

## CAN ALL BELIEVERS BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT?

Acts 2:2-4; 9:17

(Not entirely original with me)

**Introduction:** There is no question as to whether believers in Jesus are indwelt with the Holy Spirit for upon one's belief in Jesus Christ, immediately the Holy Spirit indwells that person and secures his/her salvation, however there are times when MORE of the Holy Spirit is given, and that is called being "filled" with the Holy Spirit. The disciples, no doubt were indwelt with the Holy Spirit but on occasions they did miraculous things upon being "filled" with the Holy Spirit. There is something for believers to consider before asking to be "filled" with the Holy Spirit and that is that they need to be sure that they can be filled. What would prevent a believer from having a full, wonderful and completely satisfying outpouring, anointing, filling with the Holy Spirit?

### I. THINGS TO CONSIDER BEFORE ONE CAN BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. One must be sure that it is God's will for him/her to be filled.
  - Saved, yes,
  - Indwelt with the Holy Spirit, yes,
  - Filled with the Holy Spirit, why?
2. One must understand that being filled with the Holy Spirit is not some extra, special deluxe edition of being a Christian.
3. One must be satisfied that being filled with the Holy Spirit is not something abnormal.
  - Unusual, yes because so few believers have been totally filled with the Holy Spirit.
  - The lives of most believers are far from where they should be, therefore the Holy Spirit cannot fill them.
4. One must understand that there is nothing strange, eerie or queer about the filling of the Holy Spirit.
  - Satan has been very busy trying to persuade believers that the Holy Spirit is strange and odd and scary.
  - There is nothing strange, eerie or scary about the Holy Spirit working in a person's heart and life, just take a look at those mentioned in the Bible whose lives were filled with the Holy Spirit.
5. One must understand that God cannot be persuaded to give him/her a filling of the Holy Spirit.
  - No persuasion is necessary for being filled with the Holy Spirit is as easy as breathing.
  - Unless a person, after thinking, listening, praying and meditating upon the Holy Spirit filled life and there is no doubt that this is what he/she wants, then that person should leave things be for the present but keep on meditating upon God's Word.
  - Don't get down about it, don't get excited, simply ask, "Lord, what do YOU want me to do?"
6. One must desire to be filled before one can be filled with the Holy Spirit.
  - Being filled with the Holy Spirit doesn't happen automatically or surprisingly.
  - One must talk to the Lord about His will for him/her and if the filling of the Holy Spirit is needed.
7. One must be sure that he/she wants to be "possessed" by a Spirit other than his/her own.
  - Even though it is the precious Holy Spirit of God, gentle as Jesus was gentle, pure, free, wise, a healing force, loving, etc., If the Holy Spirit fills a person, He will rule and guide one's life.
8. Do YOU want Him to be Lord of YOUR life?
  - The benefits, YES,
  - Do YOU want to hand over to Him the keys of your soul and be totally under His control?
  - Are YOU willing to turn over to Him your family, your business, YOUR everything?
  - Do YOU really want the Holy Spirit to totally fill you? Is this what YOU really want?
9. One must be willing to have his/her personality to be taken over by ONE who will expect obedience to God's written and living Word.
  - Not allowed to do "your own thing" anymore.

- Self-love, self-confidence, self-righteousness, self-admiration, self-pity must be given over to the Holy Spirit.
10. One must understand that to be filled (taken over) by the Holy Spirit, that the Holy Spirit stands in direct, sharp opposition to the ways of the world.
    - No tolerance of any evil of any sort or degree.
    - The world crucified Jesus, the world hates the Holy Spirit as much as Jesus and all who are filled with the Holy Spirit will be hated and persecuted by the world.
    - If one is not willing to go with the Holy Spirit in His opposition to the wicked, evil, easy-going ways of the world, then don't ask to be filled with the Holy Spirit.
  11. Finally, one must be SURE that he/she "needs" to be filled with the Holy Spirit.
    - Can't one just get along the way he/she is now?
      - Studying God's Word, praying, attending Sunday School, worship, tithing, giving to missions, even teaching, singing in the choir.
      - Don't gamble, drink and cares for one's family in love.
      - Don't run around or associate with questionable people.
    - One must ask him/herself if he/she really wants things to change.

## II. HOW DOES ONE RECEIVE THE FULLNESS, FILLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

1. If a person feels in his/her heart that he/she just can't go on the way he/she is, that the level of his/her present spirituality is not what God is calling him/her to, if there is something that seems to be missing and there is a "call" to something else, another spiritual level God wants him/her to move to, then God has something more for that person.
2. To receive the fullness, the filling of the Holy Spirit, one must first present his/her body to Him. (Romans 12:1-2)
  - God can't fill what He can't have.
  - One must be ready to present his/her body totally with all its functions, all that it contains, one's mind, personality, spirit, love, ambitions, one's all.
3. The next thing one must do to receive the fullness, filling of the Holy Spirit is to ASK. (Luke 11:9-11)
  - God leaves it up to the believer to ASK. "...Ask of me, and I will give thee..."
4. God only fills believers with the Holy Spirit who are obedient.
  - One must be ready to obey and do WHATEVER he/she is asked to do.
  - Live one's life according to God's Word.
5. One must have faith to receive the fullness, filling of the Holy Spirit.
  - As one receives salvation by faith in Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit indwells that believer and without the Holy Spirit, one could never be born again, for he/she is born of the SPIRIT.
  - However the filling of the Holy Spirit is different as it is the possessing of the believer's body, mind life and heart, taking over that person's personality, gently, but directly, bluntly, making that person's body HIS.

## CONCLUSION:

1. IF the Holy Spirit hasn't come into YOUR heart in fullness, He can, is present and ready.
2. Do YOU really want to be filled totally, completely with the Holy Spirit?
3. Are YOU really willing to give yourself completely, totally to the Holy Spirit?
4. Are YOU ready to be totally controlled by another Spirit?
5. If YOU are, then go to God and ask!