

Chapter 9 “How to be Filled with The Holy Spirit” The Holy Spirit – Graham

How can I be filled with the Spirit?

We have been commanded to be filled – but how?

The Bible does not give a concise formula for doing so

Early church – Spirit-filled life was the norm

Billy Graham’s summary of NT teaching on how to be filled with the Holy Spirit:

- 1) Understanding;
- 2) Submission;
- 3) Walking by Faith

Understanding

Certain truths in God’s Word we should know and understand

- 1) God has given us His Holy Spirit, and that He dwells within us
Before salvation – Holy Spirit is around us – Prevenient Grace (Wesley)
After salvation – Holy Spirit is in us – Sanctifying Grace (Wesley)
- 2) God commands us to be filled – God wants us to be filled with Holy Spirit
(Luke 11:13) “If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?”
- 3) What blocks the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives? - SIN
Need to deal honestly and completely with every known sin in our lives
Analogy to clogged pipes and “hardening of the arteries”
Sin is the great clogger – Blood of Christ is the great cleanser
- 4) Old sinful nature against the new spiritual nature
- 5) Must deal completely with sin in our lives – not easy
 - a) may be extremely painful for us to face the reality of sin – pride
 - b) not only know of our sin, but need to repent of it
 - c) sin may blind us spiritually – often to the depth of the sin
- 6) Study the Word of God (authored by the Holy Spirit)
The Holy Spirit will convict us
(2 Tim 3:16) “All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness”
- 7) Confession should be broad as sin – identify each sin as Holy Spirit leads
- 8) ***Most basic question any Christian can ask is this: Who is ruling my life, Self or Christ?***

Submission

Defined as “renounce our own way and seek above all else to submit to Christ our Lord and be ruled by Him in every area of our lives”

The essence of sin is self-will –

placing ourselves at the center of our lives instead of Christ

Need to be filled – controlled and dominated – by the Spirit

- 1) Confession and Repentance (Sin must be confessed to God/we must repent of it)
Confession – acknowledgment of sin
(I John 1:9) “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

Repentance – to renounce sin (a complete and total change of mind)
(Rev. 2:5) “Remember therefore from where you have fallen, and repent.”
A conscious turning from sins

- 2) Yielding yourself to God and His will
Placing yourself totally and completely (as best we know how) into the hands of God in complete submission to His will for our lives
(Rom 6:13 KJV) “Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin; but yield yourselves unto God as those that are alive from the dead.”
Yield - change of masters – from sin to Christ (Holy Spirit)
Surrender – a definite and conscious act on our part in obedience to the Word

The Holy Spirit may test us many times to see if we really mean business
He may even call on us to surrender something in principle that He really does not want us to surrender in fact, but which He wants us to be willing to surrender.

Analogy of master and slave, husband and wife

Faith- need to walk in faith

When we are yielded to God and His will, we are filled with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit controls and dominates us. Now we are to act on that truth and walk or live with full assurance that God has already filled us, and we are under His control. h boldness.”

If we are filled with the Holy Spirit others will soon notice it, because the filled person produces the fruit of the Spirit.

- 1) we must remember that the filling of the Spirit is not a matter of feeling, but of faith.
- 2) We must remember that the filling of the Spirit does not mean we are perfect and without sin. – It means we are controlled by the Spirit, but sin is still a reality
- 3) The filling of the Holy Spirit should not be a once-for-all event, but a continuous reality every day of our lives – it is a process

(Ephesians 5:18) “Be filled with the Spirit.”
Command – process – continuous action

- 1) each day we should seek to understand more from God’s Word
God will help us to see our sin
- 2) each day we should confess and repent
- 3) each day we should submit our wills to His will
walk in faith so that He is continually filling us as we submit to Him
- 4) each day we should walk in obedience to His Word