

## **BC Article 11; Ephesians - Be Filled with the Holy Spirit**

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus: **If you enter certain churches, the brothers there might ask you: Are you filled with the Holy Spirit.** What do they mean by this question? They really mean to ask you if you speak in tongues. **But speaking in tongues is not evidence of being filled with the Holy Spirit.** Let me show that in 2 ways.

**First, speaking in tongues was speaking in a known language (Greek, Arabic, Persian, etc.). People who speak in tongues today are speaking nothing but gibberish.** Speaking in tongues was a temporary miraculous gift to help spread the Gospel quickly. The brothers today may sincerely think they are speaking a different language, but are not. No one understands it. So even if their thesis were true, that speaking in tongues was evidence of being filled with the Holy Spirit, they wouldn't meet the condition for being filled with the Holy Spirit. They don't speak in different languages miraculously.

Second, the temporary gift of speaking in different languages is gone! 1Corinthians 13, taught that speaking in tongues would cease. **So speaking in tongues cannot be used as evidence of being "filled with the Spirit."**

Now what does it really mean to be filled with the Spirit of God? Today we want to dig into this a little more and see the real meaning of the expression: Be filled with the Spirit.

Our headings are:

**What does it mean to be filled with the Holy Spirit of God**

**What are the Evidences of being filled with the Holy Spirit of God**

Our goals are: You will clearly **understand you must be filled with the Spirit of God**, you **learn how to be filled with the Spirit of God**, and you will **use the gift of being filled with the Spirit of God.**

We believe and confess also that the **Holy Spirit from eternity proceeds from the Father and the Son**; and therefore **neither is made, created, nor begotten**, but only proceeds from both; who in order is the **third person of the Holy Trinity**; of one and the **same essence, majesty, and glory** with the Father and the Son; and therefore is the true and eternal God, as the Holy Scriptures teach us.

**What does it mean to be filled with the Holy Spirit of God.**

**1. All Christians have the Holy Spirit at conversion.**

**He moves you to repent.** None can be a Christian unless the Spirit of God draws him and lives in him.

**Romans 8:9 - But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.**

He seals you and secures you to the end of the world. Ephesians 1:13-14. You saw this last week.

**2. What about being “baptized with the Holy Spirit,” is it the same as being filled with the Holy Spirit?**

**No. “Baptism with the Holy Spirit” only occurred at Pentecost,** and it is the initial coming of the Holy Spirit in special power to unite with the Jewish and Gentile churches and equip them with many special gifts (and some temporary ones) and make them bold for service. One of those temporary gifts was speaking in tongues. New beginnings are always marked by special things-birthdays, weddings, and anniversaries.

**3. It is a command to be filled with the Spirit of God...not a option.**

Ephesians 5:18 – And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but **be filled with the Spirit,**

**It means to be soaked with the Spirit** and let him take over your mind, as opposed to being drunk and let the alcohol take over your mind.

**4. Further, being filled with the Holy Spirit means you have greatly emptied yourself of your desire and you work for the glory of God.**

Being filled with the Spirit is therefore a state of living.

Acts 13:52 And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

Consider some other examples in the Bible.

Exodus 35:30 -31 And Moses said to the children of Israel, "See, the LORD has called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah; 31 "and **He has filled him with the Spirit of God,** in wisdom and understanding, in knowledge and all manner of workmanship,

Bezalel was not speaking in tongues but was used mightily by God to do his work.

**5. But there are times when you rob yourself of the blessings of the Holy Spirit, as David did in Psalm 51, by not allowing him to control all areas of your life.**

David allowed his desires to control his life and he took another man’s wife and killed the man. This is why he cried out when the Holy Spirit was not controlling his life...at that time...

Psalm 51:11 - Do not cast me away from Your presence, And **do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.**

When you don’t let the Holy Spirit control your whole life you grieve him.

Ephesians 4:30 - And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were

sealed for the day of redemption.

When you grieve the Holy Spirit you are not filled with him.

### **What are the evidences of being filled with the Holy Spirit of God?**

#### **1. When you are filled with the Holy Spirit you will constantly confess your sins to the Lord, like David.**

God's Holy Spirit is the diametrically opposed to sin. So you will keep emptying yourself of sin so he could fill you with justice, truth, and mercy. You saw Ephesians 5:18 – Be filled with the Spirit. **You will search for those tiny dirty places and clean them out to make room for the Spirit of God.** Even those secret sins that you love so much you will have to clean them out. God's Holy Spirit does not have any agreement with idols. He said: You shall have no other God's before my face!

#### **2. When you are filled with the Holy Spirit you will constantly and boldly confronting sin in your brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ.**

**Just as Nathan confronted David when he sinned** even though none of his none of David's advisers would confront him...They let him remain in their sin.

**Just like the story: "The Emperor has no clothes."** None of the king's advisers would tell him that he had no clothes on, until a child did.

**Just as Paul did...even confronting the priests...**

Acts 13:9-10 Then Saul, who also is called Paul, **filled with the Holy Spirit,** looked intently at him and said, "**O full of all deceit and all fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness,** will you not cease perverting the straight ways of the Lord?"

**Just as John the Baptist did,** giving up his personal desires and living on locusts and wild honey-to confront men in their sins. He even confronted the religious leaders and King Herod.

Luke 1:15 "For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. **He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit,** even from his mother's womb.

**Just as Peter did...**who being in this glorious state of being filled with the Holy Spirit...preached faithfully, defended the truth, and was willing to face death to announce God's Gospel.

Acts 4:8 Then Peter, **filled with the Holy Spirit,** said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders of Israel:..."

**Just as Micah did long before Peter...**

Micah 3:8 - But truly I am full of power by the Spirit of the LORD, And of justice and might, **To declare to Jacob his transgression And to Israel his sin.**

And since you know that the one who is filled with the eternal Spirit of God is strong, you will always have the Holy Spirit to make you strong. You will not want to put off your power from time to time.

### **3. When you are filled with the Holy Spirit you will let the Holy Spirit nourish you.**

Romans 8:11 - But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead **will also give life to your mortal bodies** through His Spirit who dwells in you.

Indeed the trees of the Lord are filled with sap— sap that comes from the Holy Spirit. Psalm 104:16 and John 15, speak of this nourishment from the Holy Spirit.

### **4. When you are filled with the Holy Spirit you will become an issuer of life.**

Before becoming a Christian, man's life is a cesspool, but the Holy Spirit makes a radical change. (Radical comes from radix, meaning root. Man is changed from his root.)

**You will show that you believe in Jesus Christ as a testimony to others.**

**You will lead others who do not believe in Jesus Christ to what you believe in him.**

John 7: 38 "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." 39 But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

### **5. When you are filled with the Holy Spirit you will live like you don't belong to yourself, but to God.**

1Corinthians 3:16 17 - Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? 17 -If anyone defiles 玷污 the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.

1Corinthians 6:19 – 20- Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? 20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

When God showed his glory in Solomon's temple, no glory went to Solomon from the people and Solomon did not want any glory. **When God is present, everyone takes second place.**

### **Conclusion:**

You need to be filled with the Holy Spirit of God so you can **progress in your Christian life** and

**fulfill all your God-given duties.** You need to be filled with the Holy Spirit of God so that you will be able to **reach the lost for Jesus Christ.** You need to be filled with the Holy Spirit so you can be brave to **confront sin.** There is no requirement that you speak in gibberish if you are filled with the Holy Spirit. Rather, you are to **live in a state of faithful service to the Lord, internally and externally.**

Brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ:

**1. I contend that the reason the church in North America is not progressing like it should is because men and women, boys and girls, are not filled with the Spirit of God – really filled.**

Yes, we may have better preachers than before, yes, we have more comfortable church buildings, yes, we have better musical instruments, and yes, we have more hymnbooks, better technology, easier travel, simpler Bibles, etc., but the church still is not numerically and spiritually growing.

**2. Why is that? It is because the lives of Christians have not been emptied of themselves to allow the Holy Spirit of God to work his will in all areas of your life.** There is not enough reflection of Christ in your lives. There not enough faithful action to stimulate growth. The vitality of the church is weak. Please pray today that the Lord will open your eyes to see those worms in your life, those sins that you keep as you pets, and that he would cause you to turn them out – empty them, so that you can be filled with the Spirit of the living God.

If you are not a Christian, learn that those who do not have the Holy Spirit in them have no hope of eternal life, which is your greatest need. If you call upon God for help because you seen your need for help on account of your sins, God will send you help through his Holy Spirit and his Word to save and to guide you.