

BELIEVERS ARE TO HAVE A SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE

Ephesians 5:18

Introduction: A story is told about a "redneck," a person who didn't know a whole lot about very much, going to a hardware store and asking the clerk for something to cut tree limbs off with. The clerk sold the man a chain saw. The next day the "redneck" brought the chain saw back and wanted his money back, the clerk asked why, what was wrong, and the man replied that it took too long to cut even the smallest branch off and the saw was just too heavy to use. The clerk took the saw and pulled the starter cord and with a loud roar the saw started up...the redneck jumped back and yelled, "what was that....." You get the picture I am sure. Sad to say, that principle can be applied to a lot of believers. The Holy Spirit indwells them but they have never been aware of His presence and have no idea what the Holy Spirit can do through them if they would allow Him to "do His thing" with and through them. They are trying to live the life Jesus wants them to live, but by their own abilities and are failing miserably.

I. GOD INTENDS TO WORK THROUGH BELIEVERS BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. God has commanded the believer to be filled with the Holy Spirit.
 - Being filled with the Holy Spirit is not a suggestion, not an option, it is imperative, it is a command, it is a necessity.
 - To not be filled with the Holy Spirit is to be in rebellion, disobedient to God.
 - It is a greater sin to fail to do what is commanded than to simply do something wrong.
 - Which would be worse, your pastor coming to the pulpit drunk or your pastor coming to the pulpit without being filled with the Holy Spirit?

2. Being filled with the Holy Spirit is the believer's obligation.
 - When worshipping the Lord, one needs to be filled with the Holy Spirit.
 - Churches often have tired, empty worship services for the Holy Spirit is absent.
 - Believers are obligated to worship the Lord in spirit and in truth.
 - Believers are also obligated to be Spirit filled in their normal, daily lives.
 - Wives are to respect, love and yield to their husbands as if he were Jesus.
 - Husbands are to love their wives as Jesus loved the church.
 - The Holy Spirit enables the believer to love as Jesus does.
 - A place to witness is one's work place, making a difference while being led by the Holy Spirit.
 - As one battles sin, temptations and evil, the Holy Spirit enables the believer to have victories.
 - Believers must be filled with the Holy Spirit to speak to anyone about their faith their words are but words and have no power without the Holy Spirit.

3. Being filled with the Holy Spirit gives the believer opportunities before God.
 - Times of today are very wicked and bad and getting worse, there has never been such an opportunity for the gospel.
 - People are looking for answers and God's Word has the answer they are seeking.
 - Believers have been given a tremendous opportunity to share the good news of life to a dying world.

II. REQUIREMENTS FOR BEING FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT (1 Corinthians 6:19)

1. The first requirement is that a believer must make a complete commitment to Him.
 - He must be welcomed, given complete control of every area of one's life, one's marriage, one's job, friendships, finances, all must be opened up to Him.
2. There must be a continual re-commitment to Him.
 - The Holy Spirit needs to be continually filling one's life and controlling one's thoughts.
 - One does not act nor think the same when dominated by another source and so it is with the Holy Spirit. When the Holy Spirit controls a person, that person is not the same anymore.
 - The believer must deliberately, consciously claim the filling of the Holy Spirit.

III. THE RESULTS OF BEING FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. As the believer is filled with the Holy Spirit, it will be seen in his/her relationship to God, to his/her circumstances and in relationships with others.
2. There will be a spirit of appreciation, giving thanks to God for all the wonderful things that are happening. One's outlook on life will change as he/she begins to see things as God sees.
3. The believer will begin to have a spirit of service, of accommodation, causing a change in one's relationship with other people. There will be joy and interest in finding ways to help others.

CONCLUSION:

1. Every believer is indwelt by the Holy Spirit at the moment of belief in Jesus (salvation).
2. Every believer is given a "gift" by the Holy Spirit to be used as God directs.
3. Every believer is to live a Christ-centered life.
4. Every believer is to be FILLED with the Holy Spirit.
5. Indwelt by the Holy Spirit is one thing, but FILLED is another.
6. Believer you have been commanded to be FILLED with the Holy Spirit - are you?