

“Enjoying the Abundant Life of Jesus: Spirit-Filled Life”

Our Role Model

Have you ever wondered how Jesus performed miracles?

- Many Christians would be quick to assume he did it because he's God (cf. Colossians 1:15, 2:9).
- But Jesus chose to live a fully human life by not relying on his deity. He voluntarily surrendered the right to exercise his divine attributes, so he could experience the limitations of his human nature.
- Answer: Jesus performed miracles by the power of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 12:28. See also John 1:32; Matthew 4:1; Luke 4:14, 18-19). He was anointed by the Spirit to fulfill his mission, and he lived in constant dependence on the Spirit. Because of that he is our role model for life and ministry.

Baptism vs. Filling

	Baptism of Spirit (1 Cor. 12:13)	Filling of Spirit (Eph. 5:18)
When?	At moment of regeneration	Any time starting with regeneration
How often?	Single event	Ongoing process
Commanded?	No	Yes

4 Characteristics of a Spirit-Filled Life

1. Surrender

If a person is not “filled” with the Spirit, does that mean they are lacking some of the Spirit and need to get more of him?

- No. The Holy Spirit is a Person; it's not possible to have *some* of him or *part* of him.
- If we have the Holy Spirit, we have all of the Holy Spirit.
- The issue is not how much of the Spirit we have... but how much the Spirit has of us.
- When believers are filled with the Spirit, they don't get more of the Spirit, the Spirit gets more of them.

2. Obedience

These passages deal with divine guidance and direction:

- Led by the Spirit (Galatians 5:18, Romans 8:14)
- Walk by the Spirit (Galatians 5:16)
- Keep in step with the Spirit (Galatians 5:25)

Sometimes the Holy Spirit speaks to us personally and directly (e.g. Acts 8:29, 10:19-20, 13:2).

Normally the Holy Spirit speaks to us through God's word, which is the only infallible source of divine revelation we have (cf. John 16:13).

Either way, the Holy Spirit leads, and we follow.

3. Power

The Christian life is not hard, it's impossible. We can't succeed in our own strength.

Experiencing God's strength doesn't mean he takes away our weakness. Often his strength is magnified and displayed through our weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9).

God promises he will always give us the power to accomplish his will (Acts 1:8; Ephesians 6:10; Philippians 4:13; Isaiah 40:29; 2 Peter 1:3).

4. Purity

There is a battle raging inside of us between two opposite sets of desires. But the desires of the Spirit are greater than the desires of the flesh (Galatians 5:16-25). We no longer have to sin.

Two primary ways we block the filling of the Spirit in our lives:

- Grieving the Spirit: doing what is wrong (Ephesians 4:30)
- Quenching the Spirit: failing to do what is right (1 Thessalonians 5:19)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How do you think Jesus was able to perform miracles?
2. What is the difference between the baptism of the Spirit and the filling of the Spirit?
3. What does it look like for a Christian to be led by the Spirit?
4. Are there any areas of your life that you're having trouble surrendering to the control of the Holy Spirit? Please explain.
5. Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit will give us power (Acts 1:8). So why do you think we feel weak so much of the time?
6. What is the difference between grieving the Spirit and quenching the Spirit?