

- Last week, we started talking about our need, as followers of Jesus, to be filled with the Holy Spirit ... We said that when one believes in and receives Jesus Christ as their Savior, the Spirit of God immediately takes up permanent residence within them ... He unites that person to Christ, and He unites that person to the Body of Christ ... They are a Spirit-indwelt follower of Jesus ... So then, a Christian should not ever question, “Does the Spirit live in me” ... The question we should wrestle with, as followers of Jesus, is this, “Does the Spirit control all of me” ... Meaning, am I relying on the Spirit to guide me; am I relying on the Spirit to change my attitude towards others; am I relying on the Spirit to heal the wounds that I am holding onto; am I relying on the Spirit to help me be the husband that my wife deserves, and the father that my kids need; am I trusting the Holy Spirit with every area of my life, or am I still withholding certain areas from Him because I’m not yet ready to make that jump
- The words of Paul are as important and needed for us today as they were back in the 1st Century ... Verb **be filled** is a command to be obeyed – it’s not given to you and me as being optional ... Paul meant it as a command; more, the Holy Spirit, who inspired Paul to write the words, meant it as a command ... Verb **be filled** is a present tense, a continuous action, and so should be evident in a Christian’s life ... Verb **be filled** is plural; it is the privilege of every Christian – the Spirit means to infuse every person and every relationship ... Verb **be filled** is passive; you receive the Spirit’s filling ... The Spirit filling us, Him empowering us, Him leading us, Him changing us, is always an act of sovereign grace, and not something you or I receive because we’ve earned it ... Yet, we are to intentionally foster our relationship with the Spirit, which entails us making a habit of experiencing His filling
- As we’ve said before, it is hard at times comprehending the Holy Spirit of God, His presence in our lives, and how we are to have a relationship with Him ... How does one have a relationship with a Spirit? ... He’s not like Casper; He is God, He is a Person of the Trinity ... Though we cannot see Him, He does provide visible evidence of His presence and work in our life ... **Storms, p178** ... Transferring files from one computer to another – no wires, just data moving in the air: word documents, music, pictures, videos ... It’s not something that I easily understand, but I believe it happens and I’ve witnessed it working ... So it is with us understanding the Spirit ... Faith doesn’t mean I have every detail figured out ... Faith is being OK with mystery and unanswered questions, in hand with a confident trust in the testimony of God’s Word and the witness of seeing the Spirit at work all around me
- To help us better understand the phrase, **be filled with the Spirit**, I want to borrow from a message I heard this week on this topic ... The word used for **Spirit** here is **pneuma**, a word used for **breath, wind, spirit**; context determines ... Paul could have easily said, **be filled with the breath, be filled with the wind** ... A flute is a simple instrument made of metal, until taken up by a musician and breathed into ... When filled with breath, a flute comes alive with music ... Songs and melodies are created, and others are able to enjoy the sound being played ... A sailboat is fully utilized when the sail is filled with wind, and the boat moves along towards the destination ... The wind and the sail work together, with the sail following the lead of the wind ... What’s a flute without breath ... Or a sailboat without wind
 - Being filled with the Spirit is both seeking His power and responding to the move of His power ... It’s for us both an experience and a habit ... Seeing where the wind is blowing, you hoist the sail in that direction to catch the wind ... Hearing the notes being played, you pick up the instrument to play what you’re hearing
- We are to intentionally foster our relationship with the Spirit, meaning you and I are to make a habit of experiencing His presence and control and power in our lives ... How? ... **C.A.L.L. ... R.E.A.D. ... Worship**
- **C – Come to Jesus** ... **Jo7:37-39** ... Invitation fulfills the words of **Is55:1** ... Resembles: **4:14**, the woman at the well; **Mat11:28-30**, those who are weary ... Reference to the Spirit and people receiving Him by way of believing in Jesus
 - Your need for Jesus qualifies you to come and to go deeper ... Jesus doesn’t speak of a one-time event, but a continual coming to Him and a continual drinking of the Spirit from Him (being filled with the Spirit) ... Why? Because this world leaves us thirsty; it does not satisfy our deepest longings ... God does

- Once you have truly tasted the refreshing, satisfying, greatness of God, the search to find something better becomes obsolete ... You continue to come to Jesus not because you're empty, but because you want more (you need more) of what He provides, what the Spirit provides ... The streams within are not just for you, but also for those in your family, your friends, your co-workers, your neighbors
- **A – Ask in faith** ... [Lu11:13](#) ... Reference is praying – believing God is sufficient to provide, God will provide with His best ... Our asking is always in faith – simple faith ... **Asking, seeking, knocking** is not a sign of doubt, but a proof of our faith
 - Parallel verse [Mat7:11](#) – God gives good things ... Everything He gives is for our good and benefit ... God's best for us is Himself, and this He gives by way of the Holy Spirit ... His giving is in proportion to our asking
- **L – Lean on Him** ... [Lu4:1, 14](#) ... Jesus was dependent on the Holy Spirit filling Him, empowering Him, and leading Him ... The Spirit of God worked mightily and supernaturally through the Son of God, who took on human likeness ... How Jesus depended upon the Spirit is how you and I are to depend upon the Spirit
 - He does not keep us from experiencing trials, but He does enable us to endure trials ... He will never steer us into something that He cannot rescue us from ... We will never be in a situation that is beyond the power and control of the Spirit ... Where we are, He is always present with us
- **L – Listen to Him** ... [Gal5:25](#) ... Impossible to walk in step with someone and be going opposite directions ... We cannot get to where we want to be, and need to be, without yielding ourselves to the instruction and leading of the Holy Spirit within us ... He will call you to give up things you don't want to, but you need to ... He will call you to lay aside your will and to take up His will ... He will teach you through the scriptures ... He will push you beyond your comfort zone ... He will do whatever is necessary to form the likeness of Christ in you and through you ... He does this in partnership (fellowship) with us ... [Ps86:11](#), **"Teach me Your way, Lord, and I will live by Your truth. Give me an undivided mind to fear Your name"** – this becomes our prayer and desire