

“Being Filled with the Spirit” The Book of Ephesians Chapter 5 Verse 18

Intro. It is necessary to be filled with the Spirit if one wants to have a powerful Christian life. Though we are saved, if we are not filled with the Spirit, we may not be able to overcome the temptations in our lives. Although, if one is filled with the Spirit, he can overcome the temptations. Since I got saved, I have gotten the joy and the peace in my heart. Reading the Bible, worshipping God, having fellowship, and serving Him became my joy. I found out later though that I was filled with the Spirit without realizing it. I did not know the meaning of being filled with the Spirit and how to be filled. I did not have much knowledge about the ministry of the Spirit. Therefore, there were times in my life that I got discouraged in the midst of temptations. Many people might have experienced the same, too. Today, let us learn three things about being filled with the Spirit.

I. What Is to Be Filled with the Spirit ... Being Controlled by the Spirit

Getting drunk and being filled with the Spirit are mentioned here. Because these two share a similarity, and that is, being controlled. Getting drunk is being controlled by alcohol. Being filled with the Spirit is being controlled by the Spirit. Some people think that being filled with the Spirit; they receive more of the Spirit from God. As if the water is being poured into a bottle and fills it up. Although, the Spirit is God. When we believe on Him, we received the Spirit; therefore, we do not have to ask for more of the Spirit. The problem is how far we let the Spirit to have control over us. The Spirit lives within us to have control over us. Selfishness is bound in our hearts that often times it bothers us from being controlled with the Spirit. We struggle with that, and that is a battle in our Christian walk. God gave us the Spirit to let us experience an abundant life. If we have not experienced that, probably, it is because we are not controlled by the Spirit. Being filled with the Spirit means being controlled by the Spirit during good and bad times.

II. How to Be Filled with the Spirit

- ① Confess Your Sins ... Our sins are forgiven when we believed on Christ, and we have received the eternal life from Him. Although, we sin in our daily life. Therefore, confess your sins to God. Sin grieves the Spirit and hinders His ministry. Therefore, when we sin, we need to confess our sins to Him and need to be cleansed from sin (1 John 1:7, 9).
- ② Offer Yourself to God ... It is offering to Him the control of your life. If we believe on Christ, we have the Spirit within us. Therefore, He has control over us in some ways. We have a control room in our hearts, and we need to yield the room to God. It is not easy to offer yourself to God. Although, God gave us His only begotten Son to save us. Therefore, we offer ourselves to God as our response to His grace. When we give ourselves to God, we begin to let the Spirit to have control over us.
- ③ Believe that You Are Filled with the Spirit ... We believed, “Whosoever believes shall be saved,” and we are saved. In the same way, we believe in God’s promise that we are filled with the Spirit as we confess our sins to God and offer ourselves to Him.

III. What Happens when We Are Filled with the Spirit

- ① It produces praise, thanksgiving, and obedience (Eph. 5:18-21) ... Paul said these verses when he was in prison. He was forced to live a hard life. Although, Paul praised, thanked, and obeyed God. Can we respond like Paul when our lives get hard? Common sense answers, no. Yet, when we are filled with the Spirit, the Spirit empowers us.
- ② Bear the Fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23) ... The fruit of the Spirit is the likeness of Christ, which is given to those who are filled with the Spirit. I felt like going to church when I met a Spirit-filled Christian. He had love, joy, and peace which I did not have. I found it out later that these attributes were the fruit of the Spirit. When we are filled with the Spirit, we will bear the fruit of the Spirit.

Con. God gave us the Spirit to let us experience an abundant life. How are our lives? Do we have joy, peace, and forbearance? God tells us to “be filled with the Spirit.” Let us strive to be a spirit-filled person.