

LIVING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE WITH THE HELP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

John 7:37-39; Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: Belief in Jesus Christ brings one salvation, adoption into the Family of God, gives one eternal life and a place in God's heaven, and also is indwelt with the Holy Spirit who seals the believer and then is there to guide, advise, encourage, reveal, strengthen and enable that person to live the life that God wants him/her to live. The Holy Spirit is the means by which the believer can be everything that God wants him/her to be.

I. THE HOLY SPIRIT INDWELLS BUT ALSO FILLS THE BELIEVER

1. The Holy Spirit indwells only believers in the Lord Jesus Christ upon their faith in the Lord.
 - *Ephesians 1:13-14; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; John 14:16-17*
 - The indwelling of the Holy Spirit makes the believer His permanent dwelling place.
2. The believer is never commanded to be indwelt with the Holy Spirit, but is commanded to be filled with the Holy Spirit. *Acts 2:4; 4:8, 31; 6:3-5; 7:55; 9:17; 13:9, 52; Ephesians 5:18*
 - Being filled with the Holy Spirit is temporary and is where the Holy Spirit is in control of one's life.
 - Being filled with the Holy Spirit is the believer voluntarily surrendering in response to his/her faith and he/she is controlled by the Holy Spirit.
3. The purpose of the filling of the believer by the Holy Spirit is to enable the believer to serve God and to witness of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. *Acts 1:8; 4:31; Ephesians 5:18-6:9*

II. BELIEVERS MUST "WALK THE WALK" WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. Walking daily with the Holy Spirit is not an option, it is an imperative, a moment by moment thing and every believer is responsible to walk with the Holy Spirit. *Galatians 5:16*
 - Walking with the Holy Spirit brings positive changes, spiritual growth, productivity for the Lord.
 - To not walk with the Holy Spirit, the believer continues to wrestle with sin and worldly desires.
 - Believers either walk with the Holy Spirit or walk with the flesh/world.
2. Walking with the Holy Spirit means a conscious determination to trust and rely on the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit for what is needed to fulfill God's plans for one's life which also includes study of God's Word, prayer, worship, and fellowship with other believers.
Galatians 5:18-26
3. Why the believer needs to be filled with the Holy Spirit.
 - He/she is commanded to be filled. *Ephesians 5:18; Galatians 5:16*
 - Only the Holy Spirit can accomplish in the believer's life what God wants. *Romans 7:15-25*
John 6:63; Romans 8:3
 - One cannot please God without being filled with the Holy Spirit.
 - The opposite of being filled with the Holy Spirit is to be fleshly/worldly minded, to be self-centered and interested only in worldly matters. *Romans 8:5-8*
 - There can be no spiritual growth for the believer without being filled with the Holy Spirit.
John 14:17; 1 Peter 1:1-2; James 1:21
 - Without the filling of the Holy Spirit, there is sin, there is quenched power, there is broken fellowship with the Lord, and there is no spiritual growth or accomplishments.
- 1 Peter 2:1-2; James 1:21

- God cannot be glorified. Walking with the Holy Spirit is walking by faith and being involved in God's work. To not walk with the Holy Spirit is to dishonor God. **Jeremiah 17:5**
- The believer is powerless without walking with the Holy Spirit for it is the Holy Spirit who enables the believer to do God's work. **Ephesians 6:10-18**
- Joy and peace cannot be known without walking with the Holy Spirit. **Romans 8:6; Galatians 5:22; Psalm 32:4; 51:12**

III. BEING FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT (WALKING THE WALK)

1. Being filled with the Holy Spirit is where the Holy Spirit is free to do all that He came into the heart of the believer to do.
 - Every believer, when filled with the Holy Spirit, can be of service to the Lord.
 - Being filled with the Holy Spirit is NOT getting more of the Holy Spirit.
 - Being filled with the Holy Spirit is the believer submitting to the presence of the Holy Spirit in faith and giving total freedom to the Holy Spirit to take charge of the believer's total life.
 - Being filled with the Holy Spirit is a moment by moment relationship with the Holy Spirit that can be hindered at any time by the believer failing to trust and live by what the Holy Spirit wants and shows the believer.
 - Either the believer is under the Holy Spirit's control, or the believer is in control and walking as he/she wants, minding the things of the flesh and world.
2. There are things that hinder the control and ministry of the Holy Spirit in the believer's life.
 - Sin brings pain and grief to the Holy Spirit. **Ephesians 4:24-32**
 - Sin quenches (puts out) the power of the Holy Spirit. **1 Thessalonians 5:19**
 - Quenching the Spirit is to deliberately and willfully go against God's Word.
 - The world, the flesh (ego, self) and the devil (always against the believer) hinder the believer's walk with the Holy Spirit. **1 John 2:12-17**
 - Ignorance of God's Word, preconceived ideas that block out the truth, self trust and dishonesty in trying to excuse one's sins rather than confess them.
 - 1 John 1:9; 1 Corinthians 11:28-32**
3. There are helps in walking the Holy Spirit controlled walk in life.
 - One's prayer life must be dependent upon the Holy Spirit. **Ephesians 6:18; Jude 20**
 - Honest confession of all known sin restores fellowship so the Holy Spirit can continue His work.
 - **Proverbs 28:13-14**
 - A continuous yielded life of faith/dependence upon the Holy Spirit as the source of one's strength and guidance.

IV. NOT WALKING WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT BRINGS CONSEQUENCES

1. There is a loss of fellowship with the Lord and the absence of the control of the Holy Spirit.
 - **Proverbs 14:12; Galatians 6:7-8; 1 John 1:5-7**
2. There is a waste of the believer's spiritual, mental and physical resources. **Ephesians 5:18; Galatians 5:15; 19-21**
3. There is discipline from God. **Psalm 32:4; 1 Corinthians 11:29-32**
4. There is loss of testimony and dishonor to the Lord. **1 Peter 2:12-17**
5. There is loss of rewards when standing before the Lord on judgment day.
 - 1 Corinthians 3:12-15; 2 Corinthians 5:10**

6. There can be increased discipline from the hand of God. *Psalm 32:4; Hebrews 12:6*
7. The believer's church may take action of removing him/her from membership. *Matthew 18:17*
8. Divine discipline to the point of physical death may happen. *1 Corinthians 11:30; 1 John 5:16*

V. HELPING ONE'S WALK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. Study God's Word and hear God's Word proclaimed. *2 Timothy 2:15; 3:16-17; James 1:21-25*
2. Memorize God's Word. *Psalm 119:11; Proverbs 3:3*
3. Pray. *Psalm 119; 139:23-24*
4. Fellowship with other believers and public worship. *Acts 2:42; Hebrews 10:23-24*

CONCLUSION:

1. The believer is permanently indwelt immediately upon his/her profession of faith in Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit, adopted into God's Family, given eternal life, and given a place in God's heaven.
2. For the believer to live as God wants him/her to live, the believer is commanded to be FILLED with the Holy Spirit and this is a temporary filling where the Holy Spirit is in control of the believer's life as the believer yields him/herself to the indwelling Holy Spirit.
3. For the believer to be used as God wants the Holy Spirit must be in control of the believer's total life and this happens only during the time of filling of the Holy Spirit.
4. There are things which hinder the Holy Spirit's filling the believer and there are things which help and encourage the filling of the Holy Spirit.
5. How much God can use a believer is up to that believer.