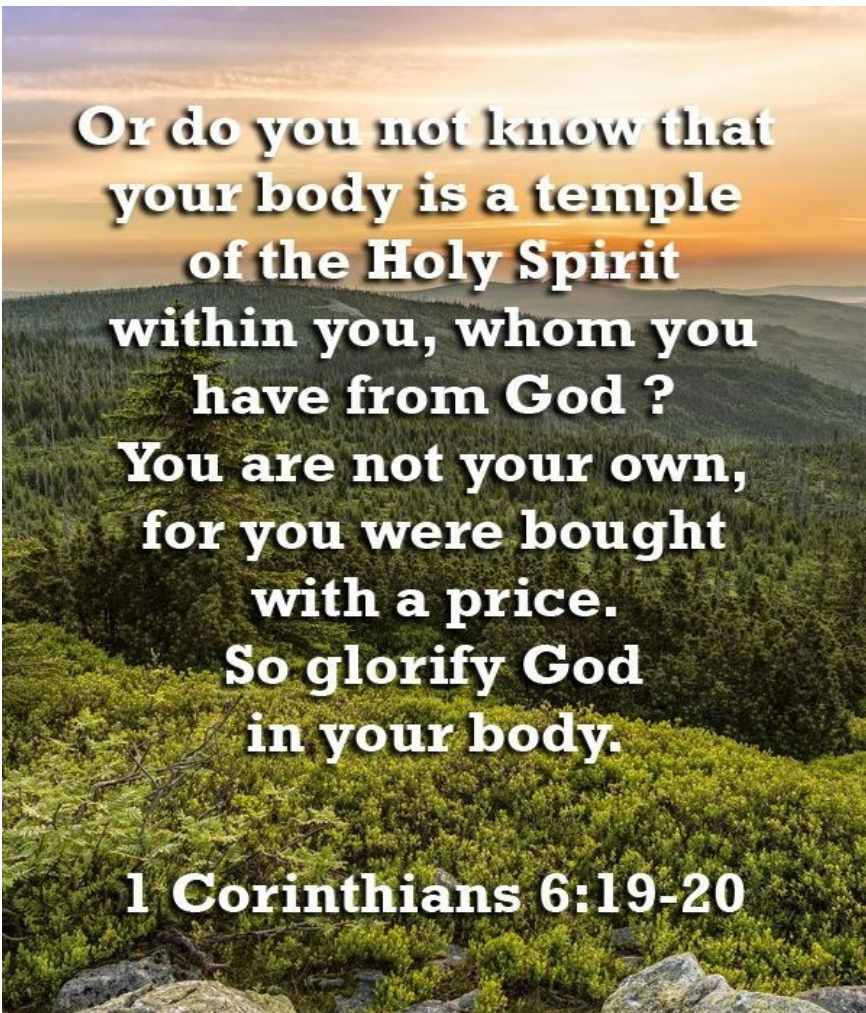


The Christian Life Series—Book 4

The Ministry of the Holy Spirit



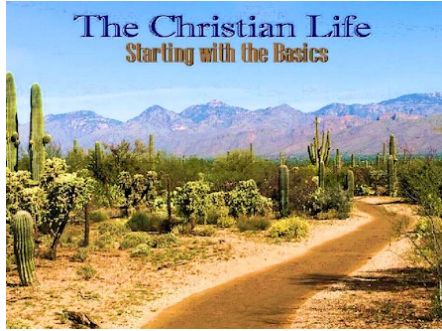
**Or do you not know that
your body is a temple
of the Holy Spirit
within you, whom you
have from God ?
You are not your own,
for you were bought
with a price.
So glorify God
in your body.**

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Alaska Christian Ministry to Seafarers

Foreword

Faith in the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ is how we entered the Christian Life, and our Lord's provision of the Holy Spirit gives us the member of the Trinity by whom we are to live it victoriously! This is not to imply that the Holy Spirit will in any way take the Lord's place. On the



contrary, He will take from what belongs to the Lord Jesus, and make it known to us. (John 16:14)

Furthermore, the Holy Spirit's ministry to us is to conform us to the image and likeness of Christ, while manifesting the life of Christ in our lives. There is complete intimacy, congruence, and single-mindedness of purpose within the Trinity.

May God bless you as you continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In His grace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Redig". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "K" and "R".

Kevin Redig, pastor-teacher

All Scripture quotes have been taken from either the NKJV (1992 edition) or the NIV (1984 edition).

The Ministry of the Holy Spirit

The best place to start our study of the Holy Spirit is with a promise from Jesus:

“And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—the Spirit of truth.”

John 14:16

Not only is the Spirit of Truth a reference to the Holy Spirit, but so too is the word translated *Counselor*. It is the Greek word *parakletos*. It means one who comes alongside to encourage, comfort, counsel, exhort. Let me suggest that you consider the idea of the perfect *coach*—one who knows when you need encouragement and who also knows when you need to be chewed out. For, as we shall see, the Holy Spirit both reminds us of the truth we have learned, and brings us under conviction when we fall short.

There is one other precious truth to which I would like to draw your attention. The word translated *another* means another of the same kind. The disciples’ hearts were heavy as Jesus prepared them for His departure, but look at how He encourages them. He tells them He will ask, and the Father will send, another member of the Trinity—the Holy Spirit.

Of course, we wish we could have known the Lord Jesus personally as the disciples did. Instead, we have another—the Holy Spirit—who not only resides within, but whose ministry is to reveal Jesus to us and bring us into deeper relationship with Him.

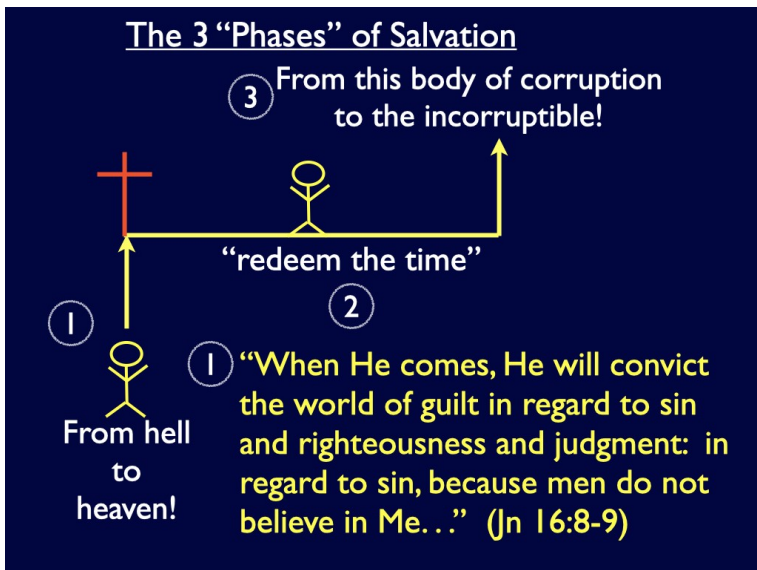
How can we know this is true? Jesus promised He would do it! Further Jesus promised that the One Jesus He sent will be with the child of God forever!

On Both Sides of the Cross

Before we continue with the Christian Life, let me show you that the Holy Spirit has a ministry on *both sides* of the cross! By that I simply mean the Spirit has had a role in the life of every lost person who has ever been saved, as well as ministering to us as we live our Christian lives.

Ministry to the Unbeliever

As you can see in the diagram below, when it comes to the *world*—a reference to the lost of this world—the Holy Spirit has a ministry related to conviction. His role is specifically in regard to sin, righteousness, and judgment. Note carefully the sin of which the Holy Spirit convicts the lost. Surprisingly to many, He convicts of just one sin—that of unbelief with respect to the person and work of Jesus Christ. I know we are engaged in a study of the Christian Life, but I want you to realize that if you are a Christian, then by necessity, you have already become acquainted with the Holy Spirit.



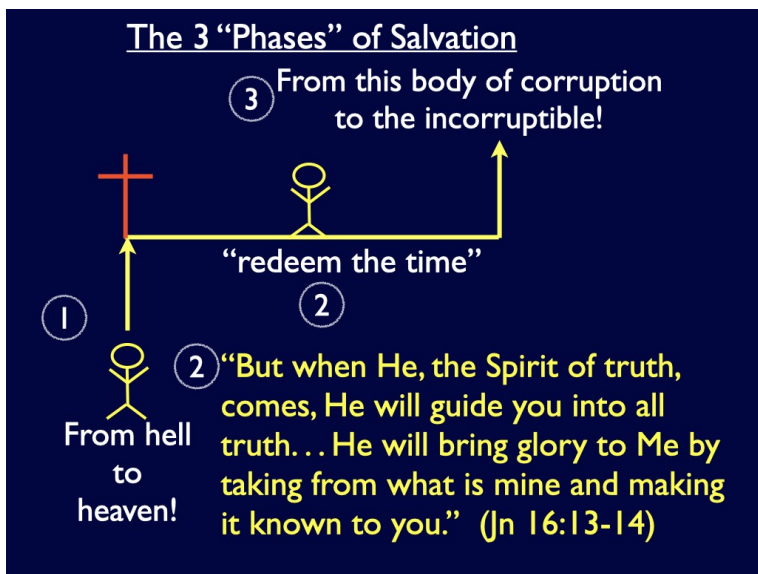
The Holy Spirit's ministry before the Cross

Ministry to the Believer

As we open our study of the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the child of God, we immediately come upon His teaching ministry—specifically, a ministry of guiding the believer into the truth. In doing so, He takes from the Son and reveals it to us. In the context, all that belongs to the Father is also the Son's, which means that we have that which is the Father's, shared by the Son, revealed to us by the Holy Spirit. I trust already you can begin to appreciate the wonderful and essential nature of the Holy Spirit's ministry to us.

From this introduction, I would like to introduce you to the Holy Spirit's ministry to the child of God. First, as we interact with the Word of God—and by that I mean study it, meditate upon it, and sit under the teaching of the Word—the Holy Spirit guides us into the truth. We learn that in John 16:13:

"But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all truth. . ."



The Holy Spirit's ministry after the Cross

Shows Us Truth. It is imperative that we see the connection between truth and the Word of God. Jesus Himself made that connection quite clear.

"Sanctify them by the truth; Your Word is truth."

John 17:17

Do you remember that we learned in previous lessons that the Word of God is sufficient—it is all we need—for matters of Christian faith and practice? Here we discover another reason why the Word of God is sufficient, it is our one and only source of God-inspired truth!

When the Bible says that the Holy Spirit will guide us into the truth, it means He will guide us into grasping what has been preserved in God's Word for our use! The Holy Spirit is our teacher as we study God's Word.

Leads Us Into Relationship. The goal of the Spirit's ministry is to lead us into an ever-deepening relationship with our Savior. Notice how Jesus describes how the Pharisees and religious leaders of His time failed to grasp this need:

"You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about Me, yet you refuse to come to Me to have life."

John 5:39-40

Do you see the problem identified in this passage? The Pharisees came to the Scriptures as a means of scholarship, as a means of legalistic rigor. In doing so, they did not even recognize the very One of whom the Scriptures bore testimony.

We need to be very careful in this matter! The Scriptures are not meant to be a means of scholarship but of fellowship. It is not about how much we know, but whom we know more deeply. Our Bibles are the written Word behind which stands the Living Word. Properly handled, the written Word is to lead us to that Living Word, Jesus Christ, who is the Alpha and the Omega!



I am the Alpha and the Omega
the First and the Last
the Beginning and the End
Revelation 22:13

Helps Us Listen. Mary was commended by the Lord in Luke 10. We can learn something from what she did and the way in which she did it! It will help if you read the context associated with this verse of Scripture:

. . . Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what He said. Luke 10:39

There is Martha, literally busy for the Lord. Yet it is Mary that the Lord commends! What is she doing? Sitting at the feet of Jesus and listening to what He has to say. The Lord's commendation is such a blessing:

"Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken from her." Luke 10:42

Do you know what is the most important thing we can do on a busy day? Sit at the feet of Jesus and listen to what He has to say! We do this by studying His Word and meditating upon it. While we are doing that, it will be the Holy Spirit leading us into the truth.

I am just taken with Mary's humility. She knows what she needs, and she is at the feet of her Lord, in rapt attention, listening to every word. I trust we might approach the Word of God daily with a similar attitude of humility!

Helps Us Make Spiritual Judgements. You may have noticed there can be a great deal of difference in the way the Christian interacts with the Word of God in contrast to the non-Christian. That is because:

Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given by God. . . But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. The spiritual man makes judgments about all things. . . we have the mind of Christ.

I Corinthians 2:13-16

The *natural man*, a reference to the lost, does not have the ability to receive the teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit because he or she has not yet had a spiritual birth. All the lost can receive is the Spirit's ministry of conviction with respect to one's need to believe in Jesus. The truths of God's Word are simply not going to be accessible to the one without the Spirit—they are just so much foolishness. Don't let that throw you, for the Word of God predicts it for us ahead of time.

We as believers, on the other hand, are capable of making spiritual judgments about all matters! Why? Because we have the Holy Spirit and the *mind of Christ*, the latter being a reference to the Word of God.

Application to Us

A number of the previous Scriptures are those of Jesus speaking to His eleven disciples. Can we be sure that the promises Jesus made to the eleven are meant to come down through the centuries to believers of the New Testament Church? The answer to this question is "Absolutely!" Let me show you.



First, compare these passages from Acts and I Corinthians:

"Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift My Father promised, which you have heard Me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

Acts 1:4-5

For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

I Corinthians 12:13

In Acts 1:4, Jesus once again promised the baptism of the Holy Spirit. However the second passage is Paul writing to one of the churches he planted. Notice how, many years after Pentecost, believers are said to be all baptized by the Spirit, and all given the one Spirit to drink. Clearly, the Holy Spirit was meant to be a part of God's provision for the believer throughout the time of the Church.

Second, consider the matter of fact way the ministry of the Holy Spirit is associated with the salvation of every Church-age individual.

But the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying.

Titus 3:4-8

We have been saved through the *washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit*. In Greek grammar, there is a strong case to be made for both rebirth and renewal to have been accomplished by the Spirit in the life of every believer. Both terms speak of the new creation that we are in Christ Jesus and our purified standing before God. This is the result of the generous outpouring of the Holy Spirit on every child of God!

In summary, from the day of Pentecost forward, the Holy Spirit has a wide-ranging ministry to every single born-again child of God. His ministry begins with our formation as a new creation in Christ and is essential for our ongoing spiritual growth. What is so remarkable about this, is that in the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit was only given to a select few in order to accomplish a specific purpose—and often for only a limited time. In the New Testament Church, however, every believer, upon the authority



of God's Word, has a marvelous relationship to the Third Person of the Trinity who seeks to magnify both the Son and the Father.

Important Ministries

Let's document some of the important ministries of the Holy Spirit to the children of God:

- To both lead us into the truth and to remind us of truth that we have learned.

"But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you."

John 14:26

This wonderful spiritual teacher, encourager, and exhorter has been sent by Jesus. How precious is the truth that, after coming to this earth and then returning to heaven, He has not left us without a Divine presence. Please note that the Spirit is first our teacher, and then the one who reminds us of the very truth He taught when it is time for application. There are two caveats. First, this teaching/reminding ministry of the Holy Spirit is inhibited if we are not in fellowship with God. Second, He can only remind us of what we have learned—thus the importance of daily study in God's Word.

- To baptize each believer into the Body of Christ.

The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jew or Greek, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

I Corinthians 12:12-13

The Body of Christ and the Church are referring to different aspects of the same entity. Following the Day of Pentecost, every believer is a part of both. The Church

speaks collectively of those who have believed. The Body is a powerful metaphor for the function that is the calling of believers—to bear witness to the saving power of the Gospel!

- To bestow a spiritual gift to every believer for the good of the Body.

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. . . . Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

I Corinthians 12:4, 7

Every believer has at least one spiritual gift. It is important to remember that all spiritual gifts are given for the purpose of serving others.

- To seal every child of God for all eternity.

And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the Gospel of your salvation. Having believed you were marked in Him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of His glory.

Ephesians 1:13-14



What work did we do in order to have the Holy Spirit Himself seal us, and thereby guarantee our eternal redemption? The text tells us—we did no work at all; rather, we believed.

Just what is a seal? In the ancient world, a wax seal would be used to prohibit unauthorized tampering with a possession. What a marvelous picture this brings to mind—the Holy Spirit has marked each one of us as follows: *No Tampering—this one is God's possession.*

- To allow the Holy Spirit to work as the agent of ongoing enablement and transformation. First, let's look at the promises for transformation.

I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know. . . His incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of His mighty strength, which He exerted in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand. . .

Ephesians 1:18-20

. . . who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by His resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 1:4

This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: "Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit," says the Lord of hosts.

Zechariah 4:6

As to enablement: The Holy Spirit is the one who raised Christ from the dead; His power is available for those who believe. As the Lord said to Zerubbabel, the life to which we are called is not about personal strength, it is about that which is provided by the Spirit of God!

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Galatians 5:22-23

This is just a brief example of the Holy Spirit's ability to transform a life. Are the promises above natural to fallen

mankind? Definitely not! However, as the power of the Spirit is at work in our lives once we believe, He will transform them so that these and other fruit are manifest. When this happens in your life or mine, there is no doubt as to whom is owed the credit!

Beware of Grieving and Quenching the Spirit

The Holy Spirit can be grieved and quenched in the life of the believer:

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

Ephesians 4:30

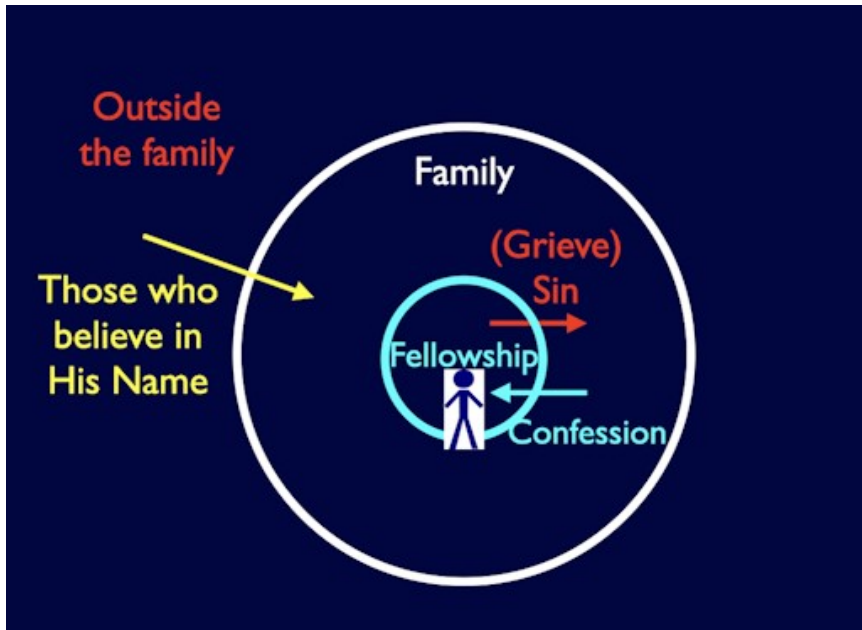
Do not quench the Spirit's fire. . . I Thessalonians 5:19

Now the context of Ephesians Chapter 4 makes it quite clear that we grieve the Holy Spirit when we sin. That allows us to make a connection with what we have previously covered: family and fellowship. As we learned, our sin breaks our fellowship with God. Not surprisingly, that means it also grieves the Holy Spirit by Whom we are meant to live a life apart from sin. How do we address our failing? Through confession of sin which both restores our fellowship with God, and by necessity with the Third Member of the Trinity.

The concept of *quenching the Spirit* is not clearly defined in context. Let me suggest that it is what happens when we persist in sin and thereby grieve the Spirit to the point that we quench His ministry to us. What does that mean? Among other things, the sinning believer can become hardened to the voice of the Spirit, which means no teaching, no reminding, no enablement, and compromise of the Spirit's gifting. Of course, these should be recognized as serious, serious problems in the life of the believer!

What is the remedy? It is the same as recovery from grieving the Spirit, although it will become harder to do: confession of sin and turning back to those things which promote spiritual growth. Recover requires time in the Word and being taught by the Holy Spirit to make our experience conform to our position in Christ.

As in the loss of fellowship, grieving and quenching the Spirit do not alter our family relationship as a child of God, as shown in the diagram below. Once we are saved, we are always and permanently in the family of God, but we can be out of fellowship with God when we quench or grieve the Spirit. I keep mentioning that because when we do come to our senses after sinning and try to *pick up the pieces*, it is so helpful to know that we are starting from the place of a child loved by our heavenly Father, accepted in the Beloved, in union with our Savior. That is the basis from which we can, by faith, confess our sin and know that we are restored.



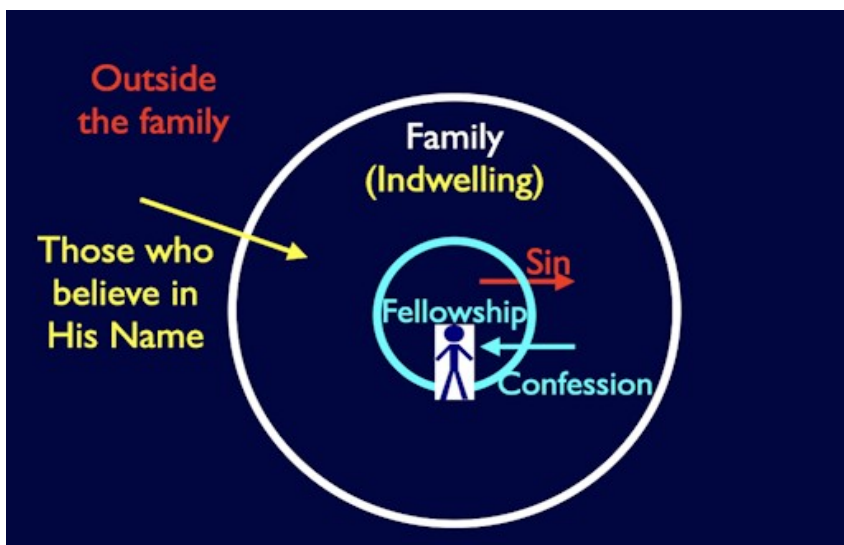
Indwelling and Filling

For the remainder of our initial investigation of the Holy Spirit's ministry in the life of the child of God, I would like to focus upon two aspects of the Holy Spirit's ministry to the believer: the *indwelling* of the Holy Spirit and the *filling* of the Holy Spirit. Not only do we need to understand each, but like other things we have covered, we need to understand the distinctions and contrasts between the two.

The Indwelling of the Holy Spirit

Every child of God is indwelt by the Holy Spirit. I have reproduced a portion of the pertinent Scripture below. It would be helpful for you to read I Corinthians 6:12-20 in its entirety.

Flee from sexual immorality. . . Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body. I Corinthians 6:18-20



The context of this passage makes it very clear that circumstances or behavior do not impact the truth that within the body of the child of God resides the Holy Spirit. For here is the situation, Corinthian believers were engaging in sexual immorality—the most likely scenario being with the temple prostitutes that were part of the pagan idolatry that was the norm in the city of Corinth. What Paul is doing is chastising these believers for bringing pagan sexual immorality into their Christian lives. His argument boils down to this question: How can you possibly be thinking of taking the Holy Spirit, who lives in you, up to the pagan temple on the top of the hill to engage in sexual immorality? With the Corinthian situation in mind, consider the following:

- If you could lose the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, the sin of the Corinthian believers would certainly have done it! But notice how Paul's argument hinges precisely on the fact that they have not lost the indwelling of the Holy Spirit but are taking the Spirit where He does not want to go! Just to be very clear, these Corinthian believers would most certainly be out of fellowship with God, grieving the Holy Spirit, and eligible for discipline from their heavenly Father.
- So we see that the indwelling ministry of the Holy Spirit is a permanent ministry to the child of God. Note in our diagram where I have placed the Spirit's indwelling—right under the title of *Family*, for if we are in the Family of God, then we are indwelt with the Spirit of God. Unlike the Greek philosophers who taught that what you do with the body doesn't matter, it is only the soul that counts, this passage decisively rebukes such thinking. The Spirit's residence in the body explicitly puts a certain premium on what we do with our body. We are to *honor God with our body!* (I Corinthians 6:20)

God's Plan. Why does God send His Spirit to take up residence in the body of every child of God?

- Apart from God's sending of the indwelling Holy Spirit, we would be a new creation in a spiritually-dead body with a nature to sin. Thankfully, the Holy Spirit takes up residence in the body of the saved to provide an alternative influence to the soul. The flesh may pull me to go in one direction, but praise God He has established a *beachhead* in my body from which to influence my soul in a spiritual direction. The Holy Spirit will influence me to *walk* in a completely different direction than the flesh.

For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other. . .

Galatians 5:17

- This explains why a new believer is often very uncomfortable around unsaved friends and old practices—the indwelling Spirit is seeking to direct that new believer's life in a direction that is compatible with his or her union with Christ. You can grieve Him if you persist in pursuing the flesh, but you will initially have to work at it. Of course, it is a terrible mistake in terms of the Christian Life to do so.

I have always been blessed by an account given by Watchman Nee of a new convert. This recently saved gentleman reported that something within just would not allow him to go back to his old practices. In explaining this to Watchman Nee as the one who led him to the Lord, the Chinese was translated like this: "Resident Boss would not let me. . ." Nee's reply is classic, "You just keep listening to *Resident Boss!*" Naturally, given the text of I Corinthians 6, *Resident Boss* can be none other than the Holy Spirit within!

- The Holy Spirit within is also the source of His ministries of teaching, reminding and conviction.
- The indwelling Holy Spirit also protects us from the forces of evil. We can certainly be influenced by the forces of evil from without, but internal demonic activity is simply not possible from within a body in which the Holy Spirit resides.
- The indwelling Holy Spirit pleads our case to God—even when we can't or don't know how!

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. . .the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.

Romans 8:26-27

What a blessing to know that, when a loved one or some deeply distressing issue is on our minds, the Spirit is *interceding for us. . .in accordance with God's will!*

In short, we need to count on the Spirit within, value Him and cooperate with Him!



The Filling of the Holy Spirit

Unlike the *indwelling of the Spirit* which is permanent, the *filling of the Spirit* is not a given, but the goal! The filling of the Spirit is presented as a command in the midst of two options:

Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. Ephesians 5:15-20

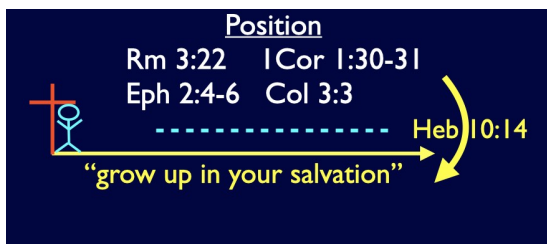
The verb *be filled* is in the imperative mood in the Greek which means it is commanded for the Christian to be filled with the Spirit. Paul frames this command in the context of two options, apparently presented to the believers in the church in Ephesus: You could be filled with wine—don't do it; or you could be filled with the Spirit, which is what God commands. At issue is what is influencing the soul. I might add, it doesn't just have to be alcohol—there are many other things associated with the flesh that seek to control the soul.

Filling Is Hindered by Sin

In contrast to His ministry of indwelling, the filling of the Spirit is potentially temporary. Specifically, it is hindered by sin in the life of the believer. In short, you are not filled with the Spirit at any time that sin has a hold in your life!

There is a parallel between our fellowship with God and the filling of the Spirit. When we are in fellowship with God, we are filled with the Spirit. The same sin that causes us to lose our fellowship, grieves the Spirit, and causes us to become *carnal*, or fleshly, within the soul rather than filled with the Spirit.

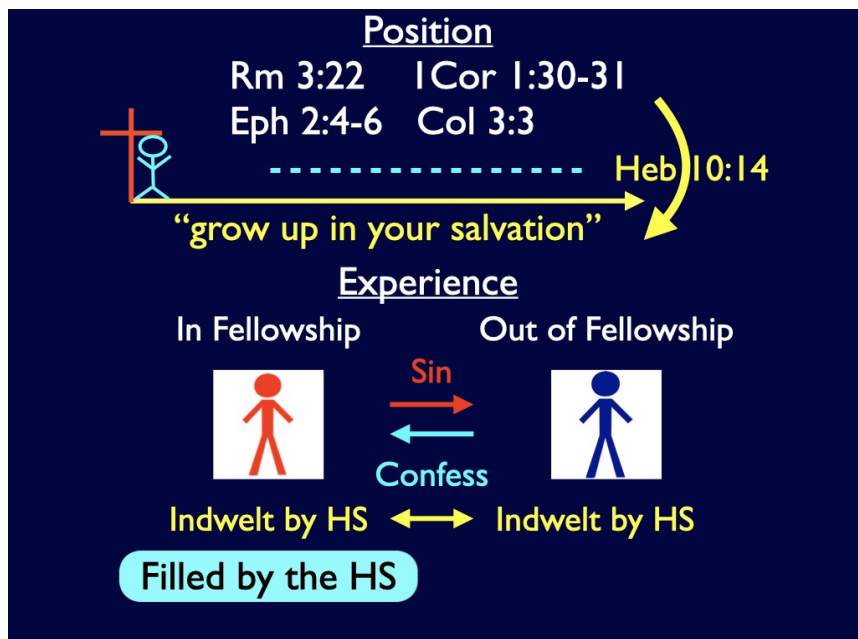
To illustrate this concept, I want to change illustrations.



The basis for the new diagram is the diagram we used to describe the position of every child of God: clothed with the righteousness of Christ, sanctified in Him, alive with Him, and seated with Him in the Heavenlies!

What's new about this diagram is the lower section dealing with our *experience*. Notice the following in this diagram:

- Every believer is either in fellowship with God or out of fellowship, and sin and confession are what causes a change in status.
- Every believer is indwelt by the Spirit for that is a permanent aspect of being in the Family of God.
- One more piece that is added to the diagram is that of being filled by the Holy Spirit. Being filled by the Spirit is not a component of our position, but a command regarding our experience. We are only filled with the Spirit when there is no unconfessed sin in our lives and we are in fellowship with God.



Filling of the Spirit Defined

Let's make an effort to define the filling of the Holy Spirit since Scripture does not explicitly do so.

To be filled with the Spirit is to be in a condition such that the Holy Spirit has an unhindered ability to influence the soul and empower the Christian life.

Along with the above definition, it is helpful to remember:

To be in fellowship with God is to have in common His thoughts, affections, and purposes as the result of association with His Spirit and His Word.

As you may have noticed, there is a sizable amount of overlap between the topics of the fellowship with God and the filling of the Holy Spirit.

Filling is Essential to the Christian Life

Why is the filling of the Spirit an absolutely essential part of the Christian Life? Consider the following reasons:

- He is our source of enablement!
...in order that you may know. . .His incomparably great power for us who believe. Ephesians 1:19



How is it that we bring our daily experience into conformity with our position in Christ? It is through the enablement of the Holy Spirit. How is it that we accomplish the *good works which God has prepared in advance for us to do?* (Ephesians 2:10) The answer is we can only accomplish them through the enablement of the Holy Spirit. Although the potential is there as soon as we are born-again and indwelt by the Spirit, it is only when we are filled with the Spirit that His enabling power is at work in our lives.

- He is the means of dealing with the power of the sin nature.

So I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lusts of the flesh. Galatians 5:16

We do not have victory over the lusts of the flesh by being sincere, committed, or trying harder! We do so by walking in the Spirit. Naturally, this raises some questions about the walk of the Spirit.

Walking in the Spirit Defined

I am going to define what it means to *walk in the Spirit* in terms of the *filling of the Spirit*. First, let me clarify two terms:

- In the context of Galatians 5:16, *walk* and *live* are synonyms. The Greek word is literally, the path of one's footsteps. Some translators will call that the walk of the Christian; others, the life of the Christian. Either way, the meaning is to clearly focus upon our experience as Christians.
- The preposition translated *in* can also mean *by*. The idea is *by means of* the Spirit, or *in the sphere of* the Spirit. Again, translators will use both translations for the term.

With that background, let's look at some definitions:

- *To be filled with the Spirit* is to be in a condition such that the Holy Spirit has an unhindered ability to influence the soul and empower the life.
- *To walk (live) in the Spirit* is to moment-by-moment maintain the filling of the Spirit, through the influence of both the indwelling Spirit and indwelling Word of God, that the life of Christ might be manifest in us as we navigate life's daily demands.

To *walk by the Spirit* is to perpetuate the *filling of the Spirit* through time.

Filling Relates to the Word of God

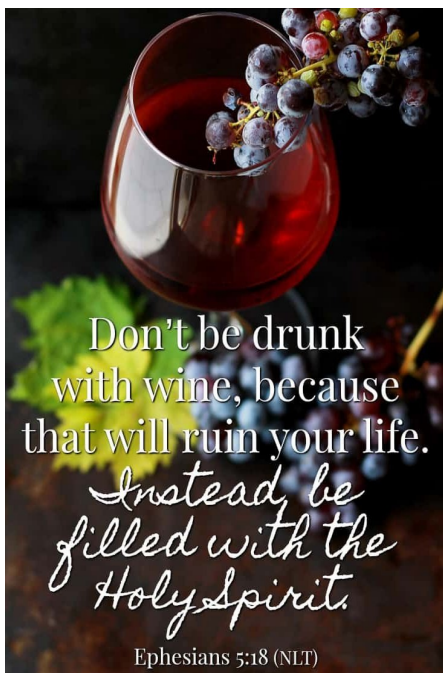
We must note that the Scriptures relate the filling of the Spirit to the function of the Word of God.

Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. Speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord. . .

Ephesians 5:18-19

Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

Colossians 3:16



I am suggesting that the *filling of the Spirit* and the *Word of Christ dwelling richly within* are two sides of the same coin. My Biblical reason for doing so is that what follows the imperative commanding each is virtually identical. What that tells me is that the Holy Spirit will guide via the Word of God, and the Word of God will prompt us to turn to the Spirit as our enabler. Or, in the negative, you cannot have one without the other, which is why a new believer so desperately needs to get under good teaching so that the Holy Spirit would have the truth of God's Word to apply to his or her life.



The Theological Explanation

Let me give you a somewhat lengthier theological explanation of what it means to *walk in the Spirit*. I trust you might find this definition helpful.

To walk in or by the Spirit is to allow Him to direct the way in which you live your life; it is to make decisions in the light of His holiness; it is to remain in communion with Him; it is to be occupied with the person of Christ, because the Spirit's ministry is to engage us intimately with the Lord Jesus.

Carefully note—walking by the Spirit is not a mystical, trance-like state in which the believer enters and mysteriously lives; nor is it some kind of far out, ethereal experience as some have postulated. Any such thinking along those lines is completely "cultic" in its orientation. To walk by the Spirit is to live under the direction of the Holy Spirit and to walk by faith in God's Word." (D. Ekstrand)

In Summary

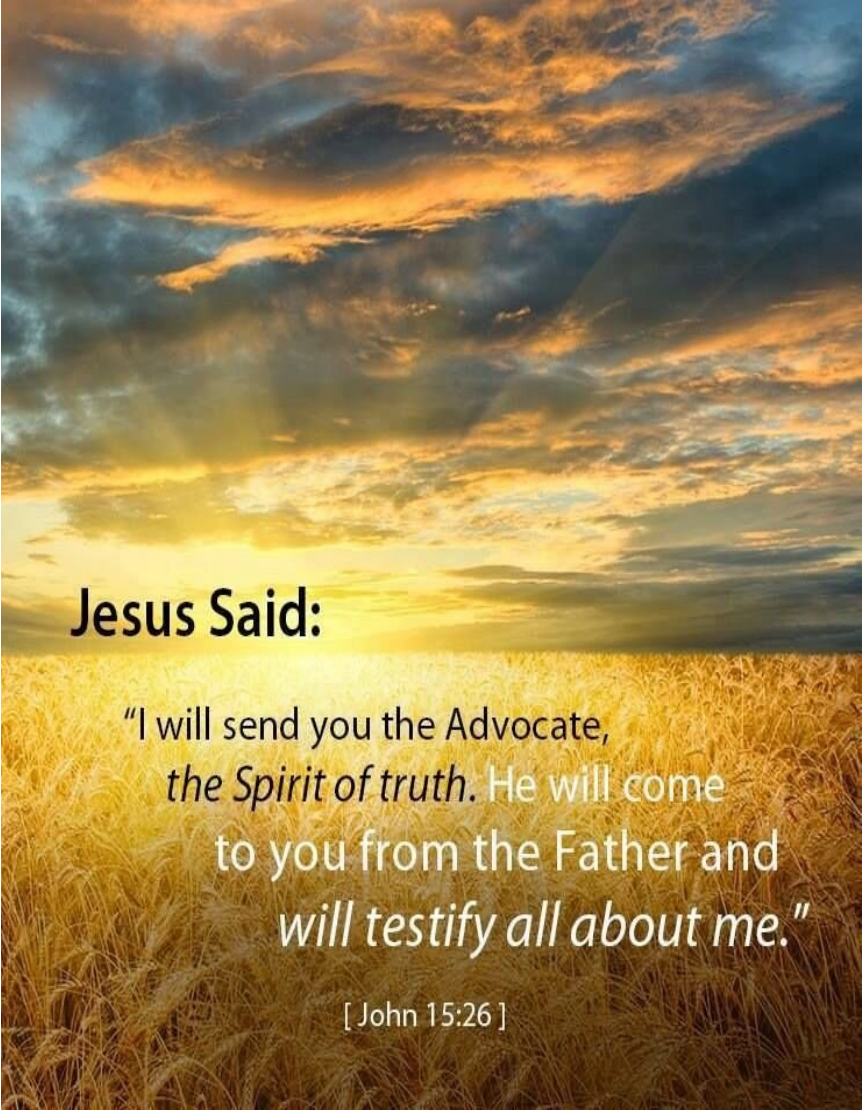
Count on the indwelling Holy Spirit to do all that is possible, consistent with the choices we make, to advance God's causes in your life. When we trust and allow his enablement, the Holy Spirit will accomplish things like sanctification, prayer, and growth.

It is essential for us to realize that we can accomplish no divine good, have no spiritual power, enjoy no spiritual victory apart from the *filling of the Holy Spirit*. That means that we must watch our fellowship with God closely to ensure that we are filled with His Spirit.

Then, once filled, we should seek to perpetuate that filling into a moment-by-moment walk by the Spirit to the glory of God.

May God bless you as you draw closer to Him through the Holy Spirit whom our Savior has sent!





Jesus Said:

"I will send you the Advocate,
the Spirit of truth. He will come
to you from the Father and
will testify all about me."

[John 15:26]



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