

## Basics of the Spirit-filled Life

Every Christian needs to learn how to be filled with the Spirit of God. We are designed to live as integrated beings. It's only in being Spirit-filled that we can live in the beauty, strength, and authenticity that God desires for each of us. So let's look at the basics. (Ephesians 5:15-21)

### 1. THE REASONS FOR BEING FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT

We are called to be filled with the Spirit continuously, consciously, and conspicuously. There are several reasons why we are to be filled with the Spirit.

- a. **Obedience to God** God commands us to be filled with his Spirit. Not to do so is disobedience. Ephesians 5:18 is not just a *good suggestion*, it's a *command!*
- b. **Obligation to God** Being Spirit-filled is not only our *obedient* response to God, but also our *obligation*.
  - i. In our **worship life**, we need to be filled with the Spirit because that's the only way to truly worship God. But Spirit-filled worship is *heart-felt, life-surrendering, and love motivated*.
  - ii. We also have an obligation to be Spirit-filled in our **wedded life**. In the rest of the book of Ephesians, after this command to be "filled with the Spirit," what we see are indicators, pictures of what it looks like, how we will live if we *are* Spirit-filled. Ephesians 5:22 goes on to say, "*You wives will submit to your husbands as you do to the Lord.*" But God's Word doesn't stop with women. Verse 25 says, "*And you husbands must love your wives with the same love Christ showed the church. He gave up his life for her.*"
  - iii. Not only in our *worship life* and our *wedded life* are we to be Spirit-filled, but in our **work life** we are also to be filled with the Spirit. (See Ephesians 6:5-8) *Your job is your temple of devotion. It is your lamp stand for witness.*
  - iv. We also have an obligation to be Spirit-filled in our **war life**. (See Ephesians 6:10) Our enemy is strong and powerful, and the only way you are going to win the war is to be filled with the Holy Spirit of God.
  - v. We must also be filled with the Spirit if we are going to be effective in our **witness life**. (See Ephesians 6:18-19)
- c. **Opportunity before God** Not only do we have to be *obedient* to God, not only do we have an *obligation* to Him, we also have an *opportunity* before Him. In Ephesians 5:16 it says,

“Make the most of every opportunity for doing good in these evil days.” NLT We have been given a tremendous opportunity to share the good news of life to a dying world.

## 2. THE REQUISITES FOR BEING FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT

- a. The first thing you must do is to make a **complete commitment** to Him. By complete I mean something *whole-hearted, sincere, and intentional*.
- b. There must also be a **continual control**. The Spirit needs to be continually filling your life and controlling your mind. As we live in a continuing surrender of love, the Spirit of God is able to more and more penetrate us, transform us, and complete us. His continual control in our lives does not *dominate* us; he *liberates* us (2 Corinthians 3:17).

## 3. THE RESULTS OF BEING FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT

- a. As we are filled with the Spirit, we will see a **spirit of adoration**. (See Ephesians 5:19) This will energize your relationship with God.
- b. As we are filled with the Spirit of God, we will see a **spirit of appreciation**. (See Ephesians 5:20) This will energize your relationship to your circumstances.
- c. Finally, as we are filled by the Spirit of God, we will see a **spirit of accommodation**. (See Ephesians 5:21) This will energize your relationships with other people.

God has a question for you: *Is the Holy Spirit filling you right now?*