

## WHAT EVERY CHRISTIAN NEEDS TO KNOW

### Lesson 19

#### God the Holy Spirit: Baptism & Filling

#### INTRODUCTION

Last week we looked at the Holy Spirit, His Person. Many Christians today know next to nothing about the Holy Spirit which can result in confusion, false teaching and false practice.

Let's review the main points from last week's lesson [TEACHERS: Be sure to review all of these points]:

- The Holy Spirit is a Person, not a force or an "it".
- He is the third Person of the Trinity equal to and with all of the attributes of the Father and the Son.
- There have been major errors regarding the Holy Spirit throughout church history.
- His work: He teaches, guides, testifies of Jesus, convicts, regenerates, intercedes and commands.
- His personality: He can be grieved, blasphemed, resisted, lied to and obeyed.
- Symbols of the Holy Spirit in Scripture include: clothing, a dove, a pledge, fire, oil, a seal, water and wind.

Today we will study two particular ministries of the Holy Spirit: Baptism and Filling.

#### I. THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

There has been much wrong teaching and misunderstanding regarding the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Some groups/churches teach that the baptism of the Holy Spirit comes as a second experience sometime after salvation. They teach that this experience is accompanied by speaking in tongues and that if you have not spoken in tongues then you have not been baptized in the Spirit or "received the baptism". This teaching is wrong, has caused much confusion and has led to dividing believers into the "haves" and "have-nots".

*The Baptist Faith and Message* speaking of the Holy Spirit states, "At the moment of regeneration He baptizes every believer into the Body of Christ."(page 9). Notice that it says "at the moment of regeneration". There is no "second blessing" or second experience after salvation. Spirit Baptism happens at salvation. Key Scriptures...

1 Corinthians 12:13(read) – The word "baptize" means "to immerse" or "to place into". This verse is not referring to water baptism but to Spirit baptism. Notice that Paul says "we were all", that is, every believer is placed into the body of Christ the moment of conversion. Notice, too, that speaking in tongues is not mentioned – it does not always accompany Spirit baptism or filling. In the Book of Acts, sometimes tongues were mentioned but most of the time they were not. In fact, verse 30 of this chapter (1 Corinthians 12) says "All do not speak with tongues, do they?" The obvious answer is "no".

**Romans 6:3-4(read)** – This, too, refers to Spirit baptism. We are baptized or “placed into” Christ Jesus. We are identified with Him in His death, burial and resurrection. It is something that happens to us the moment we believe in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

The act of water baptism illustrates this. Second Baptist Pastors say these words when baptizing someone: “Buried with Christ unto death; rise to walk in newness of life.” In a future lesson we will study the meaning and significance of water baptism.

**Galatians 3:27(read)** – This verse uses the phrase “baptized into Christ”.

**Romans 8:9** (read) – This verse does not specifically mention the Baptism of the Spirit but it equates the indwelling of the Holy Spirit with being a believer.

Some characteristics of the baptism of the Spirit...

1. It is for all believers without exception. If every believer is baptized into the body of Christ at conversion, then there is no exception. It is not a special select few or an inner circle of believers who are baptized and the rest of us are second class citizens.
2. Each believer is baptized only once – at conversion. The tense of the verb in 1 Cor. 12:13 indicates a one-time occurrence; it does not need to be repeated.
3. On the Holy Spirit, *The Baptist Faith and Message* states, “His presence in the Christian is the guarantee that God will bring the believer into the fullness of the stature of Christ.” (page 9)

## **II. THE FILLING OF THE SPIRIT**

Dr. Charles Ryrie, in his book *A Survey of Bible Doctrine*, states, “From the perspective of daily living and a vital Christian experience, the filling of the Spirit is undoubtedly the most important aspect of this doctrine. This is the pure essence of true spirituality and the basic requirement for growth and maturity.” (page 82)

So, this is crucial and we must get it right!

### **A. What is the Filling of the Spirit?**

The key Scripture is **Ephesians 5:18** (read).

In this verse Paul makes a comparison between getting drunk and being filled with the Spirit. So, what is the point? The point is that the filling of the Spirit is a matter of ***control***. A person who is drunk is controlled by alcohol – they lose their self-control and abandon themselves to the control or influence of the alcohol. In our culture we say of a person who is drunk that they are “under the influence” of alcohol. A DUI stands for “Driving Under the Influence”.

A person who is filled with the Spirit is living under the ***control or influence*** of the Holy Spirit. Now, does this mean that he acts weird and walks around in a trance like a zombie?

Absolutely not. It simply means that a Spirit-controlled believer is no longer controlled by his selfish sinful desires but by the Holy Spirit.

A point of confusion can occur because of the word “filling”. It sounds like we are filled up with the Spirit at conversion but then somewhere along the way, the Spirit sort of “leaks out” and we need to get a re-fill. This is not the case at all. If we stray from the truth, take back control of our lives and sin it does not mean that we suddenly have less of the Spirit. It means that He has less of us!

**B. The Filling of the Spirit is a Command.**

Ephesians 5:18 is a command to be filled with the Spirit, not a suggestion or one among many options. We as believers without exception are expected by the Lord to be filled (controlled) by the Holy Spirit! This is not just for a select few “professional” Christians but a requirement for every believer as part of the normal Christian life.

**C. How Often Does a Person Need to be Filled?**

Again, Ephesians 5:18 gives us the answer. The command is in the present tense, which could be translated “keep on being filled” or “be continually filled”. So, the answer to the question of how often: as often as it takes!

**ILLUSTRATION:** In Acts 2:4 it says that the believers were filled with the Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. Later, in Acts 4:31 it says that they (many of the same people) were filled with the Spirit. What was different? In the first instance, they were filled in the initial coming of the Spirit to earth to dwell in believers. The second instance was to face a new problem and to speak the word with boldness in the face of persecution.

**As Dr. Ryrie states, “...repeated fillings may be necessary because new areas of life come to light which need to be brought under the control of the Spirit.” (A Survey of Bible Doctrine, page 83)**

It is also true that a believer needs to be filled again and again when sin occurs breaking the control of the Spirit. In the case of a believer who sins, Dr. Bill Bright, founder of Campus Crusade for Christ, introduced a concept called “spiritual breathing”. Here’s how it works...

- **Exhale** – Confess your sin; agree with God concerning your sin that it is forgiven according to 1 John 1:9. Remember, confession also involves repentance – a change of attitude and action.
- **Inhale** – Surrender control of your life to Christ and receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit by faith according to Ephesians 5:18. Trust that He once again is directing, controlling and empowering your life.

[This paragraph is based on the booklet *Have You Made the Wonderful Discovery of the Spirit-Filled Life?*, by Bill Bright, Copyright 1966, 1995, 2000; New Life Publications; page 15]

**D. What Are the Conditions For Being Filled?**

[These are the general overall conditions other than when a believer sins.]

- 1) Be sure you have trusted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior.

- 2) Sincerely desire to be directed and empowered by the Holy Spirit (Matthew 5:6; John 7:37-39). Remember, the issue is control.
- 3) Confess your sins – see above under “exhale”.
- 4) Dedicate every area of your life to the Lord (Romans 12:1-2). Again, the idea is control – who is going to control your life – you or the Lord?
- 5) By faith claim the fullness of the Holy Spirit through prayer according to His command to be filled (Ephesians 5:18) and His promise that He will answer when we pray according to His will (1 John 5:14-15).

[This paragraph is also based on Dr. Bill Bright’s booklet]

#### E. What Are the Results of Being Filled?

*The Baptist Faith and Message* states, “He [the Holy Spirit] enlightens and empowers the believer and the church in worship, evangelism and service” (page 9)

Specific results include...

- 1) Christlikeness. You will demonstrate more & more the fruit of the Spirit, Galatians 5:22-23. These are qualities the Spirit produces in our lives.
- 2) Worship & praise. Our main verse for filling, Ephesians 5:18, is followed immediately by phrases which describe worship, praise and thanksgiving: verses 19-21 (read).
- 3) Your prayer life and study of God’s Word will become more meaningful. He is called the Spirit of truth in John 14:17, 15:26 and 16:13. Jesus also says in John 16:13 of the Spirit, “...He will guide you into all the truth”. As to our prayer life: Romans 8:26-27(read) states that He helps us to pray according to the will of God.
- 4) You will experience His power in sharing your faith with others (Acts 1:8). Now, this does not mean you will start preaching on the street corner in downtown Houston! It simply means that the Spirit will give us the words to say when opportunity arises in normal conversation. After all, one of the ministries of the Holy Spirit is to point people to Jesus Christ. In John 15:26 Jesus says “...He will bear witness of Me”; and in John 16:14 Jesus says “He will glorify Me.”
- 5) You will be prepared for spiritual conflict against the world (1 John 2:15-17); the flesh (Galatians 5:16-17) and against Satan (Ephesians 6:10-13). Our enemies are spiritual and we need spiritual power to have victory. We studied this in Lesson 17.
- 6) You will experience His power to resist temptation (1 Corinthians 10:13, Philippians 4:13).

**CONCLUSION**

I will close with a simple chart on the difference between the Baptism and filling of the Holy Spirit:

	<b><u>BAPTISM</u></b>	<b><u>FILLING</u></b>
<b>DEFINITION</b>	The placing of a believer into the Body of Christ by the Holy Spirit. 1 Corinthians 12:13	The control of the believer by the Holy Spirit in his walk with Christ. Ephesians 5:18.
<b>FREQUENCY</b>	One time, at salvation. 1 Corinthians 12:13	Many times; Acts 2:4, 4:8, 4:31; Ephesians 5:18; when believer sins.
<b>COMMANDED?</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>YES, Ephesians 5:18</b>

**TEACHER:** Reproduce the chart as a handout for your class.