

God gave every born-again believer a resident helper or comforter residing within his life – He is the Holy Spirit (Jn. 14:16-17).

Key verse: Ephesians 5:18 “And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit.”

As our other Comforter, the Holy Spirit stands ready to enable us to do and to be all that God requires of our lives. For example: rendering acceptable worship (Jn. 4:24; Phil. 3:3). Ministering Christian service (Acts 1:8; 1 Cor. 15:10). The Spirit helps us in prayer (Rom. 8:26). Our joy and peace and hope abound through the Holy Spirit (Rom. 15:3). Through the Spirit we can have victory against our spiritual enemies (Gal. 5:16). We can live out the Christian character (Gal. 5:22-23; Eph. 5:9). And we are spiritually strengthened through the Spirit (Eph. 3:16).

However, to receive His help, we must experience His controlling influence over us (Eph. 5:18).

“And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;”

1. The Filling of the Spirit is not the same as the Indwelling.

- A. Dwelling – This took place at the moment of salvation, and this is true for all New Testament believers. The Old Testament believers had the Holy Spirit coming and leaving but the current believers today enjoy the permanent dwelling of the Holy Spirit as a blessing of salvation. This only occurs once. (Rom. 8:9-11; 1 Cor. 6:19; Eph. 1:13,14; 2 Tim. 1:14; 1 Jn. 2:27; 3:24; 4:4, 13)
- B. Filling – This takes place when the believer surrenders or yields himself to the Holy Spirit. This occurs often.

2. The Filling of the Spirit is not that we have more of Him, but rather He has more of us. It is to be under His control so that our actions, and talk, and walk, and thoughts will be under His influence.

3. The Filling of the Spirit is for service and witness for Christ. (Acts 1:8)

4. The Filling of the Spirit is hindered:

- 4.1. Quenching the Spirit – 1 Thess. 5:19
- 4.2. Grieving the Spirit – Eph. 4:30 (resisting, Acts 7:51)

5. How to be Filled with the Spirit:

- 5.1. Ask (Pray for it) – Lk. 11:13
- 5.2. Yield to the Holy Spirit – Rom. 6:13, 16; Gal. 5:16,17; James 4:5
- 5.3. Confessing and forsaking sin – Prov. 28:13

Truly, the operation of the Holy Spirit in the heart of man is magnificent! Let us be careful not to vex nor grieve Him, not to blaspheme against Him, and not to resist or quench the Holy Spirit of God. Rather, let us do what He tells us to do, and be filled with the Spirit (Eph. 5:18), which means to always be yielding more of ourselves to His control.