

HOW TO BE USEFUL TO GOD

Acts 1:8

Introduction: We sing hymns about the Holy Spirit, we hear sermons about the Holy Spirit, we study Sunday School lessons about the Holy Spirit so we are familiar with the title/name, "Holy Spirit." However, just how familiar are we with the "person" who bears the name of "Holy Spirit?" How well do you know this person? The Bible has much to say about the Holy Spirit, Jesus mentioned the Holy Spirit many times during His lifetime. The writers of the New Testament speak of the Holy Spirit doing this or that. So, just who is the Holy Spirit and what does the believer have to do with this person?

I. WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT EXACTLY?

1. The Holy Spirit is God, therefore a "person."
2. The Holy Spirit is a part of the "trinity" of God.

II. WHAT RELATIONSHIP DOES THE BELIEVER HAVE WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT?

1. The Holy Spirit indwells permanently every believer in Jesus Christ. (*1 Corinthians 6:19*)
 - The believer's human body is the "temple" in which God lives. (*John 14:16-17*)
 - Jesus Christ lives with His FULL potential in the believer's life via the Holy Spirit.
 - The believer must grasp by FAITH the fact of the presence of Jesus Christ in his/her life.
2. *Ephesians 5:18* speaks of the believer being filled with the Holy Spirit and also mentioned 14 other times in the New Testament with 13 being recorded in *Luke* and 1 in Paul's writings.

III. FOR WHAT PURPOSE IS THE BELIEVER FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT?

1. *Ephesians 5:18* tells the believer that it is a commandment from God, a direct order from Him.
2. The believer is to be filled with the Holy Spirit because God provides it and what God has commanded the believer to do, He also provides the means.
 - God expects great things from those who believe (Christians) therefore He has given great power to them via His Holy Spirit.

IV. THE BELIEVER IS OFTEN HINDERED FROM BEING FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. Lack of Knowledge is most often the most obvious cause for the believer not being filled with the Holy Spirit. The believer just doesn't understand that the Holy Spirit is available.
 - Suppose a farmer was barely making a living with his poor farm, year after year he struggled just to get by, but unknowing to him there was oil underneath his property and one day he discovered it and suddenly became rich. (Beverly Hillbillies T.V.).

2. Lack of Surrender is another reason for a believer not being filled with the Holy Spirit.
The believer knows about the Holy Spirit but is afraid to completely turn him/herself over to the Holy Spirit. Afraid of what might happen when Jesus takes full control of one's life.
 - Everyone wants to control his/her own life and thinks that he/she can do so better than God or anybody else can.
 - Refusal to surrender completely to the Holy Spirit brings unrest, fruitlessness to that believer's life.

V. HOW, EXACTLY, DOES A BELIEVER BECOME FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT?

1. First, there must be a THIRST, a desire to be filled with the Holy Spirit. There is a big difference between being "content" and being "satisfied."
 - "...if any man thirst....."
2. Then one can become filled with the Holy Spirit by surrender, yieldedness, by complete abandonment of self to the Holy Spirit.
 - Maybe the believer's soul is burdened down with sin, the conscience won't let him/her rest. The way to rid the soul of the burden of sin is:
 - Write down every sin that can be thought of that one is guilty of, asking God to reveal any that may have been forgotten.
 - Then turn to **1 John 1:9**, read it, write it across the list of the named sins.
 - Confess each sin one by one in all sincerity.
 - After all known sins have been confessed with sincerity, burn the list.
3. After confession of all known sins, one is now ready to give to God a clean, consecrated life. **Romans 12:1-2**. The believer is now ready to die to everything of this world except what God wants.
4. Now, believer, thank God for forgiveness and ASK God to fill you with the Holy Spirit.

VI. HOW CAN THE BELIEVER KNOW THAT HE/SHE IS FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT?

1. Because God says so! **Ephesians 5:18**, It is God's will that the believer be filled with the Holy Spirit - **1 John 5:14-15**. The believer can now claim God's promise.
2. Because being filled with the Holy Spirit is part of the believer's inheritance. It is rightfully the believers,' the abundant life talked about in the Bible is not something that is to be earned. It is every believer's because the believer is a child of God.
3. Because being filled with the Holy Spirit brings changes to the believer's life. Some changes come gradually, some instantaneously, nevertheless, changes will happen.

CONCLUSION:

1. Believer, God is ready to work in your life as never before and as you could never have imagined. The only thing standing in God's way of using you to your fullest is ...YOU!
2. Believer, you can become a person on fire for God if you will let God fill you with His Holy Spirit. Do you want to please God? He commands that every believer "be filled" with His Holy Spirit. Let God have you completely.
3. Unbeliever, God loves you and wants you to be a part of His family, a child of His. There is so much to gain in being a child of God and there will be so much to lose if you are not. Right now, believe in God's Son, Jesus, with all your being and let God have you.