

**Loris First Baptist Church**  
**“52 Vital Doctrines of The Bible”**

Doctrine #19: God the Holy Spirit (His Filling)

Note: Most information based on pages 114-125 of the book “Major Bible Themes” by Lewis Sperry Chaffer.

**Opening Comments about God the Holy Spirit, His Filling:**

1. In contrast with the work of the Holy Spirit in salvation such as regeneration, indwelling, sealing, and baptism, the filling of the Spirit is related to Christian experience, power, and service.
2. The works of the Spirit in relation to salvation are once and for all, but the filling of the Spirit is a repeated experience and is mentioned frequently in the Bible.
3. On a limited scale, the filling of the Spirit may be observed in certain individuals before Pentecost:

Exodus 28:3 “So you shall speak to all who are gifted artisans, whom I have FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT of wisdom, that they may make Aaron’s garments, to consecrate him, that he may minister to Me as priest.”

Exodus 31:3 “...and I have FILLED HIM WITH THE SPIRIT OF GOD, with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts...”

Exodus 35:31 “...and he has FILLED HIM WITH THE SPIRIT OF GOD, with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts...”

Luke 1:15 “...for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT even from birth.”

Luke 1:41 “When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT.”

Luke 1:67 “His father Zechariah was FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT and prophesied...”

Luke 4:1 “Jesus, FULL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert...”

4. Undoubtedly there were many other instances where the Spirit of God came upon individuals and empowered them for service:
  - a. On the whole, however, relatively few were filled with the Spirit before the day of Pentecost, and the work of the Spirit seems to be related to the sovereign purpose of God to fulfill in the individual some special work.
  - b. There is no indication that the filling of the Spirit was open before Pentecost to everyone who yielded his life to the Lord.
  
5. Beginning with the day of Pentecost, a new age dawned in which the Holy Spirit would work in every believer.
  - a. Now everyone was indwelt by the Spirit and could be filled by the Spirit if he met the conditions (i.e. “hearing” and “believing” the gospel of Jesus Christ).
  - b. Numerous illustrations in the New Testament confirm this conclusion:

Acts 2:4 “All of them (i.e. Christ’s disciples) were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.”

Acts 4:8 “Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them...”

Acts 4:31 “After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.”

Acts 6:3 “Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom...”

Acts 6:5 “This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit...”

Acts 7:55 “But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.”

Acts 9:17 “Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, ‘Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.’”

Acts 11:24 “He (i.e. “Barnabas”) was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord.”

Acts 13:9 “*Then Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked straight at Elymas and said...*”

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

Ephesians 5:18 “*Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT.*”

### **Definition of the Filling of the Holy Spirit**

1. The filling of the Spirit may be defined as a spiritual state where the Holy Spirit is fulfilling all that He came to do in the heart and life of the individual believer:
  - a. It is not a matter of acquiring more of the Spirit, but rather of the Spirit of God acquiring all of the individual.
  - b. Instead of being an abnormal and unusual situation, as was true before Pentecost, in the present age to be filled with the Spirit is the normal, if not the usual, experience of a Christian.
  - c. Every Christian is commanded to be filled with the Spirit, and not to be filled with the Spirit is to be in a state of partial disobedience.

Ephesians 5:18 “*Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT.*”

2. There is an observable difference in the character and quality of the daily life between Christians “filled with the Spirit”, and Christians who are NOT “filled with the Spirit”:
  - a. Few can be characterized as being full of the Spirit.
  - b. This lack, however, is not due to failure on the part of God to make provision, but rather failure on the part of the individual to appropriate and permit the Spirit of God to fill his life.
3. The state of being filled with the Spirit should be contrasted with “spiritual maturity”.
  - a. A young Christian who has just been saved may be filled with the Spirit and manifest the power of the Holy Spirit in his life.

- b. Maturity, however, comes only through spiritual experiences which may extend over a lifetime and involve a growth in knowledge, a continued experience of being filled with the Spirit, and a maturity in judgment in spiritual things.
  - c. Just as a newborn babe may be perfectly healthy, so a new Christian may be filled with the Spirit, but like a newborn babe only life and experience can bring out the full spiritual qualities which belong to maturity.
4. This is why numerous passages in the Bible speak of growth.
- a. The wheat grows until the harvest:

Matthew 13:30 *“Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.”*

- b. God works in His church through gifted men with spiritual gifts to perfect the saints for the work of the ministry and to edify the body of Christ so that Christians may “grow up” in faith and knowledge and spiritual stature:

Ephesians 4:11-16 *“It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that THE BODY OF CHRIST MAY BE BUILT UP until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will NO LONGER BE INFANTS, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, WE WILL IN ALL THINGS GROW UP INTO HIM who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, GROWS AND BUILDS ITSELF UP IN LOVE, as each part does its work.”*

- c. Peter speaks of newborn babes needing spiritual milk to “grow” (1 Pet. 2:2) and exhorts to “grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ”:

1Peter 2:2 *“Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it YOU MAY GROW UP IN YOUR SALVATION...”*

2 Peter 3:18 *“But GROW IN THE GRACE AND KNOWLEDGE of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and forever! Amen.”*

5. There is an obvious relationship between the filling of the Spirit and spiritual maturity, because a Christian filled with the Spirit will mature more rapidly than one who is not.
  - a. The “filling of the Spirit” and the resulting “spiritual maturity” are the two most important factors in a Christian achieving the will of God for his life and fulfilling God’s purpose in creating him unto good works.

Ephesians 2:10 *“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus TO DO GOOD WORKS, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”*

- b. The filling of the Spirit is, accordingly, accomplished in every believer when he is fully yielded to the indwelling Holy Spirit, resulting in a spiritual condition in which the Holy Spirit controls and empowers the individual.
6. While there may be degrees of “manifestation” of the filling of the Spirit and degrees of “divine power”, the central thought in the filling is that the Spirit of God is able to operate in and through the individual *without hindrance*, accomplishing God’s perfect will for that person.
  - a. This concept of the filling of the Spirit is brought out in a number of references in the New Testament.

1) It is preeminently illustrated in Jesus Christ:

Luke 4:1 *“Jesus, FULL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, returned from the Jordan and was LED BY THE SPIRIT in the desert...”*

2) John the Baptist had the unusual experience of being filled with the Spirit from his mother’s womb:

Luke 1:15 *“...for he (i.e. John the Baptist) will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even from birth.”*

3) Both John the Baptist’s mother Elizabeth and his father Zacharias were temporarily filled with the Spirit:

Luke 1:41 *“When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.”*

Luke 1:67 *“His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied...”*

NOTE: These instances are still on the Old Testament pattern in which the filling of the Spirit is a sovereign work of God NOT available to every individual.

7. Beginning with the day of Pentecost, however, the “entire company” was filled with the Spirit:

a. In the early church, the Spirit of God repeatedly filled those who sought to do the will of God:

1) As in the case of Peter:

Acts 4:8 “*Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: ‘Rulers and elders of the people!...’*”

2) The company of Christians who prayed for boldness and the power of God:

Acts 4:31 “*After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And THEY WERE ALL FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT and spoke the word of God boldly.*”

3) And Paul after his conversion:

Acts 9:17 “*Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, ‘Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.’*”

b. Some are characterized as being in a “continual state” of being filled with the Spirit, as was illustrated in:

1) The first deacons:

Acts 6:3 “*Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom...*”

2) Stephen the martyr:

Acts 7:55 “*But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.*”

3) Barnabas:

Acts 11:24 “*He (i.e. Barnabas) was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord.*”

4) Paul was repeatedly filled with the Spirit:

Acts 13:9 “*Then Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked straight at Elymas and said...*”

5) And so were other disciples:

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

NOTE: In each case “only” Christians *yielded to God* were filled with the Spirit.

8. Old Testament believers were never commanded to be filled with the Spirit, although in some instances they were admonished, like Zerubbabel, that the work of the Lord is accomplished only by His Spirit:

Zechariah 4:6 “*Not by might, nor by power, BUT BY MY SPIRIT, saith the LORD of hosts*”

9. In the present age “every” Christian is *commanded* to be filled with the Spirit:

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

10. Being filled with the Spirit, like receiving salvation by faith, is NOT accomplished, however, by human effort; rather, it is by “permitting” God to accomplish this work in the life of the individual.

- a. It is clear from Scripture that a Christian may be genuinely saved without being filled with the Spirit, and the filling of the Spirit is therefore not a part of salvation itself.
- b. The filling of the Spirit also must be contrasted to the once-for-all work accomplished in the believer when he is saved.
- c. The filling of the Spirit, while it may occur at the time of salvation, occurs again and again in the life of a yielded Christian, and it should be the normal experience of Christians to have this constant infilling of the Spirit.

11. The fact that the filling of the Spirit is a repeated experience is brought out in the present tense of the command in Ephesians 5:18, “be filled with the Spirit.”

- a. Literally translated, it is “keep on being filled with the Spirit.”

- b. It is compared in the text to a state of intoxication in which wine affects the entire body, including both the mental activity of the mind and the physical activity of the body.
- c. The filling of the Spirit is, therefore, NOT a once-for-all experience.
- d. It is NOT properly named a second work of grace, as it occurs again and again.

12. Undoubtedly the experience of being filled with the Spirit for the first time is a very dramatic one in the life of a Christian and may be a milestone which elevates Christian experience to a new plateau.

13. Nevertheless, the Christian is dependent upon God for continuous filling of the Spirit, and no Christian can live on yesterday's spiritual power.

14. From the nature of the filling of the Spirit, it may be concluded that the wide difference in spiritual experience observed in Christians and the various degrees of conformity to the mind and will of God may be traced to the "presence" OR "absence" of the filling of the Spirit.

NOTE: One desiring to do the will of God must accordingly enter fully into the privilege that God has given him in being indwelt by the Spirit and having the capacity to yield his life to the Spirit of God *completely*.

### **Conditions for the Filling of the Holy Spirit**

1. Three simple commands have often been pointed out as being the conditions for being filled with the Spirit:

First Command: 1 Thessalonians 5:19 "*Quench not the spirit.*"

Second Command: Ephesians 4:30 "*And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.*"

Third Command: Galatians 5:16: "*This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.*"

NOTE: Although other passages cast light upon these basic conditions for being filled with the Spirit, these three passages sum up the main idea.



2. The command to “Quench not the Spirit,” in 1 Thessalonians 5:19, although not explained in context, is obviously using the figure of “fire” as a symbol of the Holy Spirit.

a. “Quenching” in reference to “fire” are illustrated in the following verses:

Matthew 12:20 *“A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick He will not snuff out, till he leads justice to victory.”*

Hebrews 11:32-34 *“And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword...”*

Ephesians 6:16 *“Above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.”*

b. Accordingly, “quenching the Spirit” is “stifling” or “suppressing” the Spirit and not allowing Him to accomplish His work in the believer.

c. It may be simply defined as saying No or being unwilling to let the Spirit have His way.

b. Rebellion against God was the original sin of Satan (Isa. 14:14), and when a believer “I will” instead of saying, as Christ did in Gethsemane, “Not my will, but thine, be done” (Luke 22:42), *HE IS QUENCHING THE SPIRIT.*

d. In order to experience the fullness of the Spirit, it is necessary first for a Christian to surrender his life to the Lord.

Matthew 6:24 *“No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.”*

1) Christians are constantly exhorted to yield themselves to God.

2) In introducing the whole matter of achieving the will of God in the life of a Christian, Paul wrote:

Romans 6:13 *“Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: BUT YIELD YOURSELVES UNTO GOD, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.”*

NOTE: Here the option before every Christian is stated clearly: he can either yield himself to “God” or yield himself to “sin”.

Romans 12:1-2 *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to OFFER YOUR BODIES AS LIVING SACRIFICES, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”*

e. In both Romans 6:13 and 12:1, the same Greek word is used.

- 1) “To yield ourselves to God” is “to present ourselves to God.”
- 2) The tense of the verb is aorist, which means “to yield yourself to God once and for all.”
- 3) Accordingly, the experience of filling or being filled with the Spirit can “only” be achieved when a Christian takes the initial step of presenting his body a “living sacrifice”.
  - a) A Christian has been prepared for this by salvation, which makes the sacrifice holy and acceptable unto God.
  - b) It is reasonable of God to expect this in that Christ died for this individual.
- 4) In presenting his body, the Christian must face the fact that he should not conform outwardly to the world, but should be inwardly transformed by the Holy Spirit with the result that his mind is renewed to recognize true spiritual values.

Romans 12:2 *“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—HIS GOOD, PLEASING, AND PERFECT WILL.”*

f. Yieldedness is not in reference to some particular issue, but it is rather taking the will of God for one’s life in every particular.

- 1) It is, therefore, a matter of being willing to do anything that God wants the believer to do.
- 2) It is making the will of God final in his life and being willing to do anything whenever, wherever, and however God may direct.

- g. The fact that the exhortation “Quench not the Spirit” is in the present tense indicates that this should be a “continuous” experience begun by the initial act of surrender.
- h. A Christian who desires to be continually yielded to God finds that this yieldedness relates to several aspects.
  - 1) It is first of all a yieldedness to the Word of God in its exhortations and truth.
    - a) The Holy Spirit is the supreme Teacher, and as truth becomes known, a believer must yield to the truth as he understands it.
    - b) Refusal to submit to the Word of God renders the filling of the Spirit impossible.
  - 2) Yieldedness also is related to guidance.
    - a) In many cases the Word of God is not explicit as to decisions which a Christian faces on a daily basis.
    - b) Here the believer must be guided by the principles of the Word of God, and the Spirit of God can give guidance on the basis of what the Scriptures reveal.
    - c) Accordingly, obedience to the guidance of the Spirit is necessary to the filling of the Spirit:

Rom. 8:14 “...*those who are LED BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD are sons of God.*”

- d) In some cases the Spirit may command a Christian to “do” something and on other occasions may “forbid” him to follow a course of action.
- e) An illustration is the experience of Paul, who was forbidden to preach the Gospel in Asia and Bithynia early in his ministry and later was instructed to go to these very areas to preach.

*Acts 16:6-7 “Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, **BUT THE SPIRIT OF JESUS WOULD NOT ALLOW THEM TO.**”*

*Acts 19:10 “This went on for two years, so that all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia **HEARD THE WORD OF THE LORD.**”*

- f) The fullness of the Spirit involves following the guidance of the Lord.
- 3) A Christian must also be yielded to God's providential acts, which often bring in situations and experiences which are NOT "desired" by the individual.
- a) Accordingly, a believer must understand what it is to be submissive to the will of God even though it involves suffering and paths that in themselves are not pleasant.
  - b) The supreme illustration of what it means to be filled with the Spirit and yielded to God is Jesus Christ Himself.

Philippians 2:5-11 *"Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking THE VERY NATURE OF A SERVANT, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled himself and BECAME OBEDIENT UNTO DEATH— even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."*

- c) These verse reveal that Jesus, in coming to the earth and dying for the sins of the world, was willing to be what God chose, willing to go where God chose, and willing to do what God chose.
  - d) A believer who desires to be filled with the Spirit must have a similar attitude of yieldedness and obedience.
3. In connection with the filling of the Spirit, a believer is also exhorted to "grieve not the Spirit" (Eph. 4:30).
- a. Here it is presumed that sin has entered into the life of the Christian and unyieldedness has become a fact of his experience.
  - b. In order to enter into a state of being filled with the Spirit, or to return to such a state, he is exhorted NOT to "continue" in his sin which grieves the Holy Spirit.
    - 1) When the Spirit of God is "grieved" in a believer, the fellowship, guidance, instruction, and power of the Spirit are hindered; the Holy Spirit, although indwelling, is NOT free to accomplish His work in the life of the believer.
    - 2) Experience of the filling of the Spirit, may be affected by physical conditions.

- 3) A Christian who is physically tired, hungry, or sick may not be experiencing the normal joy and peace which are fruit of the Spirit.
- 4) Even Paul, who spoke the most about being filled with the Spirit wrote about his own difficult circumstances which brought about discouraging results in his life:

2Corinthians 1:8-9 *"We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about the hardships we suffered in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, FAR BEYOND OUR ABILITY TO ENDURE, so that we despaired even of life. Indeed, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead."*

- 5) Accordingly, even a Christian filled with the Spirit may experience some inner turmoil.
  - 6) The greater the need in a believer's circumstances, however, the greater the need for the filling of the Spirit and yieldedness to the will of God that the power of the Spirit may be manifested in the individual life.
- c. When a Christian becomes conscious of the fact that he has grieved the Holy Spirit, the remedy is to stop grieving the Spirit, as Ephesians 4:30 means literally translated.

- 1) This can be accomplished by obeying what John tell us to do in his first epistle:

1 John 1:9 *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*

- 2) This passage refers to a child of God who has sinned against his Heavenly Father.
- 3) The way to restoration is open because the death of Christ is sufficient for all his sins.

1 John 2:1-2 *"My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours BUT ALSO FOR THE SINS OF THE WHOLE WORLD."*

- 4) Thus the way back into fellowship with God for a believer to confess his sins to God, recognizing anew the basis for forgiveness in the death of Christ, and desiring restoration to an intimate fellowship with God the Father as well as the Holy Spirit.
- 5) It is not a question of justice at a court of law but rather a restored relationship between a father and a son who has strayed.

- 6) The passage assures that God is faithful and just to forgive sin and remove it as a barrier to fellowship when a Christian sincerely confesses his wrongdoing to God.
- a) While in some instances confession of sin may require going to individuals who have been wronged and correcting difficulties, the main idea is establishing a new intimate relationship with God Himself.
  - b) In confessing his sins, the Christian may be assured that on the divine side the adjustment is immediate.
  - c) Christ, as the believer's Intercessor and as the One who died on the cross, has already made all the necessary adjustments on the heavenly side.
- 7) Restoration into fellowship is therefore subject only to the human adjustment of confession and yieldedness.
- d. Scripture also warns a believer against the serious results of continually grieving the Spirit.
- 1) This sometimes results in God's chastening the believer in order to restore him:

Hebrews 12:5-6 *"And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: 'My son, DO NOT MAKE LIGHT OF THE LORD'S DISCIPLINE, and do not lose heart when He rebukes you, because THE LORD DISCIPLINES THOSE HE LOVES, and He punishes everyone HE ACCEPTS AS A SON.'"*

- 2) The Christian is warned that if he does not judge himself God will need to step in with divine discipline:

1 Corinthians 11:31-32 *"But if we judged ourselves, WE WOULD NOT COME UNDER JUDGMENT. When we are judged by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be condemned with the world."*

- 3) In any case, there is immediate loss when a Christian is walking out of fellowship with God, and there is the constant danger of severe judgment from God as a faithful father deals with his erring child.

4. "Walking by the Spirit" is a positive command, in contrast to the previous commands which are negative.
- a. Walking by the Spirit (Gal. 5:16) is a command to appropriate the power and blessing that is provided by the indwelling Spirit.
  - b. Walking by the Spirit is a command in the present tense, that is, a Christian should keep on walking by the Spirit.
  - c. The Christian's standard of spiritual life is high, and he is unable to fulfill the will of God apart from God's power.
  - d. Accordingly, the provision of the indwelling Spirit makes it possible for the Christian to be walking by the power and guidance of the indwelling Spirit.
  - e. Walking by the Spirit is an act of faith.
  - f. It is depending upon the Spirit to do what only the Spirit can do.
    - 1) Only the Spirit can make it possible for a believer to obey the Lord's command to love as He loves:

John 13:34 *"A new command I give you: Love one another. AS I HAVE LOVED YOU, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."*

John 15:12 *"My command is this: Love each other AS I HAVE LOVED YOU."*

- 2) Only the Spirit can make it possible for a believer to bring "every thought" into obedience to Christ:

2 Corinthians 10:5 *"We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive EVERY THOUGHT to make it obedient to Christ."*

- 3) Only the Spirit can make it possible for a believer to manifest the spiritual life of Christ, which includes the "fruit of the Spirit", "rejoicing evermore", and "praying without ceasing" :

Galatians 5:22-23 *"But THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law."*

1Thessalonians 5:16 "...Be joyful always..."

1Thessalonians 5:17 "...pray without ceasing..."

1Thessalonians 5:18 "...give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

- g. Attaining a high standard of spiritual life is all the more difficult because the Christian is living in a sinful world and is under constant evil influence:

John 17:15 "*My prayer is not that You take them out of the world but that You PROTECT THEM FROM THE EVIL ONE.*"

2 Corinthians 6:14 "*Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do RIGHTEOUSNESS AND WICKEDNESS have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?*"

Galatians 6:14 "*May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I TO THE WORLD.*"

1John 2:15 "*DO NOT LOVE THE WORLD or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*"

- h. Likewise, the Christian is opposed by the power of Satan and is engaged in ceaseless warfare with this enemy of God:

2 Corinthians 4:4 "*The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, SO THAT THEY CANNOT SEE THE LIGHT OF THE GOSPEL of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*"

2Corinthians 11:14 "*And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.*"

Ephesians 6:12 "*For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.*"

- i. In addition to conflict with the world system and with Satan, the Christian has an enemy "within", his old sin nature which desires to draw him back to the life of obedience to the sinful flesh:

Romans 5:21 "*...so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*"



Romans 6:6 *“For we know that our old self was crucified with Him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin— because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.”*

1Corinthians 5:5 *“...hand this man over to Satan, so that the sinful nature may be destroyed and his spirit saved on the day of the Lord.”*

2Corinthians 7:1 *“Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.”*

Galatians 5:16-24 *“So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. THEY ARE IN CONFLICT WITH EACH OTHER, so that you do not do what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law. The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires.”*

Galatians 6:8 *“The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.”*

Ephesians 2:3 *“All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.”*

- 1) Because the sin nature is constantly at war with the new nature in the Christian, only continued dependence upon the Spirit of God can bring victory.
- 2) This is why although some have erroneously concluded that a Christian can reach sinless perfection, there is the need for constantly walking by the Spirit that this power may achieve the will of God in the life of a believer.
- 3) Ultimate perfection of body and spirit awaits the believer in heaven, but until death or translation spiritual warfare continues unabated.

j. All of these truths emphasize the importance of appropriating the Spirit by walking in His power and guidance and letting the Spirit have control and direction of a Christian's life.

## The Results of the Filling of the Spirit

Impressive results come when one is “yielded to God” and “filled with the Spirit”:

1. A Christian walking in the power of the Spirit experiences a progressive sanctification, a holiness of life in which the fruit of the Spirit are fulfilled.

Galatians 5:22-23 *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.”*

NOTE: This is the supreme manifestation of the power of the Spirit and is the earthly preparation for the time when the believer in heaven will be completely in the image of Christ.

2. One of the important ministries of the Spirit is that of teaching the believer spiritual truth.
  - a. Only by the guidance and illumination of the Spirit can a believer understand the infinite truth of the Word of God.

- 1) The Spirit of God is necessary in revealing the truth concerning salvation before a person can be saved:

John 16:7-11 *“But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. When He comes, He will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: in regard to sin, because men do not believe in Me; in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see Me no longer; and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.”*

- 2) The Spirit of God also guides the Christian into “all” truth:

John 16:12-14 *“I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, HE WILL GUIDE YOU INTO ALL TRUTH. He will not speak on His own; He will speak only what He hears, and He will tell you what is yet to come. He will bring glory to Me by taking from what is Mine and MAKING IT KNOWN TO YOU.”*

- 3) The Spirit of God also teaches the “deep things of God”; truth that can be understood only by a Spirit-taught man, are revealed to one who is walking by the Spirit:

1 Corinthians 2:9-10 *“However, as it is written: ‘No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him’— but God has REVEALED IT TO US BY HIS SPIRIT. The Spirit searches all things, EVEN THE DEEP THINGS OF GOD.”*

1Corinthians 2:11-12 *“For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man’s spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, THAT WE MAY UNDERSTAND what God has freely given us.”*

3. The Holy Spirit is able to guide a Christian and apply the general truths of the Word of God to the particular situation of the Christian.

a. This is what is meant in Romans 12:2 by proving “what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

b. Like the servant of Abraham of old, a Christian can experience the statement:

Genesis 24:27 *“I being in the way, the Lord led me.”*

c. Such guidance is the normal experience of Christians who are in proper relationship to the Spirit of God:

Romans 8:14 *“...because those who are LED BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD are sons of God.”*

Galatians 5:18 *“But if you are LED BY THE SPIRIT, you are not under law.”*

4. Assurance of salvation is another important result of communion with the Spirit.

a. It is the Holy Spirit that assures a believer that he is truly “saved”:

Romans 8:16, *“The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.”*

Galatians 4:6 *“Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, ‘Abba, Father.’”*

1John 3:24 *“Those who obey his commands live in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.”*

1John 4:13 *“We know that we live in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.”*

b. It is as normal for a Christian to have assurance of his salvation as it is for an individual to know that he is physically alive.

5. All worship and love of God are possible only as one is really walking by the Spirit.

- a. In the context of the exhortation of Ephesians 5:18, the verses which follow describe the normal life of worship and fellowship with God.

Ephesians 5:18-20 *“Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, <sup>20</sup>always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

- b. A person out of fellowship cannot truly worship God even though he attends church services in lovely cathedrals and goes through the ritual of worship.
- c. Worship is a matter of the heart, and as Christ has told the Samaritan woman:

John 4:24 *“God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him IN SPIRIT and in truth.”*

6. One of the most important aspects of a believer’s life is his “prayer” fellowship with the Lord.

- a. Here again the Spirit of God must guide and direct if prayer is to be intelligent.
- b. Here also the Word of God must be understood if prayer is to be according to the Word of God: True praise and thanksgiving are impossible apart from the enablement of the Spirit.
- c. Because believers rarely truly know what to pray for, the Spirit intercedes for the believer:

Romans 8:26 *“In the same way, **THE SPIRIT HELPS US IN OUR WEAKNESSES.** We do not know what we ought to pray for, **BUT THE SPIRIT HIMSELF INTERCEDES FOR US with groans that words cannot express.**”*

- d. An effective prayer life, accordingly, depends upon walking by the Spirit.

7. In addition to all the spiritual qualities already mentioned, the whole life of a believer’s service and the exercise of his natural and spiritual gifts are dependent upon the power of the Spirit.

- a. Christ referred to this when He described the work of the Spirit as a river of living water flowing from the heart of man.

John 7:38-39 *"Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him. BY THIS HE MEANT THE SPIRIT, whom those who believed in Him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified."*

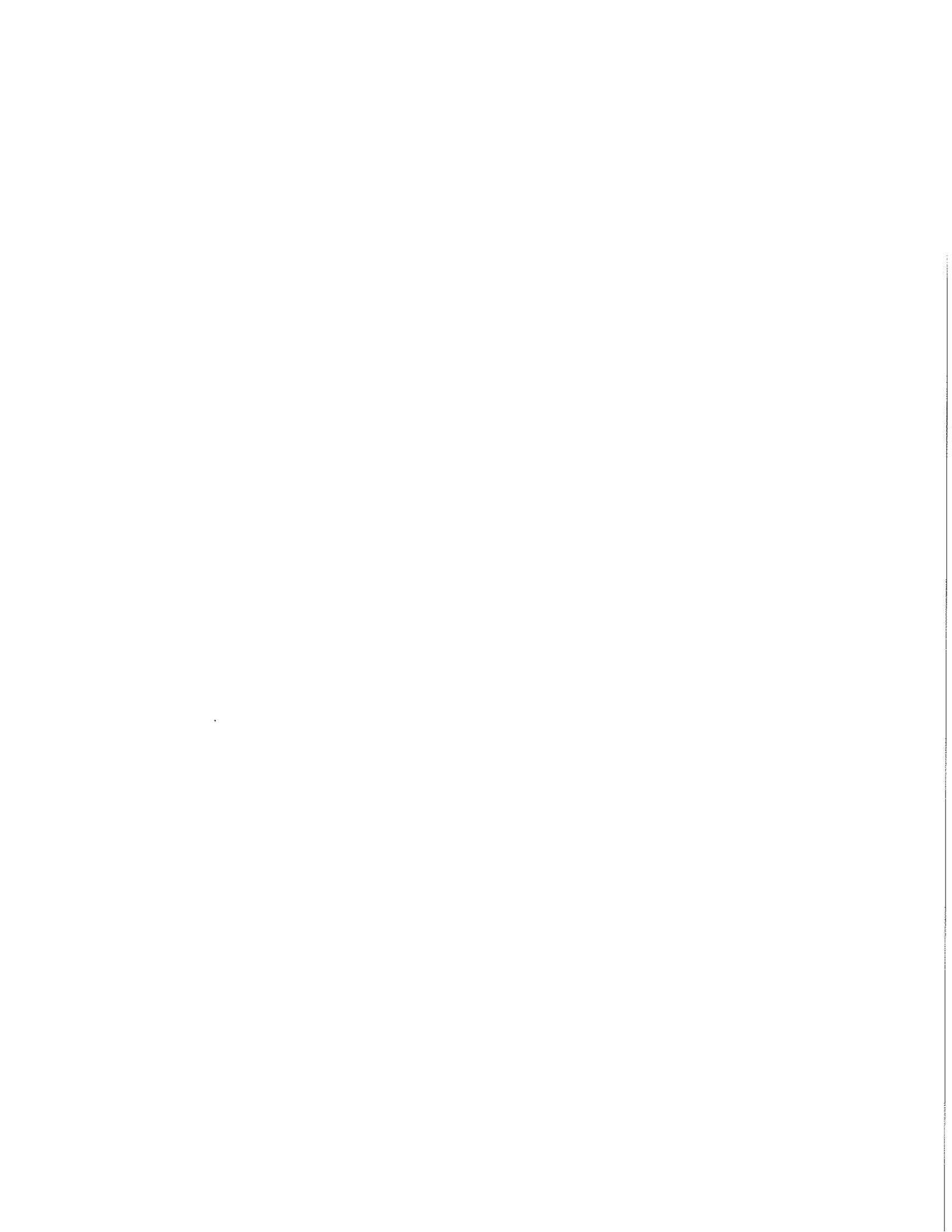
- b. Accordingly, a Christian may have great spiritual gifts and not use them because he is not walking in the power of the Spirit.

1Thessalonians 5:19 *"Do not QUENCH THE SPIRIT."*

- c. By contrast, others with relatively few spiritual gifts can be greatly used of God because they are walking in the power of the Spirit.

### **CONCLUSION:**

The teaching of Scripture on the filling of the Spirit is, therefore, one of the most important lines of truth which a Christian should comprehend, apply, and appropriate.



**Loris First Baptist Church**  
***“52 Vital Doctrines of The Bible”***

**Doctrine # 19: “God the Holy Spirit: His Filling”**

1. Read Pages 1-21 from the Doctrine#19 Study Guide by next Wednesday.
2. Answer the following Questions about “God the Holy Spirit” as you read:

**a. Some Important Facts About The Holy Spirit, His Filling:**

- 1) What is the difference between the works of the Spirit in relation to salvation as compared to the “filling” of the Spirit? (page 1, top)
  
- 2) True or False. There was no “filling” of the Holy Spirit within believers prior to Pentecost. (page 1, middle; also see Exodus 28:3, 31:3; Luke 1:41)
  
- 3) True or False. There is NO indication that the “filling” of the Holy Spirit was open before Pentecost to everyone who yielded his life to the Lord. (page 2, top)
  
- 4) What are the minimum conditions necessary to be met for a person to be indwelt and “filled” with the Holy Spirit? (page 2, middle-top)
  
- 5) According to Acts 4:31, how many of the “disciples” of Jesus that were praying together in a certain place in Jerusalem were “filled” with the Holy Spirit?
  
- 6) What is a command that Paul emphasizes for “ALL” believers to strive “TO BE” in Ephesians 5:18?

**b. Definition of the Filling of the Holy Spirit**

- 1) What is a good definition of the “filling of the Spirit” within the heart and life of a believer?  
(page 3, middle-top)
  
- 2) True or False. To find a Christian “filled” with the Holy Spirit should be the “normal” in churches.  
(page 3, middle)
  
- 3) True or False. For a Christian to NOT be “filled” with the Holy Spirit is to be in a state of at least “partial” disobedience. (page 3, middle)
  
- 4) True or False. It is very difficult to determine the difference in the character and quality of the daily life between Christians “filled with the Spirit”, and Christians who are “NOT” filled with the Spirit. (page 3, middle-bottom)
  
- 5) True or False. You must be a “spiritually mature” Christian with at least several years of experience as a believer to get to the point where you can be “filled with the Spirit”. (page 3, bottom)
  
- 6) Why does God work in His church through gifted men with spiritual gifts to perfect the saints for the work of the ministry and to edify the Body of Christ? (page 4, middle; Ephesians 4:11-16)
  
- 7) According to 1Peter 2:2, why should new believers crave pure “spiritual milk” (i.e. Word of God)?
  
- 8) True or False. A Christian “filled with the Spirit” will mature more rapidly than one who is not.  
(page 5, top)



- 9) What are the two most important factors in a Christian achieving the will of God for his life and fulfilling God's purpose in creating him unto good works? (page 5, top)
  
- 10) How is the filling of the Spirit "accomplished" in a believer that results in a spiritual condition in which the Holy Spirit controls and empowers that believer? (page 5, top)
  
- 11) Who is the only person in Scripture (other than Christ) who was considered to be "filled with the Holy Spirit" while he was still in his mother's womb? (page 5, middle; Luke 1:15)
  
- 12) In the early church, the Spirit of God repeatedly "filled" those who sought "what"? (page 6, top)
  
- 13) When Ananias placed his hands on Saul, recorded in Acts 9:17, he told Saul that Jesus had sent him so that Saul may "see again" and be "what"?
  
- 14) True or False. The New Testament indicates that it is possible for believers to be in a "continual" state of being "filled with the Spirit". (page 6, bottom; Acts 6:3, 7:55, 11:24)
  
- 15) True or False. In this present age of the church, "every" Christian is commanded to be filled with the Holy Spirit. (page 7, middle)
  
- 16) True or False. Unlike "salvation" for a believer, being "filled" with the Holy Spirit is based on the "efforts" of the believer. (page 7, middle)

17) True or False. The “filling” of the Holy Spirit is a “once-in-a-lifetime” experience for a believer that never requires “repeating” in the life of a Christian once it is achieved.  
(page 8, top)

18) What may be concluded in the wide difference in spiritual experience observed in Christians and the various degrees of conformity to the mind and will of God? (page 8, middle)

**c. Conditions for the Filling of the Holy Spirit**

1) Briefly list the three simple commands that have often been pointed out as being the conditions for being “filled” with the Spirit. (page 8, bottom; 1Thessalonians 5:19; Ephesians 4:30; Galatians 5:16)

2) How would you describe what “quenching the Spirit” means in the life of a believer? (page 9, middle)

3) What is the “first” thing a Christian must do in order to experience the fullness of the Spirit?  
(page 9, middle)

4) According to Romans 6:13, believers are NOT to “yield” the members of their bodies as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but to do “what”?

5) True or False. When it comes to whether or not a believer is “filled with the Spirit”, it is decided based on whether a believer is “yielded” to “God” or to “sin”. (page 10, top)

6) Looking at verses Romans 6:13 and Romans 12:1, what is another way of saying “to yield ourselves to God”? (page 10, top)

- 7) In presenting his body, the Christian must face the fact that he should NOT conform outwardly to the world, but should be inwardly “transformed” by the Holy Spirit with “what” result? (page 10, middle)
  
- 8) According to Romans 12:1-2, when a believer allows his mind to be transformed by the Word of God and is “indwelt” by the Spirit of God (by being a “living sacrifice”), that believer will be able to “test” and “approve” what?
  
- 9) When we talk about “yieldedness” in reference to a believer, it is a matter of being willing to do what? (page 10, bottom)
  
- 10) When it comes to the exhortation “quench not the Spirit” (1Thess 5:19) what “tense” was it written in which indicates it should be a “continuous” experience begun by the initial act of surrender to God?
  
- 11) A Christian who desires to be continually “yielded” to God is first of all a yieldedness to what? (page 11, top)
  
- 12) A Christian must be obedient to “what” of the Spirit to be “filled” with the Spirit? (page 11, middle)
  
- 13) According to Romans 8:14, what is an important noticeable characteristic of a “son of God”?
  
- 14) True or False. When it comes to the “guidance of the Spirit” in reference to being “filled with the Spirit”, in some cases the Spirit may command a Christian to “do” something and on other occasions may “forbid” him to follow a course of action. (page 11, bottom)

- 15) According to Acts 16:6-7, who kept Paul and his companions from preaching the word of God in the province of Asia?
- 16) Fill in the blank. The fullness of the Spirit involves following the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord.
- 17) True or False. When a believer submits himself to being “filled with the Spirit”, he can avoid all suffering and difficult trials that less obedient Christians and “lost” people experience.  
(page 12, top)
- 18) What is presumed to enter into the life of a Christian if he is “grieving” the Holy Spirit?  
(page 12, bottom; Ephesians 4:30-32)
- 19) What is “hindered” in the life of a believer when the Holy Spirit is “grieved” in his life?  
(page 12, bottom)
- 20) True or False. Physical conditions like being “tired”, “hungry”, “sick”, etc., can have an effect on whether or not a Christian is “filled” with the Spirit. (page 13, top; 2Corinthians 1:8-9)
- 21) True or False. It is impossible for a Christian “filled” with the Spirit to experience inner turmoil.  
(page 13, top; see also Luke 22:41-44; 2Corinthians 1:8-9)
- 22) When a Christian becomes conscious of the fact that he has “grieved” the Holy Spirit, how can that Christian “stop” grieving the Spirit of God and allow “filling of the Spirit” to take place again?  
(page 13, middle; see also 1John 1:9)

- 23) Describe what is necessary for a Christian who has “grieved” the Holy Spirit to find their way back to “fellowship” with God. (page 13, bottom)
- 24) True or False. When a Christian “confesses” his sins to God, he or she should NOT expect an “immediate” forgiveness by God and adjustment in “fellowship” with the Lord. (page 14, top; see also 1John 1:9)
- 25) Restoration into fellowship with God after a believer has been “grieving” the Holy Spirit is subject to what “human” adjustment? (page 14, middle)
- 26) What does God sometimes have to do to keep a believer from continuing to “grieve” the Holy Spirit? (page 14, bottom; see also Hebrews 12:5-6 and 1Corinthians 11:31-32)
- 27) What is the “positive” command in Scripture when it comes to a believer being “filled with the Spirit”? (page 15, top; see also Galatians 5:16)
- 28) “Walk in the Spirit” is a command to appropriate what? (page 15, top)
- 29) A Christian can never, ever be able to fulfill the will of God in his life apart from what? (page 15, top)
- 30) Walking by the Holy Spirit is an act of “what” in the life of a believer? (page 15, middle)
- 31) What is the only thing that makes it possible for a believer to obey the Lord’s command to bring “every thought” into obedience in Christ? (page 15, middle-bottom; 2Corinthians 10:5)

- 32) What is the “fruit” (i.e. “results” and/or “benefits”) of a believer being “filled with the Holy Spirit”?  
(page 15, bottom; Galatians 5:22-23)
- 33) What makes it so difficult for a Christian to attain the high standard of spiritual life God commands for a believer? (page 16, top; John 17:15; 2Corinthians 6:14; 2Corinthians 4:4)
- 34) According to Ephesians 6:12, believers need to always remember that our true battles in our spiritual life are not ever against other people (i.e. “flesh and blood”) but against “who”?
- 35) What “enemy” does a Christian have in addition to the “world system” and “Satan” when it comes to trying to remain being “filled with the Spirit”? (page 16, bottom; Galatians 5:16-24)
- 36) According to Galatians 5:16-18, what is the relationship between the Spirit and a believer’s sin nature?
- 37) Because a believer’s sin nature is constantly at war with their new nature in Christ, what is the only way that a believer can get “victory” over sin in his life? (page 17, bottom)
- 38) True or False. If a true believer will continually remain “filled with the Spirit” and constantly resist “grieving” and/or “quenching” the Spirit, then that believer could actually reach the “sinless” perfection that Christ expects of his disciples this side of heaven.  
(page 17, bottom; see also 1John 2:1-2)

**d. The Results of the Filling of the Spirit**

- 1) A Christian walking in the power of the Spirit experiences what? (page 18, top)

- 2) What is absolutely required “as a minimum” in order for a believer to be able to understand the infinite truth of the Word of God? (page 18, middle; John 16:7-11; 1Corinthians 2:9-10)
  
- 3) According to 1Corinthians 2:9-10, who reveals the “deep things of God” to a believer?
  
- 4) In accordance with Scriptures like Genesis 24:27, Romans 8:14, and Galatians 5:18, the Holy Spirit is able to “lead” and to “guide” a Christian to do what? (page 19, top)
  
- 5) According to 1John 3:24, how can a person know for “certain” that they are “saved” and that the “Spirit of God” is living within them?
  
- 6) True or False. It is “normal” for a Christian to be unsure if whether or not they have been saved and the Bible calls for a believer to always “question” his salvation.  
(page 19, bottom; see 1John 4:13 and 1John 5:11-13)
  
- 7) What is the only possible way that a believer can truly worship and love God? (page 20, top)
  
- 8) According to Ephesians 5:18-20, when a person is filled with the Spirit, what is expected of them?
  
- 9) According to Romans 8:26, what is a “weakness” of a believer and how does the Holy Spirit help a believer with this “weakness”?

- 10) What does an “effective” prayer life depend upon? (page 20, bottom)
  
- 11) The whole life of a believer’s service and the exercise of his natural and spiritual gifts are dependent upon what? (page 20, bottom)
  
- 12) What could prevent a Christian, who may have great spiritual gifts, to not be very productive in the church and not very successful at helping a church to grow? (page 21, top)