

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

Last month, we considered the topic of being filled with the Spirit of God. This action of God's Spirit works in the lives of every believer in Jesus Christ. This event is predictable, in that the believer can be filled with the Spirit on purpose, at any time they choose. It is also unique in that it is different from His other works on Earth.

III. It Is a Useful Event

The God of Heaven does all things for a purpose. He sent His Son to train disciples and die for the sins of mankind. He also sent His Spirit to help those same disciples serve Him on Earth. So, how does the filling of the Spirit help the believer?

A. He Helps Us to Understand God's Word (John 14:26; 16:7-13; Hebrews 4:12)

The Bible is a spiritual Book written by God who is a Spirit (**John 4:24**). We are people that are born spiritually dead, but made alive by the Spirit of God (**Ephesians 2:1**), if we trust in Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection for our soul salvation by faith. Since our thinking is naturally carnal and not spiritual, we need the Spirit's help to understand God's spiritual Book.

Jesus promised His disciples that they would not have to remember all the doctrine they were taught or write it all down in books, but that the Spirit would bring it all back into their remembrance and help them to understand what Jesus told them. Remember that the disciples did not understand many of the parables and teachings of Christ (**Matthew 16:6-12**), until after Jesus left. They needed the Spirit to help them remember and understand those things, in order to give the teachings of Christ to others!

How much more do we need the Spirit's help to understand the scriptures when we read, apply, and teach them! The best person to explain any book is the author of that book. Thankfully, we have the Author living within us, waiting for us to ask for help!

B. He Helps Us to Pray (Romans 8:26-29)

Prayer is the spiritual act of a believer communing with their Father in Heaven through their spirit. Again, we must understand that we are born spiritually dead and it is God's Spirit that makes us alive through Christ: allowing us to commune with the Lord God. The Lord Jesus is God and knows the will of the Father, but we are not deity and many times do not know God's will, nor do we know how to pray according to it. Thankfully, we have the Spirit of God to help us pray, even when we feel that we cannot or do not know how (**v.26**). The Spirit takes our troubles to Jesus who shapes the surrendered prayer, according to the will of the Father (**v.27**), and delivers it to Him for answering (**v.28-29**). What a help the Spirit is to aid our praying and help us receive answers to prayer!

God wants every believer to become a good steward of the things He has given them. The only way to do this is through the act of being filled with His Spirit. We must understand that the filling of the Spirit is different than His baptizing and sealing works, in that it is controllable. We can also see in the scriptures that, as we are filled, the Spirit helps us to understand God's Word and pray better.

As asked in the previous article, how is your relationship with God? Do you know that His Spirit lives within you? Does He help you to understand God's Word? Do you see God regularly answer your prayers? If you cannot see these works in your life, please allow us to help you! We would be happy to sit down with you and show you how to know God better through His Word.

James Bussard is the pastor of Heritage Park Baptist Church that meets at 8 N. 2nd St. in Woodsboro, MD @ 11:30am on Sundays and throughout the week. For questions or comments about this article, please call (301) 304-2127 or write him at HeritageParkPastor@Gmail.com. For more service times and information about the church, please go to www.FrederickforChrist.com or call (301) 304-2127.

