



# BULLEEN BAPTIST CHURCH

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**Series : "The Person & Work of the Holy Spirit"**  
**Sunday, April 9, 2006 : Study 9**  
**"FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT"**

Notes by Rev. Gary Lockyer

**INTRODUCTION** : We've had a two week break in our series, so its necessary to briefly recap the conclusions of Study 6, "The Baptism With The Spirit." With reference to 1Cor13:12-13

For just as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body - though many - are one body, so too is Christ. For in one Spirit were we all baptised into one body. Whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free, we were all made to drink of the one Spirit.. (The NET Bible)

In these verses, we noted :

The INCLUSIVE language : "we were ALL" The PAST tense : "we WERE all"

The context of UNITY : the repeated use of the word "one"

We concluded that the Baptism with the Spirit is the INITIAL experience of EVERY Christian.

## A. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN "Baptism" AND "Filled"

Nowhere in the new Testament is there any hint, suggestion, or command that anyone should seek the Baptism of the Spirit. No verse even comes close! This is indeed strange if such an experience was to be had after conversion.

But we are commanded to be "filled with the Spirit" (Eph5:18). Here the tense is PRESENT CONTINUOUS - something that is to be on a regular, ongoing basis.

"Baptised with the Spirit"

"Filled with the Spirit"

Past EVENT, not necessarily registered by our senses,	Continuing EXPERIENCE
which determines our STATUS (as member of Christ's Body) by a one-off action of God's Spirit.	of the Spirit's ONGOING work in and through our lives.
It cannot be LOST or REPEATED	Can, and should, be REPEATED

## B. WHAT IS THE EVIDENCE OF BEING "Filled with the Spirit"

**1. FROM THE BOOK OF ACTS** : The table, below, records all uses of "filled with the Spirit" in Acts

Ref.	WHO?	WHAT?
1 2::4	120 Disciples	Spoke God's praises in the languages of those listening.
2 4: 8	Peter	Preached "with courage" (Acts 4: 13)
3 4:31	Unknown number	Prayer .... then "spoke the Word of God boldly"
4 6:3	Stephen	Looking after the practical needs of a group of widows.
5 6:8	Stephen	Miraculous signs; effective teaching from the scriptures
6 7: 55	Stephen	Scripture-saturated preaching (confrontation), Christ-like faith in God and forgiveness of others, death.
7 9:17	Paul	Healed of blindness, was baptised and ate a meal
8 11:24	Barnabus	Encouraged new Christians.
9 13:9	Paul	Rebuked a "sorcerer", who became temporarily blind
10 13:52	Paul & Barnabus	"filled with joy" after expulsion from Pisidian Antioch

It's amazing to see only 10 references .. and all in the first half of the book Yet as we read of Paul's (and others') courage and faithfulness in his journeys and imprisonments, we are left in no doubt that he was, in fact, filled with the Spirit.

**a. AN ATTITUDE** : Note that no one claims "being filled with the Spirit" for themselves. HUMILITY seems to be called for! Contrast the readiness that some have today to use the phrase "Spirit Filled" to distinguish themselves and their group from other Christians.

**b. AN EMPHASIS** : In the table on the previous page the miraculous is mentioned in references 1, 5, 7, and 9, but it is always secondary to what else was happening and is given little prominence. Practical service is mentioned in 4. Teaching / preaching (which often resulted in persecution & suffering) is mentioned in 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, and 10. It is given the greatest prominence as the teaching of the Good News is the means by which God brings new life.

Many Christians today equate being "filled with the Spirit" with, for example, :

STYLES of Worship, Use of certain MIRACULOUS Spiritual Gifts

Heightened, intense EMOTIONAL experiences; Warm, secure, FEELINGS

But in this table from the book of Acts, the evidence of being "filled with the Spirit" is :

CONSISTENT Christian character and expression : Eg. Stephen in Acts 6:3, Barnabus in 11:24, and Paul & Barnabus in 13:52 (See Eph 5: 18 - 21)

EMPOWERMENT for ministry (courage, boldness, faithfulness).

Eg. Peter in 4:8, Stephen in 7:55, and Paul in 13:9

## 2. FROM PAUL'S TEACHING IN Ephesians 5 : 17-21

..... understand what the Lord's will is. Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

The command "Be filled with the Spirit." is followed by a series of commands that give SHAPE to this primary command. They are :

a. be joyful and thankful in WORSHIP to God (5:19b-20)

c. commanding fellowship (5:19a) through right RELATIONSHIPS with one another (5:22 - 6:9) "out of reverence ( ) for Christ."

From Eph5:17-21, the evidence of being "filled with the Spirit" is :

being in FELLOWSHIP with God and with each other

## C. HOW TO BE "Filled with the Spirit."

If the evidence of being filled with the Spirit is that we are in right relationship with God and with each other, then the question becomes :

*"How do I MAINTAIN a right relationship with God, and with my brothers and sisters in Christ?"*

There are no spiritual exercises to follow in order to be "filled with the Spirit", but everywhere in the New Testament we are given PRACTICAL commands to maintain relationships. Eg Col3:12-17 ..... (see also Rom12:9-21; Eph3:14-4:3, 4:22-5:16)

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him

Romans 12:1-3 seem to contain 3 basic commitments that produce a consistent Christian life.

A commitment of the :

1. HEART : "Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice"

2. MIND : "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind"

3. WILL : "Then you may be able to test and approve what God's will is"

This is not a "one-off" act, but an ongoing discipline without which the Christian life will not grow and the Spirit can not fill us with his power and life.