

# *Being Filled with the Holy Spirit*

A Preacher's Workshop

by Charles B. Hodge, Jr.

TEXTS: *Ephesians 5:18-21; Acts 6:3, 5; Galatians 5:16-23.*

## INTRODUCTION

Here is another misuse of the Holy Spirit which is frightening! It is this: "I have the Holy Spirit and therefore I know of what I am saying, so you had better shape up." Be afraid of any who claim to have a direct pipeline to God! They decide "who's who" and "what's what." We do not need either.

God calls us to be preachers, heralds of the gospel (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15, 16). There are no longer prophets! They even had a minimum role in the infancy of the church in Acts. God calls us to be preachers—not judges, policemen, or juries. Share who you have and tell what you know. This is evangelism.

## I. THE SECRET OF HIS INCOMING

A. Acts 6:3, 5; 7:55. Here we have the seven and Philip. Christians were "full of the Holy Spirit." Today, "the word became theology and did not dwell among us." The grave need today is to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Christians cannot be pure, holy, and mature without the Holy Spirit. It is impossible to live the Christian life without the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is not the goal of the Christian life; He is the resource of the Christian life.

1. The filling is not the baptism or the gift of Acts 2:38. The baptism with the Holy Spirit created a new body; the filling renews the members.
2. Some Scriptures are great, million-dollar texts. They should be printed in gold.

B. Ephesians 5:18-21

1. No command is more important. Jesus administered the baptism of the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit is the gift in Acts 2:38<sup>1/2</sup>. But in this verse Christians are commanded to be filled with the Holy Spirit. This is a command. It is in the imperative mood. It is not a promise. It is up to us. This is not merely good advice or an option.

2. This is for *all*. It is not for just elite Christians. The Holy Spirit is for all. This is the plural form.

3. It is the passive voice: "Let the Holy Spirit fill you." The *root* must come before the *fruit*! Paul talked about strong drink! Whiskey possesses minds. To be drunk is to be under the influence of something else. Alcohol makes one a beast; the Holy Spirit makes one a Christian. It literally means to yield.

4. *Notice!* Filling precedes worship in verse 19. Filling produces submission in verse 21. Ephesians 5:18-33 has filling, submission, family, then lastly, work! This could explain our mistake today. We seek zealous work without the prior filling, family, and submission. The first result of "filling" is "speaking." The Holy Spirit makes fellowship. Brethren unable to get along do not have the Holy Spirit! The first sign of fullness is fellowship.

5. It is the present tense. It continues. The filling is an ongoing experience. Keep on being filled with the Holy Spirit. The church today has numbers, buildings, budgets, projects, but no power. The power is the Holy Spirit. We are filled, then refilled.

C. "Full of the Holy Spirit"

1. This phrase is found at least fifteen times in the New Testament.
2. Christianity is "me in Christ, then Christ in me." One can never get more into Christ than the moment he was baptized (Romans 6; Galatians 3). But he can spend the rest of his Christian life bringing in Christ. One is born a human being. He can never become more of a human being. Yet he spends the rest of his life becoming himself. The Holy Spirit is given every baptized believer (Acts 2:38<sup>1/2</sup>). Yet one spends the rest of his life being filled with the Holy Spirit. This is the Lordship of Christ. You do not merely join something; you *become* something.
3. The Holy Spirit is our teacher, guide, and infiller. Jesus does not make men mean.

The infilling makes our personalities sweet and powerful like Jesus. Being filled with the Holy Spirit removes self-reliance. It is Holy Spirit energy and vitality. The light in your heart will shine in your life. The Holy Spirit is to be in control of our lives.

## II. WALKING IN THE SPIRIT

- A. Read Galatians 5:16-26. Remember the Holy Spirit is the most practical thing on earth! The Holy Spirit is the answer both to the sin problem and righteousness.
1. It says walk, not run, jump, fly, or stop. Christianity is a direction.
  2. It is walk "in" not "by." It is not rules, codes, regulations. Christianity is "inside-outside." An attitude precedes the action.

This is why only Christians can act like Christians. We are informed and transformed.

3. This is the answer to evil.
- B. The fruit (singular) of the Holy Spirit! Fruit versus works. Intake determines output. Fruit cannot be manufactured. Christianity is not "Try harder"; "Do more"; "Go-go-go"! Christianity is the fruit of the Holy Spirit. Tragically, more are interested in the "gifts" of the Holy Spirit than the "fruit" of the Holy Spirit. This is futile. If you want a peach find a peach tree.

## CONCLUSION

"The Holy Spirit is far more willing to control us than we are willing to let Him."

©Copyright, 1984, 2004 by Truth for Today  
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED