

READ: This passage is *not referencing water baptism*. It refers to a spiritual operation of God. *Water baptism of our physical bodies, by immersion, does symbolize the spiritual operation* that God has brought to pass in a believing person's life. Jesus referred to a baptism that had nothing to do with water: Luke 12:50 **“I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how distressed I am until it is accomplished.”** *Immersed in substitutionary suffering.*

Baptism symbolizes union with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection. This union with Christ results in a believing person coming to life becoming a partaker of the divine nature.

Constitutional change in the immaterial dimension of people takes place when they receive Christ—Christians are new creations in Christ.

What physical constitutional changes would probably take place if Samuel Havener moves away this summer and you don't see him for the next 10 years. In the mean time he has joins the Marines and completes a six-year tour. What changes would there be in his physical constitution? Many.

When a sinner exercises saving faith, constitutional changes in the inner man take place—Just as real as physical constitutional changes in an 14 year old 80 pounder to a 24 year old 180 pounder. This has to be the case because the gospel is about trinitarian salvation on a daily basis.

**I. The baptism refered to here *is universal among believers*: no baptism no life.**

A. No water: Luke 3:15-17. John with water/ Christ not with water.

About 3 years later: Acts 2:33,34 Christ pouring out the Spirit on Pentecost—with spectacular signs because it was Pentecost.

Spirit baptism continues, not necessarily with the same inaugural signs as Charasmatic believers frequently insist.

B. Spirit baptism is *the spiritual uniting (joining) of the believer w/ Christ and the rest of the body of Christ*: nothing more, nothing less.

I Corinthians 12:13 “**For by (in/with) one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free....**”

1. This baptism is the basis or ground of oneness with all believers:

I Corinthians 12:13.

2. Spirit baptism is not the filling of the Spirit. Spirit baptism happens once and is never repeated. Fillings of the Spirit happen many times.

3. The actual baptism of the spirit isn't necessarily even felt at all. The filling of the Spirit is very much felt and obviously repeatable.

**II. The baptism of the Holy Spirit takes place the moment you received Christ and secures you permanently since you are now one with Christ:** Romans 6:3,4.

A. Note the repeated emphasis on union: vs. 3 “into his death”; vs. 4 “with him”; vs. 5 “planted together”; vs. 6 “with him”

B. This union can never be reversed—once united always united.

C. Though we retain a definite amount of indwelling sin, we are no longer “in Adam” as we were formerly.

Note Romans 5:12ff 5:12 “one that sinned” who? 5:15 “offense of one” who? 5:16 “one that sinned” who? 5:17 “one man's sin death reigned” whose sin?

Adam sinned for us representatively. We were so in Adam that it is rightly said we sinned with him.

These remarkable realities about Adam and our relation to him are another reason that foolish men cleave to the scientific fairy tale of evolution.

**III. The only condition to fulfill in order to have Spirit baptism is simple (naked) faith: Galatians 3:26,27.**

A. Changing the conditions by adding other conditions: speaking in tongues, “slain in the Spirit(?)” manifesting extreme behaviors a so-called eradication of indwelling sin... requiring periods of fasting and prayer sessions deep into the night.

These things do nothing but open a “Pandora's box of confusing misleading evils”

H.A. Ironside's remarkable testimony in this regard: (later)

1. It creates division in the body of Christ.
2. It grieves the Spirit by denying Christ's sufficiency.
3. Instead of delivering from the remaining influence of unredeemed flesh-- int invites control of the flesh: Galatians 5:16,17

B. If you change the conditions for Spirit baptism from simple (naked) faith to additional things listen to what awaits: Galatians 2:21 “frustrate” 3:5 “disannul” I Cor 1:19 “bring to nothing” I Timothy 5:22 “cast off” (spiritually jealous Ishmaelites tend to be cruel, envious, selfish—mocking)

Full Gospel churches are not at all likely to be Spirit filled—guaranteed the other way around.

The book of Galatians can be summarized this way: one main responsibility: Faith. One ground or basis for your faith: grace. One fruit, one result—love.

H.A. Ironside time permitting.

## The Fullness of the Holy Spirit: by Kenneth Wuest<sup>1</sup>

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

There are four grammatical rules in the Greek language which lead us to four truths relating to this great subject, “be filled with the Spirit.” **First**, the verb is in the **imperative mode**. That is, it is imperative that we be filled with the Spirit. Fullness of the Spirit is the divine enablement for every phase of Christian living. Failure to be filled with the Spirit is sin and results in failure to live a life honoring to God.

**Second**, the **tense of the verb is present**, and this tense in the imperative mode always represents action going on. We learn from this that the mechanics of a Spirit-filled life do not provide for a spasmodic filling, that is, the Christian is not filled only when doing service such as preaching or teaching. But the Christian living a normal life of moment by moment yieldedness to God, experiences a moment by moment fullness of the Spirit.

**Third**, the **verb is in the plural number**, which teaches us that this command is addressed, not only to the preacher and the deacon, and the Sunday school teacher, but to every Christian, to the business man, the laborer, the keeper-at-home mother. It is the responsibility of every Christian to be always filled with the Spirit.

To be *filled* can be understood as being *controlled*: “And when they heard these sayings, **they were full of wrath**, and cried out, saying, 'Great is Diana of the Ephesians.'" This crowd, you can see, is *controlled by* wrath. Filled and controlled are the same thing.

Fourth, the **verb is in the passive voice**. The grammatical classification represents the subject of the verb as inactive but being acted upon. This teaches us that the filling of the Holy Spirit is not a work of man but of God. We cannot work ourselves up to that condition by any amount of tarrying, praying, or agonizing. A simple sincere desire for that fullness and a trust in the Lord Jesus for that fullness will result in that fullness (John 7:37-39).

<sup>1</sup> GOLDEN NUGGETS from the Greek New Testament p. 33,34

## The Woes of Worry

Most people find it difficult to believe that worry is a sin. This is one way the "little fox" gains advantage over us. He seems so harmless, and we fail to recognize the serious danger he represents to our spiritual lives.

Worry is slander against the love and goodness of God. It says, in effect, that God is not sufficient for all things; that He is not aware of our daily needs, or that He really doesn't care what happens to us.

### It's Inside that Counts

We are inclined to think that our actions are more important than our thoughts. After all, our thoughts cannot really hurt anyone, or can they? Jesus taught that to think evil is sin. Out of our hearts--our thought lives--come our actions. Hate is the forerunner of murder; lust precedes and prepares the way for adultery.

Worry, too, is a matter of bad thinking habits. If your mind is full of useless regret or dark forebodings, there is no room for the thoughts Christ would like to put there.

### Trusting God

As long as we worry, we cannot trust. As long as we trust, we cannot worry. That is what Jesus is talking about in Matthew 6:25-34. The words "take no thought" are repeated three times in these verses.

### Worry is Sabotage

Worry is sabotage to the human personality. It renders us ineffective and keeps us from becoming all that God intends us to become. The English word "worry" actually comes from an old Anglo-Saxon word which means "to choke." You probably didn't realize that all the while you are worrying, you are choking yourself. In fact, Jesus tells us that "the cares of this world" choke spiritual development and growth. Worry hinders productivity.

Taken from a Sunday School booklet titled, *LITTLE FOXES*, author unknown