

Basic Equipment for the Christian Life

(Routines that Lead to Risking More for Christ)

“Do I Have a Sense of God Leading Me?”

Getting to Know the Holy Spirit

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / April 12, 2015

I. What Does it Mean to be Filled with the Spirit?

A. We're Not Talking about Some Special Second Work of Grace

The Bible makes it absolutely clear that if you're a Christian you have the Spirit of God living in you.

Romans 8:9 “But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.”

B. We are Talking about Choosing to be Filled with the Spirit Who Already Lives in You

Ephesians 5:15-18 “¹⁵ See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, ¹⁶ redeeming the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸ And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit”

- Being filled with the Spirit is a Command

He commands us to be filled with the Spirit and God doesn't command things that we can't do.

It's not about getting MORE of the Spirit. As a child of God, you were given ALL of the Holy Spirit at conversion. What we're talking about is the Holy Spirit getting more of YOU.

- Being filled with the Spirit is a Passive Verb

It's in the passive tense because God is the One doing the action and we're being acted upon. You can't fill yourself. Only God can fill you with the Holy Spirit. What you can do is ask!

- Being filled with the Spirit is in the Plural

This is for EVERY Christian. He's talking to all of us

- Being filled with the Spirit is Repeated

The verb in the original language is a continuous action verb. It has to be repeated over and over for the rest of your life.

- Being filled with the Spirit Radially Changes how you think and act

II. How Do I Know If I'm Spirit-Filled or Not?

Romans 8:14 “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are the sons of God.”

A. Do You Have any Sense of God Leading or Directing You?

Everyone who is born of the Spirit is led by the Spirit. He directs you in what to say, what to do, and how to do it.

When you're filled with the Spirit it's much easier for the Lord to put you in the right place at the right time to speak for Him.

Romans 8:15 “For you did not receive the spirit of bondage to fear again...”

B. Do You Have any Sense of Confidence in the Face of Your Fears?

Notice **Romans 8:15** says you were in ‘bondage to fear...’ That no longer characterizes the Christian who’s filled with the Spirit. There’s still a truckload of fears but you’re not a slave to fear anymore.

Romans 8:15 “... but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, ‘Abba, Father.’”

C. Do You Have a Growing Sense of Intimacy with God – Still Mixed with Awe and Reverence?

When you’re filled with the Spirit you’re still in awe and reverence of God, but He leads you more and more into the sweetness and closeness of calling Almighty God your ‘Abba’ or ‘Daddy.’

Romans 8:16 “And the Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God...”

D. Do You Have Security and Assurance of Salvation?

It’s the ministry of the Holy Spirit to confirm to you the reality of your relationship with God When you’re filled with the Spirit He speaks peace and security to your heart.

III. What Can I Do If I Don’t Have What You’re Talking about?

A. Make Sure Your Life isn’t Filled with Religion Instead of a Relationship

Philippians 3:3-10 “³ For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh, ⁴ though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: ⁵ circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. ⁷ But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. ⁸ Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; ¹⁰ that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death”

B. Make Sure You’re Not Snuffing Out the Spirit by the Choices You Make

You might be GRIEVING the Spirit by doing what He says not to do

Ephesians 4:30-32 “³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. ³² And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.”

You might be QUENCHING the Spirit when you don’t do what the Spirit of God wants you to do

I Thessalonians 5:15-19 “¹⁵ See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all. ¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit.”

C. Get Honest and Repent of All Known Sin in Your Life

Psalm 139:23-24 “Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my anxieties; and see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”

D. Ask God to Fill You

James 4:2 “... you do not have because you do not ask.”

Luke 11:13 “If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”