

☞ We need the Holy Spirit

Review: Deep Conviction, Holy Spirit, and Power from 1 Thessalonians 1:3.

OBC is pretty good with deep conviction: We really believe the Bible; we have many who actually “Talk the talk and walk the walk.” But we need more Holy Spirit.

☞ Last year we talked a lot about renewal... **the Holy Spirit brings renewal.**

Titus 3:5

He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit...

☞ The Holy Spirit gives us **counsel** within. He teaches us and helps us **comprehend** the Word of God. He points us back to Jesus over and over again.

John 14:26

the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

☞ The Holy Spirit brings **conviction.**

John 16:8

When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment

The Holy Spirit brings conviction. This is a good thing. It is sin that separates us from God, so it is good that the Holy Spirit points those things out to us. It's kind of like pain receptors... nobody likes pain, but without it, we wouldn't know something was wrong and we could do great damage to ourselves. Ultimately, leprosy is actually just that. Nerves get injured and the leper loses sensation and stops feeling pain. Because of that they injure themselves doing damage to their bodies.


So the Holy Spirit does a number of good things for us. When you came to Christ and got saved, you received the Holy Spirit...


Ephesians 1:13-14

And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, **14** who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession

But, you still need the Holy Spirit to fill you... A person who is filled with the Spirit is led ☞ by the Spirit—led in a gentle, loving way. A **Spirit-led** person allows the Holy Spirit to direct and guide every decision, plan and activity.

In Ephesians 5:18, Paul compares being filled with the Spirit to being drunk...

Drunk vs. Filled... In both cases you Walk differently; Talk differently; Act differently;  Think differently; Feel differently. You are **“Under the influence.”**


But, here’s the difference... when you are drunk, you are “impaired.” But when you are  filled you are **“improved.”**

Ephesians 5:18 says, “Be filled with the Spirit.” This means to keep on being filled with the Holy Spirit.

Because the world, the flesh and the devil oppose the Spirit-controlled lifestyle, we need to be filled and renewed continually. Even in the book of Acts, those who experienced the Pentecostal outpouring being filled with the Spirit in chapter 2 still needed a fresh wind of the Holy Spirit in chapter 4. Only two chapters later, those same apostles prayed to the Lord and the place was shaken: “And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly” (Acts 4:31).

In one of his books, Tony Campolo tells the story about a revival meeting that happened at a particular church. In fact, this church had lots of revival meetings. And at every one a certain man in that church could be counted on to walk down the aisle every single time an invitation was given to recommit his life to Christ. And each time he would fall on his knees at the altar and make a bit of scene crying out, "Fill me, Lord Jesus. Fill me up, Lord Jesus." And after the meeting he'd get all fired up about his faith for about three weeks and then lose his excitement and go back to his old ways until another evangelist came to town and gave an altar call and the man would go through the same routine all over again. And after seeing this happen over and over again, people in the church started to get a bit cynical of his behavior. And finally on one occasion after he walked the aisle for the umpteenth time and was up front crying out, "Fill me, Jesus. Fill me up, Lord." A lady stood up in the back of the church and yelled at the top of her lungs, "Don't do it Lord, he leaks!"

And we all laugh at that. But the truth of the matter is he's not the only one who leaks. We all leak, don't we? That's the great struggle of the spiritual life. We can have some awesome worship experiences, listen to some inspiring talks, enjoy some incredible community, have some powerful times of prayer, go on mountain top retreats, but eventually those experiences fade because we can't live on Sundays alone or on Wednesday nights or whatever day of the week we get our spiritual tank filled up. We leak. Which is why the Bible says we need to be continually filled with the Holy Spirit.

To be filled with the Holy Spirit doesn't mean we get anymore of the Spirit than we  already have. It just means that **the Spirit gets more of us**. The question is not how much of the Holy Spirit we have, but how much of us does the Holy Spirit have.

What is to be expected as a result of the Holy Spirit's control of my life?

- **☞ Character (fruit)** Galatians 5:22-23
- **Capabilities (gifts)** 1 Cor.2:4-11; John 14:12; 1 Cor. 12:7-11
- **Confidence (assurance)** Romans 8:15-17

In Ephesians 5:18, Paul actually encourages believers, who already have the Holy Spirit living inside them, to be continually filled with the Spirit. Why would he need to say that? Because it's possible to have the Holy Spirit living inside us, but not to be living under the Spirit's control. In other places, the Bible calls that grieving the Spirit or quenching the ☞ Spirit. And we can **quench and grieve the Spirit** in all kinds of ways...

☞ Galatians 5:16-21

live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. **17** For the sinful nature desires **what is contrary to the Spirit**, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want... **19** The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; **20** idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions **21** and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

☞ Ephesians 4:29-32

Do not let any **unwholesome talk** come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. **30** And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. **31** Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. **32** Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

☞ I quench the Spirit when I **fail to confess** and come clean about some behavior I'm trying to hide from God or someone else. I grieve the Spirit of truth when I **lie** or deceive someone or **speak harshly** to my wife or my kids. We can quench the Spirit when we turn our lives over to the control of another substance like alcohol or drugs or some other **addiction**. We grieve the Spirit when we are idle busybodies who **criticize** others. We grieve the Spirit when we show **disrespect** to leaders. We grieve the Spirit when we **refuse to forgive** someone who's hurt us and choose **anger** and **bitterness** instead because the Spirit wants to unite people not divide them. We grieve the Spirit when we **don't pray** and we **don't express gratitude**. And all these things hinder the work of the Spirit in our lives.

So if being filled with the Spirit means being under the control of the Holy Spirit then how do we get filled and stay filled so we don't leak as much?

☞ The key to **living a Spirit filled life** is to practice the things that Jesus practiced; to arrange our lives around the things that Jesus arranged his life around. After all that's what ☞ a Christ follower does. He **follows Christ**. That's what the original disciples did. They

followed Jesus around and they watched how Jesus lived and they started to imitate and do the same things that he did. Jesus still is our model for what it means to live under the control of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus arranged his life around certain practices and relationships that were very important to him and that kept him filled with the Spirit. As we read through the gospels we find ☞ Jesus worshiping at the Temple and in the synagogue. **Worship** was very important to Jesus. Often we hear Jesus refer to the Scriptures and teach from the Scriptures. The **Word of God** was important to Jesus. We see him praying, with others and by himself at times, alone. **Prayer** and **solitude** were vital to him. But so was **community**. Jesus lived his life elbow deep in relationships with the Twelve and yet made time to enter into spiritual friendships with those outside of his group. Serving, giving, fasting, loving... all of these practices kept Jesus filled with the Holy Spirit. And he calls us to follow him.

After the command to keep on being filled with the Spirit, we get some advice on how to do just that...

☞ **Ephesians 5:18-19 (20)**

be filled with the Holy Spirit, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, and making music to the Lord in your hearts. NLT

Psalms = a song accompanied by an instrument – we do this every Sunday morning; you can play an instrument or a CD of worship songs.

= A song with instruments only – sometimes we don't sing, but just listen to instruments.

☞ = Book of Psalms – we **sing Scripture** to ourselves or to each other for encouragement.

= This word also includes original songs written by you or members of the congregation.

☞ Hymns = a song of **praise to God**; a **prayer that is sung** – pretty much all of our Sunday music falls into this category. It can also mean a song specifically about salvation.

Spiritual songs = any song that is sung and inspired by the Holy Spirit – we would call this

☞ open worship, when the instruments play and we just **sing spontaneously**. You can use your spiritual language in this type of song.

Also, there's a contrast in the original language between Hymns and Spiritual Songs. Hymns are typically part of the planned worship. Spiritual Songs have more of a spontaneous nature.

Sing and make music in your heart = don't just go through the motions; don't just say the ☞ words; mean what you say; **involve your heart**.

We don't sing songs for 20 minutes on Sunday just because Pastor Phil has a musical inclination. We sing songs to help us connect with God and to keep on being filled with the Spirit.

Ephesians 5:20

☞ And **give thanks** for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

So sing praise and pray and give thanks. These all help us be filled with the Spirit. And we need the Holy Spirit.

--David Wilkerson... We are to walk in total submission to the Holy Spirit, just as Christ walked in constant, absolute submission to the Father... If we're able to grasp this one truth, we can enter in to a life that's free of distress, full of assured direction, and marked by perfect rest. The key is to "just say yes!"

☞ The Holy Spirit is continually speaking and prompting you. Are you **listening**? Are you **obeying**? These are keys to keeping filled with the Holy Spirit. We need the Holy Spirit.

Song: Holy Spirit you are welcome here