

Part 5. The Holy Spirit

Lesson 2: The Fullness of the Spirit

Lesson Summary

To be filled with the Holy Spirit is to live under His continual control, guidance, and empowerment (Eph. 5:18). Unlike pagan practices of drunkenness, Spirit-filling is not emotional excess but a surrendered, Christ-centered life marked by wisdom, worship, gratitude, and holiness (Eph. 5:15–20; John 4:23–24). Every believer is indwelt by the Spirit at salvation (John 14:16–17; Rom. 8:9), but not all walk in His fullness. Filling requires daily surrender (Rom. 12:1–2), holiness enabled by the Spirit (Gal. 5:16–25), prayerful dependence (Eph. 6:18), and worship (Eph. 5:19–20). Holiness is not human striving but the Spirit's sanctifying work (Phil. 2:13; 1 Thess. 5:23–24). Spirit-filling is both sovereign empowerment for specific tasks (Acts 2:4; 4:8) and ongoing control producing godly character (Gal. 5:22–23). Believers are called not to manipulate experiences but to yield daily, confess sin, and walk in the Spirit. The Spirit-filled life is one of freedom, peace, power, and joyful worship, displaying Christlike character.

Key Takeaways

- **Spirit-filling vs. Indwelling:** Indwelling is permanent at salvation (Rom. 8:9); filling is ongoing surrender (Eph. 5:18).
- **Requirements:** Surrender (Rom. 12:1–2), holiness (1 Pet. 1:15–16), prayer (Eph. 6:18), and worship (John 4:23–24).
- **Holiness:** Not earned by striving but birthed by the Spirit (Phil. 2:13; Rom. 6:22).
- **Two facets:** Sovereign empowerment for unique tasks (Acts 2:4; 4:8) and daily Spirit-control producing godly character (Eph. 5:18).
- **Evidences:** Fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22–23), peace (Rom. 8:6), love and humility (Eph. 5:19–21), power and self-control (2 Tim. 1:7).
- **Hindrances:** Sin grieves/quench the Spirit (Eph. 4:30; 1 Thess. 5:19). Confession restores fullness (1 John 1:9).
- **Application:** Yield daily, confess quickly, seek God's sufficiency—not emotional highs (Gal. 5:16).

Questions & Answers

1. **Q:** What does it mean to be filled with the Spirit?
A: To live under the Spirit's continual control, guidance, and empowerment (Eph. 5:18).
2. **Q:** How is Spirit-filling different from Spirit-indwelling?
A: Indwelling happens once at salvation (Rom. 8:9); filling is ongoing and relational (Eph. 5:18).
3. **Q:** What requirements prepare believers for fullness?
A: Surrender, holiness, worship, and prayer (Rom. 12:1–2; Eph. 6:18).
4. **Q:** Who produces holiness in us?
A: The Holy Spirit, not human effort—He sanctifies us (Phil. 2:13; 1 Thess. 5:23–24).
5. **Q:** What are the two facets of Spirit-filling?
A: Sovereign empowerment for specific tasks (Acts 2:4; 4:8) and ongoing Spirit-control for godly character (Gal. 5:22–23).

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6. **Q:** What evidences show a Spirit-filled life?

A: Fruit of the Spirit, joy, peace, worship, humility, power, and self-control (Gal. 5:22–23; 2 Tim. 1:7).

7. **Q:** How can believers recover fullness when they grieve the Spirit?

A: By confessing sin and yielding afresh (Eph. 4:30; 1 John 1:9).

“To be filled with the Spirit is not a one-time event but a daily surrender—walking in His power, bearing His fruit, and glorifying Christ.”