. You are joyful – praising God – believing God (5:40-42)
 - a. Act 13:52 And the disciples were filled with joy, and with the Holy Ghost.
 - b. Rom 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.
 - c. Rom 15:13 Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.
 - d. 1Thes 1:6 And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost:

E. Quiz - Take note of the level of His fullness in you!

1. How quick do you complain? How long is it between praises?

Are You FILLED With the Holy Spirit? Part 2

2. How does everyone see you? Full of Christ, or of yourself? Ask someone who knows you WHAT spirit are you known for? Because THAT is what you are full of?
3. How often do you make the sacrifice to be together with other believers?
4. Do you find courage as you obey God and preach the Gospel?
5. Are you a loner as a believer, or seeking Biblical unity under your pastor, with every other believer?
6. How hard is it for you to give your money away?
7. Do amazing things happen around you?
8. How is your JOY level?

IV. Final Questions

A. WHEN do you GET the Holy Spirit? at Salvation

B. Can You LOSE the Holy Spirit's Presence? No

C. Why is His Presence Important in the life of a Christian?

1. He seals you – secures you for heaven! Without Him you have no assurance, no security
2. He helps you pray – don't forget just how important HE is to your and my praying! Without Him, our prayers are dead!!!
3. He strengthens you
4. And He FILLS you so that you can walk with God in this world – so that you can be holy!
5. You cannot live without Him – any more than

D. What CAN you do to the Almighty Holy Spirit in your life?

1. Grieve Him
2. Frustrate Him
3. Quench Him
4. Drain Him

E. How?

1. *By not caring about HIS feelings – grieving*
2. *By not yielding to His tugging to humble yourself*
3. *By not honouring and worshipping Jesus*
4. *By abusing your body*

F. Who Will or Should Test to see if you are FULL of the Holy Spirit?

1. God will test your fullness (Dt 8:2, “to know what was in thine heart”)
2. Satan will test your fullness
3. YOU yourself should test your level of fullness, and be very aware of how LOW it is, and maintain a high level of fullness!

G. Tonight you have been given some questions to ask yourself throughout the week to see if you are full or on empty!

Are You FILLED With the Holy Spirit? Part 3

Are You FILLED With the Holy Spirit? Part 3

Hindrances to Being Filled with God's Holy Spirit

Ephesians 5:18

Pastor Craig Ledbetter

Oct 12, 2014 PM

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I. Introduction (Ephesians 5:18)

- A. The Holy Spirit is the VERY presence of GOD in you and around you!**
- B. What a thought! The filling of the Holy Spirit!**

II. Review

- A. You GET the Holy Spirit at Salvation**
- B. You CANNOT Lose the Holy Spirit's Presence – not in total**
- C. His Presence is Important Because...**

1. He seals you – maybe that is not very important to you, but it is almost as good as being saved!
 - a. He secures you for heaven! Without Him you have no assurance, no security
2. He helps you pray – don't forget just how important HE is to your and my praying! Without Him, our prayers are dead!!!
3. He strengthens you (Eph 3:16,17)
4. He comforts (John 14:16-18; Acts 9:31)
5. He teaches you (John 14:26) – talks to you, through the words on this page, explaining, connecting the dots so to speak.
6. He gives you joy!
 - a. Rom_14:17 For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.
 - b. Rom_15:13 Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.
 - c. 1Th_1:6 And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost:
7. He rebukes you, holds you back from sinning! THANK God!
8. And He enables you, so that you can be holy! Your best efforts will never make you holy – but God's Spirit in you, living through you, make you holy!
9. You just CANNOT live without Him – any more than...
 - a. An oil-wick candle can burn without oil
 - b. Or a car engine could run without oil
 - c. You may be able for a little while, but after that, you are crocked!

D. Amazingly, He wants to FILL us! (Eph 5:18) – overflowing!

E. But you CAN LIMIT His work in your life, and limit His fullness in your life (Psalm 78:41).

1. We usually only are aware of ourselves being grieved, saddened, hurt, but forget about the God who experiences the very same emotions that we do!
2. People worry about “sinning against the Holy Spirit”, and “blaspheming the Holy Ghost.”
3. Well, here are the REAL things to worry about!
4. By GRIEVING, SADDENING HIM!
 - a. Gen 6:6 And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.
 - b. Psa 78:40 How oft did they provoke him in the wilderness, and grieve him in the desert!
 - c. Psa 95:10 Forty years long was I grieved with this generation, and said, It is a people that do err in their heart, and they have not known my ways:
 - d. Eph 4:30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

Are You FILLED With the Holy Spirit? Part 3

5. By QUENCHING HIS POWER – throwing water on it!
 - a. 1Th 5:19 Quench not the Spirit. It is a command and a warning!
 - b. Don't STOP the Holy Spirit from cutting, piercing, humbling, changing you!!!
6. By FRUSTRATING Him
 - a. To frustrate is to “tie the hands of Him” so that He can not work what HE thinks should be done
 - b. This happens when we try and force God to do things OUR way!
 - c. Gal 2:21 I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.
 - d. Have you ever been frustrated? Lifeguards get frustrated trying to save someone who won't YIELD!
7. HINDER, or BLOCK HIS HAND
 - a. Maybe the worst thing to do against the Holy Spirit of all – actually putting up roadblocks so that the Holy Spirit is stopped from working totally in your heart and life!
 - b. Luk 11:52 Woe unto you, lawyers! for ye have taken away the key of knowledge: ye entered not in yourselves, and them that were entering in ye hindered.
 - c. Rom 15:22 For which cause also I have been much hindered from coming to you.
 - d. Gal 5:7 Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?
 - e. 1Th 2:18 Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us.
 - f. 1Pe 3:7 Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.
8. It is possible to RESIST the work of the Holy Spirit (Acts 7:51)

F. I showed you last week some ways to TEST to see if you are FULL of Him, or FULL of YOURSELF!

G. This week, let's look at things we do without thinking that stop God from filling us

III. Background – Two Examples of Hindering the Holy Spirit

A. King Saul

1. He KNEW the blessings of being filled with the Holy Spirit of God (1Sam 10:10-12; 11:4-7)
 - a. New purpose, calling by God – to be KING of Israel
 - b. Power against his enemies
 - c. Used by God, when before he could do nothing
2. But Saul exchanged the Spirit of God for another spirit (2Cor 11:4) – a wrong spirit (1Sam 15:10,11)
 - a. He chose to disobey God's direct command
 - b. He chose to LIE and cover up his sin
 - c. He worried about what people would think instead of God
 - d. And the Holy Spirit left him (1Sam 16:1)
 - e. And he never missed it
 - f. He only got worse and worse (1Sam 16:14) – tried to kill David out of envy
3. Saul KEPT the wrong spirit, instead of missing God's spirit and desperately seeking it again!
4. Even when king Saul was rebuked, he didn't care!
5. Is that how any of US are?

B. King David

1. A man after God's own heart – walked in the Spirit, full of the Spirit of God
2. Yet, one gross sin quenched the Holy Spirit in his life – sin with Bathsheba, which led to lying, murder, and cover-up

Are You FILLED With the Holy Spirit? Part 3

3. And for 9 months, king David, who had known and lived under the influence of the precious Holy Spirit of God, he did not have the still small voice of the Spirit of God at work in him
 4. And the worst of it all is that he NEVER missed it!!!
 5. Thankfully, just before the baby was born, the prophet Nathan faced David and rebuked him, and David crumbled and realised what he had done, and what he had been missing
 6. David wrote Psalm 51:1-12 at this time
 7. David became VERY afraid of the wrong spirit that had taken over his heart, and the insensitivity that he had developed!
 8. He was afraid of losing the presence of the holy Spirit!
 9. And he humbled himself and repented, and begged God for a RIGHT Spirit in him,
 10. And THEN God started to work again with him!
- C. You will NEVER appreciate this truth I am teaching you until you start to MISS the Spirit of God's work in your heart!!!

Are You FILLED With the Holy Spirit? Part 4

Are You FILLED With the Holy Spirit? Part 4

Hindrances to Being Filled with God's Holy Spirit

Ephesians 5:18

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I. Introduction (Ephesians 5:18)

- A. The Holy Spirit is the VERY presence of GOD in you and around you!**
- B. What a thought! The filling of the Holy Spirit in a human life!**

II. Review

- A. You GET the Holy Spirit at Salvation**
- B. You CANNOT Lose the Holy Spirit's Presence – not in total**
- C. Why is His Presence Important?**

1. He seals you – He secures you for heaven! Without Him in you, you have no assurance, no security
2. He helps you pray – don't forget just how important HE is to your and my praying! Without Him, our prayers are dead!!!
3. He strengthens you (Eph 3:16,17)
4. He comforts (John 14:16-18; Acts 9:31)
5. He teaches you (John 14:26) – talks to you, through the words on this page, explaining, connecting the dots so to speak.
6. He gives you joy! Rom 15:13 Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.
7. He rebukes you, holds you back from sinning! THANK God!
8. And He enables you, so that you can be holy! Your best efforts will never make you holy – but God's Spirit in you, living through you, make you holy!
9. You just CANNOT live without Him

D. Amazingly, He wants to FILL us! (Eph 5:18) – overflowing!

E. But you CAN LIMIT His work in your life, and limit His fullness in your life (Psalm 78:41).

1. We usually only are aware of ourselves being grieved, saddened, hurt, but forget about the God who experiences the very same emotions that we do!
2. People worry about “sinning against the Holy Spirit”, and “blaspheming the Holy Ghost.”
3. Well, here are the REAL things to worry about!

F. Last Week we looked at Two Examples of Hindering the Holy Spirit

1. King Saul

- a. Saul exchanged the Spirit of God for another spirit (2Cor 11:4) – a wrong spirit
- b. Saul KEPT the wrong spirit, instead of missing God's spirit and desperately seeking it again!
- c. Even when king Saul was rebuked, he didn't care!
- d. Is that how any of US are?

2. King David

- a. A man after God's own heart – walked in the Spirit, full of the Spirit of God
 - b. Yet, one gross sin quenched the Holy Spirit in his life – sin with Bathsheba, which led to lying, murder, and cover-up
 - c. And for 9 months, king David, who had known and lived under the influence of the precious Holy Spirit of God, he did not have the still small voice of the Spirit of God at work in him
 - d. And the worst of it all is that he NEVER missed it!!!
 - e. Thankfully he humbled himself and repented, and begged God for a RIGHT Spirit in him,
 - f. And THEN God started to work again with him!
3. You will NEVER appreciate this truth I am teaching you until you start to MISS the Spirit of God's work in your heart!!!

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III. Message

A. Serious Things that Affect the Holy Spirit (Grieve, Frustrate, Drain, Quench, Hinder) “*And grieve not the holy Spirit of God*” (Ephesians 4:30)

1. **Lying** (Eph 4:25) – most people do not think telling the truth matters
 - a. “*Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.*”
 - b. People, Christian people exaggerate, stretch the truth – and have no problem doing it! They fear people not being impressed with their lives unless they say something amazing, or have done something amazing – so they tell whoppers of stories, instead of the boring truth.
 - c. They fear getting in trouble, so they lie about what they are doing, or what they are watching.
 - d. They don’t realise that by lying, the Holy Spirit backs down and quiets down
 - e. We MUST take HIS presence seriously and decide to NEVER tell a lie!
2. **Anger** (Eph 4:26,27)
 - a. “*Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Neither give place to the devil.*”
 - b. Do you have Anger, built up in you? (Luke 9:52-55) – AT ALL???
 - 1) Ecc 7:9 Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry: for anger resteth in the bosom of fools.
 - 2) Prov 16:32 He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city.
 - c. What are you like when you are angry? Is it nice to be around?
 - d. What or WHO do you get angry at?
 - 1) Yourself?
 - 2) Your spouse?
 - 3) God?
 - 4) Your limitations?
 - e. Do you not only easily GET angry, but do you STAY angry?
 - f. Any constant anger in your life will LIMIT the power and work of ALMIGHTY God in your life (Prov 22:24)!!!
3. **Theft** – of anything (Eph 4:28)
 - a. “*Let him that stole steal no more*”
 - b. People steal:
 - 1) From the government – because we think they are robbing US!
 - 2) From employers (by working less than we agree) because we think they are not paying us what we are worth
 - 3) From our parents – because we think they won’t miss it or don’t need it
 - 4) From God (tithes and giving) – because we think God will understand
 - c. A life of thievery is a life without the Holy Spirit of God!
4. **Laziness** (Eph 4:28) – you wouldn’t think this mattered, but it does to God’s Spirit!
 - a. “*but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.*”
 - b. HARD work pleases God – the hand of the diligent (Rom 12:11)!
 - c. Laziness is NOT a characteristic of the Lord Jesus Christ
 - d. “EARLY will I seek thee!”
 - e. If you do not make the effort to spend time with God, you will miss the blessing of His presence in your life!
 - f. He will be there in your heart, but He will be quenched, limited, hindered, and powerless!
5. **Sinful words** (Eph 4:29) – uncontrolled words

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- a. *“Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.”*
 - b. They are all coming from your heart!
 - c. What do you use your lips for?
 - d. What did you talk about this afternoon? Who did you talk about?
 - e. Corrupt words hurt other people
 - f. They especially hurt GOD!
 - 1) Blaspheme HIS Name
 - 2) Mock His Son!
 - 3) Mock people who are the similitude of God
 - g. Are you crucifying the words you WANT to say, so that you will only say right words?
 - h. Right words are words fashioned by the Spirit of Christ! Not by yourself!
 - i. Wrong, sinful words shut God’s Holy Spirit up, and stop Him from working in our lives!
6. It continues... “Put away” (Divorce, Get rid of) all of the following (Eph 4:31)
- a. ***Bitterness*** (Eph 4:31) – A sharpness towards someone, cruel, sarcastic, unable to be nice to
 - b. Never allow yourself to have ***Wrath*** towards a brother or sister!
 - 1) Wrath is “cruel” – judgmental, seeking destruction of someone else!
 - 2) An attitude of revenge!
 - 3) You would NEVER feel THAT way about someone would YOU???
 - c. Get ***every angry feeling*** crucified – no anger for more than a few minutes or hours at most! THIS command is REPEATED for a reason!
 - d. Stop ***Clamour*** before it starts! A noisy way of speaking; exclamation; a loud human voice continued or repeated. It often expresses complaint and urgent demand.
 - e. No more ***speaking evil*** of anyone!
 - 1) Are you critical, fault-finding in other people instead of in yourself? (Matt 7:3-5)
 - 2) In every person, you will find faults – loads of them
 - 3) Don’t look too closely!
 - 4) A Critical spirit is a Holy Spirit-less spirit!
 - 5) Jas 4:11,12 *Speak not evil one of another, brethren. He that speaketh evil of his brother, and judgeth his brother, speaketh evil of the law, and judgeth the law: but if thou judge the law, thou art not a doer of the law, but a judge. There is one lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy: who art thou that judgest another?*
 - f. And ***ALL malice!***
 - 1) Malice is when you think and think and think about what you should do to someone who has hurt you!
 - 2) That drives the Holy Spirit to silence in you!
7. All of the above burns out your conscience, and your ability to be sensitive to the still, small voice of the Holy Spirit (1Tim 4:1,2)
8. ALL of it has to be stopped, or the Holy Spirit cannot and WILL NOT be free to work in your life!
- B. Replace every one of those wrong spirit with a right one (Eph 4:32) – the Holy Spirit’s:
1. Spirit of kindness - compassion
 2. Spirit of tenderness - gentleness
 3. Spirit of forgiveness – letting things go, at your own expense
 4. In the same measure as God has given to YOU!

IV. Conclusion

- A. **The Holy Spirit is the VERY presence of GOD in you and around you!**
- B. **What a thought! The filling of the Holy Spirit!**
- C. **Why is His Presence is Important?**

1. He seals you – maybe that is not very important to you, but it is almost as good as being saved!

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2. He helps you pray – don't forget just how important HE is to your and my praying! Without Him, our prayers are dead!!!
3. He strengthens you (Eph 3:16,17)
4. He comforts (John 14:16-18; Acts 9:31)
5. He teaches you (John 14:26) – talks to you, through the words on this page, explaining, connecting the dots so to speak.
6. He gives you joy!
7. He rebukes you, holds you back from sinning! THANK God!
8. And He enables you, so that you can be holy! Your best efforts will never make you holy – but God's Spirit in you, living through you, make you holy!
9. You just CANNOT live without Him – any more than...

D. How can any of us LIMIT His work in our lives, and limit His fullness in your life?

1. By GRIEVING, SADDENING HIM!
2. By QUENCHING HIS POWER – throwing water on it!
3. By FRUSTRATING Him
4. HINDER, or BLOCK HIS HAND

E. What two examples show the loss of the presence of the Holy Spirit?

1. King Saul
2. King David

F. What are some of the Things that Affect the Holy Spirit (Grieve, Frustrate, Drain, Quench, Hinder)? “*And grieve not the holy Spirit of God*” (Eph 4:30)

1. *Lying* (Eph 4:25) – most people do not think telling the truth matters
2. *Anger* (Eph 4:26,27)
3. *Theft* – of anything (Eph 4:28)
4. *Laziness* (Eph 4:28) – you wouldn't think this mattered, but it does to God's Spirit!
5. *Sinful words* (Eph 4:29) – uncontrolled words
6. It continues... Get rid of all of the following (Eph 4:):
 - a. *Bitterness* (Eph 4:31) – A sharpness towards someone, cruel, sarcastic, unable to be nice to
 - b. Never allow yourself to have *Wrath* towards a brother or sister! Wrath is “cruel” – judgmental, seeking destruction of someone else!
 - c. Get *every angry feeling* crucified – no anger for more than a few minutes or hours at most!
 - d. Stop *Clamour* before it starts! A noisy way of speaking; exclamation; a loud human voice continued or repeated. It often expresses complaint and urgent demand.
 - e. No more *speaking evil* of anyone!
 - f. And *ALL malice*! All ruminating, thinking about things that are wrong!

G. What three things must we replace with all of those wrong spirits in each of us?

1. Spirit of kindness
2. Spirit of tenderness
3. Spirit of forgiveness
4. In the same measure as God has given to YOU!

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5. Have you been tolerating Satanic spirits? (Eph 5:11)
 - a. Dark games
 - b. Death games
 - c. Horror movies
 - d. Astrology, horoscopes, tarot cards
 - e. Dark and evil children's games and toys and Apps
 - f. Dabbling in trying to communicate with the dead... (Deut 18:9-12)
 - 1) Human sacrifices – of children (abortion is the sacrificing of a child for your own life)
 - 2) Divination – fortune telling
 - 3) Observers of times, dates, seasons – astrology, and more telling the future
 - 4) Enchanter – spell casting to determine outcomes of events
 - 5) Necromancer – speaking to the dead to find out the future
 - g. Any and all of the above shuts the Holy Spirit up in a prison in your heart! And it will NOT act to protect you or help you
6. Are you constantly battling Whoredom/Adultery/Pornography/Lust? (Hosea 4:12; 2Pet 2:14)
 - a. The HOLY Spirit is quenched with such sin
 - b. It will stop Go9d's work dead!
7. Are you full of Fear? (2Tim 1:7)
 - a. "Fear hath TORMENT"
 - b. 1Jn_4:18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.
 - c. Fear of not being perfect – fear of what PEOPLE will think – fear of the devil
8. Do you have an attitude of pride? A Haughty spirit (Proverbs 16:18) – it is in Americans and Europeans BIG time!
 - a. About yourself
 - b. About your success, popularity
 - c. About how right you are
 - d. Are you envious of anyone? (Prov 14:30) Envious like the Pharisees were?
 - 1) Envious of someone else's success
 - 2) Envious of the will of God for someone else?
 - 3) Joh 21:18 Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdedst thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldest: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldest not.
 - 4) Joh 21:19 This spake he, signifying by what death he should glorify God. And when he had spoken this, he saith unto him, Follow me.
 - 5) Joh 21:20 Then Peter, turning about, seeth the disciple whom Jesus loved following; which also leaned on his breast at supper, and said, Lord, which is he that betrayeth thee?
 - 6) Joh 21:21 Peter seeing him saith to Jesus, Lord, and what shall this man do?
 - 7) Joh 21:22 Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? follow thou me.
9. Do you disobey God without thought? (Eph 2:2)
 - a. There is a SPIRIT behind disobedience, that has NO ROOM for God's Holy Spirit
 - 1) Luk 6:47 Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like:
 - 2) Luk 6:48 He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock.

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- 3) Luk 6:49 But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great.
- b. Do you Disobey God?
 - 1) Act_5:29 Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.
 - 2) Col 3:20 Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.
 - 3) Col_3:22 Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God:
 - 4) Luk 6:46 And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?
10. Are you full of Heaviness and Sorrows? (Isa 61:3)
 - a. That just continue?
 - b. At first they may be of God – part of God’s work of repentance in your life – by getting you sorrowful
 - c. But overmuch sorrow is not of God but of a demonic and deadly spirit
 - 1) 2Co 2:4 For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote unto you with many tears; not that ye should be grieved, but that ye might know the love which I have more abundantly unto you.
 - 2) 2Co 2:5 But if any have caused grief, he hath not grieved me, but in part: that I may not overcharge you all.
 - 3) 2Co 2:6 Sufficient to such a man is this punishment, which was inflicted of many.
 - 4) 2Co 2:7 So that contrariwise ye ought rather to forgive him, and comfort him, lest perhaps such a one should be swallowed up with overmuch sorrow.
 - 5) 2Co 2:8 Wherefore I beseech you that ye would confirm your love toward him.
 - 6) 2Co 7:9 Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing.
 - 7) 2Co 7:10 For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.
11. Are you holding onto a wounded spirit? (Prov 18:14), Be careful, because an offended spirit and broken spirit does not become a playground for the DEVIL to fill with anger, wrath, bitterness and ruin!

H. How to Get Filled and Stay Full of the Holy Spirit

1. ***Start By believing Jesus died for YOU, and accept His life in exchange for yours – born again*** (Acts 16:30)
 - a. John 3:5,6 The Holy SPIRIT produces a new spirit INSIDE you!
 - b. Just by repenting, and believing the Gospel!
 - c. At THAT moment, you are filled with the Holy Spirit of God!
2. ***Humble Yourself*** (Isaiah 57:15; Ps 34:18; 51:17; 1Peter 5:5)
 - a. It will be the hardest first step you ever take
 - b. Constantly NOT reacting in your own interest
 - c. Not becoming a wimp, but just not being there at all – honouring the other person
 - d. THAT is the container the Holy Spirit seeks to fill
3. ***Worship the Person of Jesus Christ*** (John 16:13,14) – seriously worship Him
 - a. Your body is a place of WORSHIP, no longer a place of WICKEDNESS (1Cor 6:19,20)
 - b. Don’t worship the Holy Spirit primarily
 - c. Stay in love with the Person of Jesus Christ (1Peter 1:8)
 - d. Worship His Name, bow the knee to HIM!
 - e. So, have right thoughts
 - f. Use Right music (Eph 5:19)

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4. **Be Thankful** (Eph 5:20)
 - a. For everything – I cannot repeat that enough
 - b. In the middle of the night, praise and thank God (Acts 16:25; Psalm 34:1)
5. **Desire a Biblical Purpose for the Holy Spirit in your Life** (Rom 12:6-8) – a reason to be emptied of your filling!
 - a. God fills a believer not so that they feel better about themselves
 - b. But rather for a specific purpose (Luke 4:18,19)
 - 1) Soul-winning
 - 2) To BE like Christ
 - 3) To conquer a stronghold in your life
 - 4) To teach a Sunday School class
 - 5) To preach the Gospel
 - 6) To have courage
 - c. Pursue the Filling, not the FEELING and the feeling will come!
 - d. Remember, the purpose of your filling is to be emptied out again, and then to go and get filled AGAIN, to be emptied again!
6. **ASK for His filling** (Luke 11:11-13)
 - a. You NEVER need to ask for His presence - He already is in you (John 14:17; Gal 4:6). He entered the moment you repented and believed the Gospel!
 - b. But He should be in every area of your life: of your heart, thoughts, actions, reactions
 - c. In every room of your life – He has to be invited in to:
 - 1) Into your past
 - 2) Into your pains
 - 3) Into your secret sins
 - 4) Into your loves – He will tell you what should stay, and what should go!
 - d. Ask, every time you think of it! ASK!
7. **Willingly Put-up with whatever God's Will is for your life** – YIELD (Rom 12:1,2)
 - a. People want God's power, and God's blessings, but they won't put up with God's will
 - b. Wherever God has you, serve Him THERE!
8. **Protect the Filling** – don't grieve, hinder or frustrate Him in you (1Thes 5:19)
 - a. Take note of when the Holy Spirit has filled you... And seek to protect it
 - b. Guard your eyes! TV, the internet
 - c. Guard your ears – no bad reports!
 - d. Guard your tongue
 - e. Guard your time – make time for your walk with God