

Being Filled With the Spirit of God (Ephesians 5:18)

When Jesus Christ came on the scene Israel, He encountered a religious, but spiritually dead nation. The people did not know God personally, nor was He being truly worshipped. When Christ called His disciples, He began to change their way of thinking from that of the world to the Word of God. We believe that this group of believers was the early church and, after Christ left Earth to go to Heaven, they taught more believers His doctrine (**Acts 2:42**).

The Lord Jesus taught on many subjects while training His church. One subject that He emphasized in particular was that of stewardship. Good stewardship is *taking what God has given us and using it for His glory, according to His Word*. Some may ask, "How can I know how to be a good steward with what I have?" The answer is found in **Ephesians**, where the Apostle Paul teaches on this subject. He explains that, in order to be good stewards, we must know the will of God and be filled with His Spirit (**Ephesians 5:17-18**)!

The doctrine of the Holy Spirit is one vital to any Bible-believer. Jesus Christ had a salting and shining work on this earth, before He ascended back to His Father in Heaven. Immediately before His ascension, Christ commanded His disciples to do the same work on Earth, in His place. The only way to successfully do this is with God's help. Thankfully, the Spirit of God was sent to help every believer do Christ's work by filling us, as we surrender our will to Him every day (**Acts 1:8; 2:1-4**).

I. It Is a Predictable Event

The Spirit of God performs many works to help the believer walk through this troubled world and serve God properly. Every work He performs is vital to our walk with God. The filling of the Holy Spirit is equally so.

Some people treat the filling of the Spirit of God as an accidental event that happens randomly to a believer. However, the Apostle Paul tells us that the filling of the Spirit is not random, but predictable. It is not an accidental thing, but controllable. We know this, because we are not warned to watch for the Spirit's filling, but are instead commanded to be filled with Him (**Ephesians 5:18**).

The Lord Jesus Christ is coming in the clouds for His church one day. His return is eminent and at a time that no person can predict (**Mark 13:32-37**). Therefore, each believer is commanded to watch for His return and be ready. No believer is commanded to go and bring Jesus back, because we cannot control the time of His return!

Likewise, we are not told to watch for the filling of the Spirit of God, because this event is not an eminent thing, but a controlled one. Instead, every believer is commanded to be filled with the Spirit. Therefore, we must be able to be filled on purpose, at any time we choose.

II. It Is a Specific Event

Being filled with the Spirit of God is not only a predictable event, but also a specific work that He performs to help the believer serve Jesus Christ better. The act of being filled comes from the Greek word *pleroo* (pl-air-ah'-oh) meaning *to fill to the fullest*. This word is used in many Scripture passages,

including **John 12:3**, where the smell of an ointment filled an entire house. We can take this word to mean that, when we are filled with the Spirit, we are filled to the fullest with God.

This understanding is important, because many misunderstand and state that the filling of the Spirit is the same as being baptized or sealed by Him. Instead, the filling of the Spirit is the specific, unique event of a believer being filled to the fullest with God.

Being baptized by the Spirit of God into His family uses the word *baptizo* (bap-teed'-zoe), which means *to immerse*, and is the same word used for water baptism by immersion (**I Corinthians 12:13**). When a person is baptized into God's family, they are immersed one time, forever; just as a person is only baptized once, as a profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (**Romans 6:3-4**).

Being sealed by the Spirit of God uses the word *sphragizo* (s-fra-geed'-zoe), which means *to set a mark upon a thing by the impress of a seal*, and is also used in **Matthew 27:66**, when the Roman soldiers secured the stone that covered the tomb of Jesus. The seal of that tomb was broken, because it was a wax seal of humanity. The seal of the Spirit is used to proclaim to God that we are His and will not be broken until our redemption is completed by our arrival upon Heaven's shore (**Ephesians 4:30**).

For the filling of the Spirit to be related to His baptism and sealing, the same words would have to be used throughout Scripture, but this does not exist. The filling of the Spirit is a specific, unique and repeatable event, while the other two are specific and unique, but only occur once for each believer.

How is your relationship with God? Do you know that you are His and that He has given you His Spirit to help you to do His work on this Earth? If you have questions about these things, please contact us anytime. We will be happy to help you.

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