

Filled with the Spirit

General Outline

- A. Filled with the Spirit
- B. Practical Consequences of Being Spirit-Filled
- C. Scriptures Which Mention Being Filled with the Spirit

1. Filled with the Spirit

a. What it is not:

- i. It is not something that a Christian does not already have.
 - 1. Rom. 8:9 - [9](#) You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.
- ii. It is not a baptism of the Spirit such as the apostles received.
- iii. It is not a one-time charismatic experience that you initiate. An accurate rendering of the Greek verb destroys the widespread Charismatic notion that being filled is a one-time emotional experience you initiate, which instantly places you into some inner circle of spiritual maturity. "Be filled" is actually in the passive voice and indicates that you receive the action--the Holy Spirit is continuously filling you. It is simply another facet of the Spirit's indwelling ministry, which allows you to have daily, moment-by-moment effectiveness and fulfillment in your Christian life.

b. What it is:

- i. πληροῦσθε ([plērousthe](#)) - properly, *fill to individual capacity*, i.e. to the extent that is appropriate.
 - 1. Root word *plēroō*: to make full, to complete
 - 2. The idea is to be *kept being filled*, walk by the Spirit
 - 3. Gal. 5:16 - [16](#) But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.
- ii. It is the antithesis of walking according to the flesh.
- iii. Three shades of meaning of *Pleroo*
 - 1. **pressure**, like wind billowing the sails on a ship, providing the impetus to move the vessel across the water.
 - a. The Holy Spirit providing the thrust to move the believer down the pathway of obedience. A Spirit-filled Christian isn't motivated by his own desires or will to progress. Instead, he allows the Holy Spirit to carry him in the proper directions.

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- b. 2 Pet. 1:21 - For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.
 - i. Carried along - [pheromenoi](#) - carry, bear, bring, lead
 - ii. A different word is used 1 2 Pet. 1:21, but a similar idea is expressed – that of being carried along, like wind in the sails carries the boat.
- 2. **Permeation**, like dropping one or two tablets of Alka Seltzer into a glass of water. They begin to fizz and dissolve until the water is permeated with the distinct flavor of the Alka Seltzer.
 - a. God wants the Holy Spirit to permeate and flavor our lives so when we're around others they will know for certain we possess the pervasive savor of the Spirit.
- 3. **Domination**, or total control
 - a. [Luke 5:26](#) - [26](#) And amazement seized them all, and they glorified God and were filled with awe, saying, "We have seen extraordinary things today."
 - i. After Jesus rebuked the Pharisees and healed the paralytic, the people were astonished and "filled with awe or fear."
 - b. [Luke 6:11](#) - [11](#) But they were filled with fury and discussed with one another what they might do to Jesus.
 - i. When Jesus restored a man's hand on the Sabbath, the scribes and Pharisees "were filled with rage or fury."
 - c. [John 16:6](#) - [6](#) But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart.
 - i. When our Lord told the disciples that He would soon be leaving them, He told of their reaction: "sorrow has filled your heart".
- 4. Each of those uses reveals an emotion so overwhelming within the people that it dominated their thoughts and excluded every other emotion.

2. Practical Consequences of Being Spirit-Filled

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- a. "How can I really know if I'm filled by and walking in step with the Spirit?"
- b. Eph. 5:18-20 gives three evidences.
 - i. [18](#) And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, [19](#) addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, [20](#) giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, [21](#) submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.
 - 1.Singing, making melody in your heart to the Lord.
 - 2.Giving thanks always and for everything ...
 - 3.Submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.
 - ii. Singing
 - 1.How does singing relate to being filled with the Spirit?
 - a. Exodus 15 - Moses and the people of Israel praised God after they were delivered from the Egyptians
 - b. Judges 5- Deborah and Barak sang following their victory over Sisera.
 - c. Psalm 150:6 - the Psalms are filled with references to song and praise, culminating in this exhortation in the very last verse of the book: "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord!".
 - d. Matt. 26:30, Mark 14:26 - Jesus and His disciples sang a hymn at the close of the Last Supper.
 - e. Acts 4:24-30 - Believers in the early church may have been singing their prayer
 - f. Acts 16:25 - Paul and Silas definitely were singing as they sat chained in the Philippian dungeon.
 - g. Col. 3:16, Eph. 5:19 - Paul delineates the importance of singing.
 - h. James 5:13 - Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise.
 - i. Rev. 5:8-14 – The Lamb was worthy to take the scroll, for which a song of praise was sung, a new song chronologically and qualitatively.

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- j. Rev. 14:3 – a song only the redeemed could sing.
- k. Rev. 15:3-4 – a song of praise for the righteousness and justice of God.

2. In these verses, singing gives praise to God in all circumstances – victory, imprisonment, cheerfulness, redemption.

iii. Giving Thanks to the Lord

- 1. Rom. 8:28-29 – thankfulness may require us to see beyond present difficulties to the eternal purpose of God.
- 2. Col 3:15 - Nothing better tends to promote peace and order than gratitude to God for his mercies.
- 3. 1 Thess. 5:18 – give thanks in all circumstances
 - a. Paul did not say it would be easy, and it may require practice, especially in difficult circumstances.
 - b. An unexpected blessing makes it easy to give thanks.
 - i. Exodus 15:1-19 – crossing the Red Sea safely, then witnessing what God did to the Egyptian army.
 - c. Anticipating a fearsome event provides an opportunity to be thankful before the event happens.
 - i. 2 Chron. 20:1-23 – King Jehoshaphat was warned of an army coming to attack Judah, and thanked God in advance.
 - d. Jonah 2:7-9 – Jonah prayed while in the belly of the fish – “But I with the voice of thanksgiving will sacrifice to you; what I have vowed I will pay. Salvation belongs to the LORD!”

4. Always and for everything

- a. James 1:2-4 – Count it all joy – even in trials.
- b. Heb. 12:3-13 - For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

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- c. 1 Pet. 2:20-21 - [20](#) For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. [21](#) For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.
 - d. Psalm 106:1; 107:1; 136:1-3 - Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!
 - e. 2 Cor. 2:14 - [14](#) But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere.
 - f. 1 Cor. 15:57 - [57](#) But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
 - g. 1 Thess. 2:13 - [13](#) And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.
 - h. Rom. 14:6 - [6](#) The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God.
 - i. 1 Tim. 4:1-5 - [4](#) For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving,
- iv. Submitting to One Another
- 1. The third practical consequence of being filled with the Holy Spirit is mutual submission to other believers.

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- 2.Eph. 5:20-21 - [20](#) giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, [21](#) submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.
 - 3.Rom. 12:5 - [5](#) so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.
 - 4.Rom. 14:13 - [13](#) Therefore, let us not pass judgment on one another any longer, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother.
 - 5.1 Cor. 12:12-13 - [12](#) For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. [13](#) For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.
 - 6.Eph. 2:11-22 - [21](#) in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. [22](#) In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.
 - 7.Eph. 4:11-16 - [15](#) Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, [16](#) from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.
 - 8.Phil. 2:3-4 - [3](#) Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. [4](#) Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.
- c. "How can I really know if I'm filled by and walking in step with the Spirit?"
- i. Gal. 5:22-23 - [22](#) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, [23](#) gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

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1. Some can make an objective self-evaluation about fruit, and whether they are keeping in step with the Spirit.
2. Observation by others may sometimes be more objective.
3. One Sunday while sitting behind a young lady in church, Robert Burns noticed a louse roaming through the bows and ribbons of her bonnet. The poem "To a Louse" resulted from his observations. The poor woman had no idea that she would be the subject of one of Burns' best poems about how we see ourselves, compared to how other people see us at our worst moments

a. final stanza

Original	Modern
O wad some Power the giftie gie us To see oursels as ithers see us! It wad frae monie a blunder free us, An' foolish notion: What airs in dress an' gait wad lea'e us, An' ev'n devotion!	O would some gift the Giver give us To see ourselves as <i>others</i> see us! It would from many a blunder free us, And foolish notions: What airs in dress and carriage would leave us, And even devotion!

- ii. Though we have not the promise given to the apostles, we have their eye-witness testimony and the witness they bore of what they saw and heard.

1. John 14:26 - [26](#) But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.
2. John 15:26-27 - [26](#) "But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. [27](#) And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.

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- iii. It falls to us to continue to bear witness, to speak the word, which accompanied being filled with the Spirit in the scriptures shown next.

3. Scriptures which mention being filled with the Holy Spirit

a. Apostles

i. Peter, John, and unspecified believers

1. Acts 4:8 - [8](#) Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders,
 - a. Filled with the Holy Spirit is followed by speaking of Jesus.
2. Acts 4:31 - [31](#) And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.
 - a. Filled with the Holy Spirit is followed by continuing to speak the word of God with boldness.

ii. Paul (Saul)

1. Acts 9:17 – [17](#) So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”
 - a. Message from Ananias is that Saul is to be filled with the Holy Spirit.
2. Acts 13:9 - [9](#) But Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him [10](#) and said, “You son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, full of all deceit and villainy, will you not stop making crooked the straight paths of the Lord?
 - a. The proconsul, Sergius Paulos, was seeking to hear the word of God but Paul had to put down the subversion of the gospel by Elymas the magician. The proconsul believed when he saw what happened and was astonished at the teaching of the Lord.

b. Disciples at Antioch in Pisidia

- i. Acts 13:52 - [52](#) And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

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1. Even when persecution is instigated, joy comes with the Holy Spirit.

c. Disciples in Ephesus

i. Eph. 5:18 - [18](#) And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit,

1. The admonition is to be filled with the Spirit, followed by three evidences of being filled with the Spirit: Singing, giving thanks, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

d. Stephen

i. Acts 7:55-56 - [55](#) But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. [56](#) And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

1. Even with the immediate prospect of suffering and death, Stephen saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, and spoke what he saw.