

## The “Indwelling” and the “Filling” of the Holy Spirit

### Introduction:

There are two areas in the Christian’s life where the Holy Spirit does an important and blessed work.

Once again, it is extremely important to distinguish both areas, for failure to do so has led many souls in the state of bewilderment and despair.

These two areas are Salvation and Service. The corresponding work of the Holy Spirit is Indwelling and Filling, respectively.

### I. The Indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

As noted previously, the blessed work of the Holy Spirit of God is to dwell in the hearts of all believers.

#### A. The Fact of the Holy Spirit’s Indwelling.

Romans 8:9, 11; I Corinthians 6:19; II Timothy 1:14; James 4:5; I John 2:27; 3:24; 4:4, 13.

#### B. The Fact of the Holy Spirit’s Universal Indwelling of all Believers

The Bible teaches that all Christians everywhere are indwelt by the Holy Spirit of God from the moment of their salvation.

##### 1. The Holy Spirit is a “Gift.”

John 7:37-39; Acts 11:17; Romans 5:5; I Corinthians 2:12; II Corinthians 5:5

a) A gift, by nature, is bestowed without merit.

b) The only condition of receiving the Holy Spirit is that Christ be received as Savior.

c) Therefore it stands that the Holy Spirit is a universal gift to Christians.

##### 2. Absence of the Holy Spirit is proof of an Unsaved State.

Romans 8:9; Acts 19:2-5; Jude 19

##### 3. Sinning Christians Possess the Holy Spirit.

I Corinthians 6:19

The epistle of I Corinthians rebukes the members of the church at Corinth for their carnality and many errors — yet they have the Spirit dwelling within them.

#### C. The Bible Time-Line for the Indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

The Indwelling of the Holy Spirit is a special blessing and privilege for the saints of this age.

Consider the following facts:

##### 1. Old Testament Saints did not experience the Indwelling Spirit.

The presence of the Holy Spirit with men and women in the Old Testament was partial, occasional, and special.

e.g. Judges 13:24-25; I Samuel 10:6; 16:13-14.

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He worked in their lives, filled them, was with them — but His presence could be removed, Psalm 51:11.

2. The Apostles were not indwell during Christ’s earthly ministry.  
Note carefully the wording of John 14:17:

“...He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you...”

3. The Spirit’s Indwelling began at Pentecost.  
When the Lord Jesus Christ baptized His church with the Holy Spirit, i.e. when He sent the Comforter, each believer received the gift of the Holy Spirit.

There was evidently a transitional period, in that God visibly displayed His intention to each of the people groups mentioned in Acts 1:8:

- (a) To the Jews — Acts 2:2-3.
- (b) To the Samaritans — Acts 8:14-17.
- (c) To the Gentiles — Acts 10:44-47.

Since that time, there being no evidence to the contrary, the Holy Ghost indwells those who trust Christ immediately. (The key words here are, “...as yet...” — Acts 8:16.)

## II. The Filling of the Holy Spirit

The “filling” of the Holy Spirit is a different matter than the indwelling of the Spirit.

There is ONE indwelling of the Spirit in the life of each believer, but MANY fillings of that life.

Much reproach has fallen upon the cause of Christ because of misunderstanding and heresy concerning this subject.

The result of being filled with the Spirit is NOT emotional hysteria. The shameful rolling in aisles, jumping pews, falling out (“slain in the Spirit” — completely non-scriptural concept) and being caught by those prepared beforehand, and all that gibberish, is Satanic in origin and expression — anything but being filled with the Spirit.

True Bible Christianity is not based upon feelings, but fact.

### A. What is the “Filling with the Holy Spirit?”

The best explanation comes from God’s command to every Christian to “be filled with the Spirit.” in Ephesians 5:18.

1. “Be not drunk with wine, where is excess.”  
A man filled with liquor is totally controlled and affected by that drink — in the way he walks, the way he talks, and the way he thinks.
2. “Be filled with the Spirit.”

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In the same way, we are to be totally under the influence of the Holy Spirit. He is to control and affect every aspect of our lives — our walk, our talk, everything!

Being filled with the Spirit does not mean that we have more of Him — rather, that He has more of us!

### B. Unscriptural Terms for the Filling of the Holy Spirit.

A number of terms are used to designate the filling with the Holy Spirit. They are incorrect, and cause much confusion.

1. The “Second Blessing.”
2. The “Baptism of the Holy Ghost.”
3. “Sanctification.”
4. The “Fullness of the Spirit”

Though strictly not a Biblical term, it does portray the correct meaning.  
Acts 6:3, 5; 7:55; 11:24.

5. The “Anointing of the Spirit.”

The anointing of the Spirit occurs at Salvation — I John 2:20, 27.

### C. Bible Examples of the Filling with the Holy Spirit.

1. Bezaleel. — Exodus 28:3; 31:3. — The builder of the Tabernacle.
2. Joshua. — Numbers 27:18 — The leader of God’s people.
3. Gideon — Judges 6:34 — The deliverer of God’s people.
4. David — II Samuel 23:2 — The king over God’s people.
5. Elisha — II Kings 2:9 — The preacher to God’s people.
6. Ezekiel — Ezekiel 2:2-3 — The prophet to God’s people.
7. Daniel — Daniel 4:8; 5:11 — The statesman of God’s people.
8. John — Luke 1:15 — The forerunner of Christ.
9. The First Church
  - a) Before Pentecost — Luke 9:1.
  - b) At Pentecost — Acts 1:8; 2:4.
  - c) After Pentecost — Acts 4:31.
10. The Deacons — Acts 6:3. — The servants of God’s people.

It becomes apparent from these examples that the filling with the Holy Spirit is essential for one purpose — service and witness for Christ.

### D. Why Christians Need to be Filled with the Holy Spirit.

From the examples above, it is obvious that if we are to effectively serve the Lord, we need the Spirit’s power — Zechariah 4:6.

The filling with the Holy Ghost is essential for soul winning — Acts 1:8. We need the power of the Holy Spirit because:

1. The Holy Spirit Alone Convicts Men.
2. The Holy Spirit Alone Converts Men.
3. The Holy Spirit Alone Changes Men.

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### E. Why Christians are not Filled with the Holy Spirit.

#### 1. They do not desire to be Filled.

The average Christian wallows in mediocrity — he has been inoculated with a “mild form” of Christianity and is immune to the real thing!

#### 2. They have Quenched the Spirit.

I Thessalonians 5:19.

When a believer does not yield to the Holy Spirit he in effect “throws a wet blanket” over His blessed workings.

#### 3. They have Grieved the Spirit.

Ephesians 4:30.

The Spirit of God is grieved by sin.

He cannot fill an unclean vessel.

When a believer allows known sin to remain unconfessed, the Spirit cannot fill him.

### F. How to be Filled with the Spirit

#### 1. Ask to be Filled

Luke 11:13.

This is not a process of long, agonizing “waiting” or “tarrying” — God wants us to be filled!

#### 2. Yield to the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit will lay His claims upon us through the Word of God.

He will convict us of sin.

To be filled, confess all known sin.

To be filled, forsake all known sin.

Remember — the question is not, “How much do I have of Him?” but, “How much does He have of me?”