

Baptism and Filling of the Holy Spirit

BAPTISM AND FILLING COMPARISON

1. In the Bible, three people make reference to the "baptism of the Holy Spirit."
John the Baptist speaks of Spirit-baptism in reference to the ministry of Jesus (Matt. 3:11; Mk. 1:8; Lk. 3:16; Jn. 1:33). **Jesus** refers to being "baptized in the Spirit" pointing to the Day of Pentecost (Acts 1:5). Spirit-baptism as used by **Paul** is *a metaphor that describes our reception of the Holy Spirit at the moment of our conversion to Jesus in faith and repentance*. We are made members of the body of Christ, incorporated into the spiritual organism called the church (1 Cor. 12:13). This is the most common way this terminology is used among evangelicals. In this case:
Spirit-baptism is:
 - a. instantaneous
 - b. simultaneous with conversion
 - c. universal
 - d. unrepeatable
 - e. permanent
2. **Spirit-filling** is *a metaphor describing our continuous, on-going experience and appropriation of the Holy Spirit*. To be filled with the Spirit is to come under progressively more *intense* and *intimate* influence of the Spirit.
Spirit-filling results in:
 - a. power
 - b. purity
 - c. proclamation
 - d. praise

TWO SENSES OF SPIRIT FILLING

1. *A condition or consistent quality of Christian character.*
 - a. See Luke 4:1 (Jesus); Acts 6:3,5 (Deacons); 7:55 (Stephen); 11:24 (Barnabas)
 - b. This is the "ideal" condition of every Christian
2. *An enabling to fulfill or perform a special task or to equip for service or ministry.*
 - a. *A calling:* Luke 1:15-17 (John the Baptist-filled with Spirit from birth as a prophet); Acts 9:17 (Saul/Paul); Acts 10:38 (Jesus)
 - b. *A spiritual emergency or urgent task.* Acts 4:8 (Peter filled with the HS to preach); Acts 13:9 (Saul/Paul filled with HS to confront the magician); Acts 7:55 (Stephen to endure persecution and martyrdom)

In summary

1. There is one baptism, but multiple fillings
2. In no NT text are we commanded to be baptized in the HS
3. We are *commanded* to be filled with the HS
4. It is possible to be baptized in the HS, to experience the permanent indwelling of the HS, and yet not be filled with the HS. 1 Cor. 3 describes such believers as "carnal" or "fleshly"
5. To be "full of the HS" is to reflect a *maturity of character*, it is the ideal condition of every believer
6. To be "filled with the HS" is to *experience an anointing* for power, purity, proclamation, and praise

FUNDAMENTAL TEXT ON SPIRIT FILLING

Eph 5:18 Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, let the Holy Spirit fill and control you. 19 Then you will sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, making music to the Lord in your hearts. 20 And you will always give thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. NLT

1. Being filled with the HS is contrasted with being drunk with wine. Thus, it is a question of *influence, control, or power*. Paul envisions a *community of people* (the church) whose lives are totally given over to the Spirit.
2. What does it really mean to be "filled with the Spirit?" Ephesians contains much "fullness language." What is it telling us?
 - a. **Eph. 1:23; 3:19; 4:10**
 - b. This letter tells us to be filled with Christ, to come to the fullness of God, and to be filled with the HS.
 - c. Perhaps our conclusion concerning being filled with the HS in 5:18 is to understand it in terms of *the Spirit's mediating the fullness of God and Christ to the believers*.

GRAMMER AND GOD: "BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT"

1. The verb is *imperative*; i.e., it is *a command*.
2. The verb is *plural*.
 - a. The exhortation has primarily to do with community life.
 - b. Their *worship* is transformed: "sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves...."
 - c. Their *hearts* are transformed: "making melody in your hearts to the Lord."
 - d. Their *attitudes* are transformed: "always give thanks for everything to God the Father."
 - e. Their *relationships* are transformed: "submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ."
3. The verb is *present tense*.
 - a. This command is relevant to all believers throughout the whole of their lives.
4. This command is also *passive*.
 - a. Being passive toward the Spirit means being yielded, surrendered, and available.
5. The mere fact that we are commanded to be filled implies that a Christian faces the danger of running "low" (but never empty!).

HOW MAY I BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT?

1. *Keep a clean heart.*

Eph 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. NIV

2. *Pray for it.*

Luke 11:11-13 Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? 12 Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? 13 If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him! NIV

3. *Walk in step with the Holy Spirit.*

Gal 5:25 Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. NIV

4. *Thirst after Jesus!*

John 7:37-39 On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. 38 Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him." 39 By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. NIV

5. *Follow Jesus.*

Rev 7:17 For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. NIV

6. *Always live to overcome.*

Rev 21:6-7 He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. 7 He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son. NIV