#### **BECOMING SPIRIT-FILLED**

For too many believers the Christian life boils down to simply doing the best they can. There is no dynamic, no power, and there is no real distinctive that can be attributed to anything other than discipline and determination. As ambassadors for Christ, believers have the responsibility of living in such a way that others see Christ in us. As the body of Christ, we are His hands and His feet. We are His mouthpiece. People should look at us and know there is something different about us. Not our clothes or our hairstyle. Us!

Jesus Christ opened the way for the Holy Spirit's presence and power to fill, empower and guide the Christian!



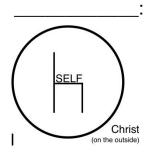
Ezekiel 36:27 "And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws."

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

The Bible tells us that there are three kinds of people:

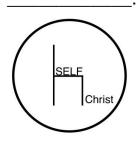
1 Corinthians 2:14-3:3 "<sup>14</sup>The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned. <sup>15</sup>The spiritual man makes judgments about all things, but he himself is not subject to any man's judgment: <sup>16</sup>"For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ. <sup>1</sup>Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly—mere infants in Christ. <sup>2</sup>I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. <sup>3</sup>You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men?"

#### Who sits on the throne?

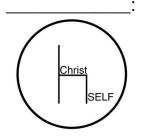


Someone who has never invited Jesus Christ into their life (not born again). Someone who does not understand spiritual things. For example, they think you are weird for reading the Bible and enjoying going to church.

Until a person makes some kind of commitment towards Christ, they will not be able to understand spiritual things as pertaining to Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 4:4). It will be as a foreign language to them. (Lost, Blinded)



They have invited Christ into their life, but they are in a struggle because they are telling Jesus, "Yes, I want you in my life, but I want it my way and in my timing and on my terms." While on one hand they want Christ there to help them, they don't want Him as Lord. They are playing a power control game with God. (Worldly, Fleshly)



Though still human beings, they have made Christ more than just their Savior, they have taken Him to be their Lord. They desire Christ to control their lives on a daily basis and His priorities are now theirs. (Spirit-filled life)

The most miserable people of the three are those who are in the "flesh" nature because they know the truth, but they are fighting it. There are many people today within the body of Christ who fit into this circle.

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So, how do we live as spiritual men and women?

cor hea	mma ard r h the	1:4-5,8 "4On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this and: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have me speak about. 5For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized a Holy Spirit." But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."
		was Jesus promising to do for His disciples and His Church? What I they receive?
W	hat	would they be able to do with this gift?
Tr	ue (	or False, this same power is available for Christians today? T F
th pr	e o	New Testament refers to the Holy Spirit nearly 300 times. "POWER" is ne word which is continually associated with the Holy Spirit. The ss of being <b>filled</b> and <b>controlled</b> by God's Spirit could be explained is:
		What I give Him—He takes What He takes—He cleanses What He cleanses—He fills with His Spirit What He fills—He anoints with His power What He anoints with His powerHe uses effectively!
		Holy Spirit is able to fill us with power to be active and effective, why ost Christians not having this experience? Discuss.
		Does The Holy Spirit Work In Our Lives?
••		According to John 16:8, what does the Holy Spirit do before a person is converted?
	B.	According to John 16:13-15, what else will the Holy Spirit attempt to do and how will this help the unbeliever?
II.	W	hen One Becomes A Christian:
	A.	What does John 6:63 say the Holy Spirit does?

B.	After studying the next three verses, list the things that happen when a person becomes a Christian.					
	Romans 8:9 "You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ."					
	Romans 8:16 "The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children."					
	Ephesians 1:13-14 " <sup>13</sup> And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup> who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory."					
	God's Word teaches us that the moment that we are saved the Holy Spirit comes into our lives. There is no such thing as a Christian without the Holy Spirit. What does this mean for the Christian?					
III. A	fter One Is Born Again.					
	Read the verse below, what are Christians not to do? Is this possible? Why?					
	Ephesians 4:30 "And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption."					
B.	. What does the verse below, command us to do? I thought the Holy Spirit was already with us, what does Paul mean here?					
	Ephesians 5:18 "Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead be filled with the Spirit."					
	The question is not, "Do we possess the Holy Spirit?" The question is, "Does the Holy Spirit possess us?"					
	The question is not "Do I have all of God?" The question is, "Does God have all of me?"					
	One question deals with, the other with					
	One with Jesus as the other with Jesus as					

### IV. How Is The Fullness Of the Spirit Received?

lou as me	<b>ohn 7:37-39</b> " <sup>37</sup> On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a d voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. <sup>38</sup> Whoever believes in me, the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him." <sup>39</sup> By this he eant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the irit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.				
A.	God To Give You The Holy Spirit In His Fullness.				
	Luke 11:13 "If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"				
В.	Your Need For Inner Cleansing And Purity.				
	Acts 15:8-9 "8God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us. 9He made no distinction between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith."				
C.	Your Whole Life To God.				
	Romans 12:1-2 "¹Therefore, 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. ²Do 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."				
D	The Sanctifying Spirit By An Act Of Faith.				
	1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 "23 May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup> The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it."				
Aft	er One Is Filled With The Holy Spirit.				
	In the verse below, Jesus taught His disciples that the Holy Spirit				
	John 14:16-17 "16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.				
B.	In the verse below, Jesus assured His disciples that He would send the Holy Spirit to them to do what two things?				
	John 14:26 "But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.				

C.	From the verse	below, list the things	the Holy Spirit will ma	anıtest:			
	1	4	7				
	2	5	8				
	3	6	9				
	kindness, goodne is no law. <sup>24</sup> Now passions and desi	alatians 5:22-25 " <sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience dness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control; against such things there no law. <sup>24</sup> Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its ssions and desires. <sup>25</sup> If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit."  hy is this fruit so special to the believer?					
D.	The verse belo	ow, teaches that the be	eliever is victorious be	ecause?			
	I John 4:4 "V	ou dear children, are from	God and have overcome t	hem hecause			

I John 4:4 "You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world."

#### **Pray To Be Filled With The Holy Spirit:**

Dear God. I need you. I want to be filled with the Holy Spirit. I admit that I have been in control of my life. I thank You for forgiving my sins. I ask you to cleanse me of this sinful, carnal nature. Right now I surrender totally to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. All that I am, have, or hope to be, I surrender. I put myself completely in your hands. I do this now as an act of faith. Please make me clean, and fill me with the Holy Spirit. Thank you for cleansing me, for filling me, and for taking control of my life. In Jesus' name I pray this. Amen.