

## THE COMMAND TO BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

### Ephesians 5:18

**Introduction:** There are many different views, theories, "doctrines" concerning the Holy Spirit and all that the Holy Spirit does. When a person is not exactly sure, is perhaps unclear, he/she has a tendency to "fill in the blanks" and therefore come up with a theory that can become a "doctrine" or traditional belief or way of doing things, even though it may not be right. There are many such ideas about being "filled with the Holy Spirit." Just what does the Scripture say about "being filled with the Holy Spirit?"

#### I. THERE ARE SEVERAL DIFFERENT KINDS OF "FILLINGS"

1. There is the need to have "filling" for physical hunger - *Matthew 5:6; 14:20; Luke 16:21; John 6:26; James 2:16; Revelation 19:21*
2. There is the "filling" with other things - *Luke 4:28; 5:7; John 19:29; Acts 19:29; Luke 1:15; 41; Acts 2:4; 4:8, 31; 9:17; 13:9*
3. There is a "filling" to accomplish something - *Ephesians 5:18; Matthew 1:22; 2:15; Acts 1:16*  
- "filling" to complete, to fulfill something" - *Acts 12:25; 14:26; Colossians 4:17; Revelation 3:2*
4. *Ephesians 1:23:4;10* - Christ fills the universe - Christ fills the whole personality -  
*Ephesians 3:19; 5:18* -  
- To be filled is to be controlled and motivated with the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

#### II. GOD COMMANDS THAT BELIEVERS BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. This is a mandate - a command - not to be questioned.
2. There is no command to be baptized, sealed or indwelt by the Holy Spirit.  
- These are positional, something which God does for the believer, as writing the believer's name in His Book.
3. "Be Filled" - does not refer to position but to one's daily walk.  
- A believer can be unfruitful, even a worldly Christian.
4. There are three parts to a person: a body (*1 Timothy 4:8*) - volition (*1 Corinthians 2:14*), emotions, etc., and spiritual (*1 Corinthians 2:15*)  
- The believer can be fleshly or/and carnal/worldly.

#### III. THE FILLING BY THE HOLY SPIRIT IS A REPEATED EXPERIENCE

1. It is a kind of action that is continuous, enduring - "*...be ye (continuously) filled with the Holy Spirit...*" To be repeated over and over, moment by moment, each day a different filling.
2. It is plural in number as to who is to be filled - not just the preacher, etc., but to every believer. Remember, this letter of Paul's was circulated to hundreds of believers like himself.
3. This letter is addressed to all the churches at all times for all generations.

#### **IV. UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

1. The thought is that of being carried, swept away, thus the believer is acted upon by the Holy Spirit.
2. Story is told of a man influenced with alcohol began to change from neat to untidy, from shy to loud, from quiet to singing, from afraid to roaring and boastful. Thus a person being changed by being under the influence of another "power."
3. Under the influence of the Holy Spirit believers are changed. They do things that they never even thought of doing or even attempting. In God, believers are different.
4. **John 3:34** - The Holy Spirit is not given in doses or degrees but in totality.  
- The Holy Spirit is even jealous of our loves and interests for He must be first. (**James 4:5**)
5. The Holy Spirit wants to be over all things in the believer's life.
6. When under the influence of the Holy Spirit, the believer yields everything, emptying his/her heart and hands, etc.
7. There must be a total emptying of even one's self.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

1. To be filled with the Holy Spirit is a life-changing experience for the believer.
2. Being filled with the Holy Spirit is to NOT be in control but to be "subordinate" to whatever the Holy Spirit wants to do.
3. God commands believers to BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT and to do so more than once, as often as needed.
4. Believer, Christian, if you want to be used to your fullest for the Lord Jesus, then you must be FILLED with the Holy Spirit.....pray for this to happen.