

Introduction



His Person



His Works



His Indwelling



His Baptizing



His Sealing



His Filling

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His Gifting



His Helping



The Holy Spirit—Our Helper

Bethany Bible Church, Adult Sunday School Class, December 11, 2011

Results of The Spirit’s Filling (Part 1)

“To understand the results of the fullness of the Spirit, in their entirety, every field of the spiritual life must be taken into consideration, for there is none which will not come under His influence.”¹

So far, we’ve talked about the character of the Spirit’s filling, and the necessary conditions for the believer to enjoy it. And now, we consider the consequences of His filling. But it’s important, at the beginning, to establish what is *not* a consequence of the Spirit’s filling. The Holy Spirit’s ministry of filling the believer does not--in any way--bring about a change in that believer’s spiritual position before God.²

As we’ve already seen, there are certain works of the Holy Spirit that are “non-experiential”--that is, works that the Spirit does that occur whether or not the believer “knows” or “feels”--that they have occurred--that have to do with that believer’s position in Christ. The Spirit’s work of “regenerating”, for example, causes a man or woman to be “born-again”; and results in their being enabled by God’s grace to believe on Jesus. The Spirit’s work of “indwelling” means that He takes up permanent residence in the believer. His work of “baptizing” places the believer in Christ and in the church. His work of “sealing” secures the believer in that into which He baptizes them. These all have to do with the believer’s standing or position; and they are all perfect and complete works at the time the Spirit does them. They give the weakest and most ignorant believer exactly the same standing in Christ--from the moment he or she believes--as the strongest and most mature Christian.

But the Spirit’s ministry of “filling” the believer *is* experiential, and has to do with the believer’s active state and daily walk in Christ *in* that spiritual standing. And because this is a work in which the believer knowingly and obediently cooperates with the Holy Spirit, it is a work that is ongoing and in which the believer continually progresses. C.I. Scofield wrote; “. . . The divine order, under grace, is first to give the believer the highest possible standing, and then to exhort the believer to maintain a state in accordance therewith. The beggar is lifted up from the dunghill and set among princes (1 Samuel 2:8), and then exhorted to be princely.”³ It is by the filling of the Spirit that the Christian is enabled to behave like what he or she is in Christ.

What, then, *are* some of the consequences of the Spirit’s filling?

I. PERSONAL HOLINESS THAT’S IN KEEPING WITH GOD’S LAW.

In his letter to the Galatians, the apostle Paul was dealing with the problem of believers who were losing their confidence in the sufficiency of Christ, and were trying to achieve righteousness before God on the basis of the law. But their efforts in the flesh could never lead to the sort of practical righteousness before God that they sought. To correct their error, he urged his fellow believers to let themselves be led by the Holy Spirit. “I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law” (Galatians 5:16-18).⁴ To “walk” in the Spirit meant to rely upon the Holy Spirit and to place one’s feet where He led. And because the Holy Spirit will never lead anyone contrary to God’s will, He will always lead us in a way that is in perfect keeping with God’s holy standards in His word.

II. THE FRUIT OF CHRIST-LIKE CHARACTER.

As we read on in Paul's letter to the Galatians, we find that He lists the grievous fruit that would result from a walk in the flesh. And by contrast, he says, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law" (Galatians 5:22-23). Note that there are not nine different fruits that are being described; but rather one single fruit with nine qualities. All of these different qualities give us a complete picture of the character of Jesus Himself. Our Savior, as He walked on this earth, displayed perfect love to us by giving Himself for us on the cross; and He said to us, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another" (John 14:34). He experienced perfect joy; and said to us, "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full" (John 15:11). He experienced perfect peace; and told us, "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you . . ." (John 14:27). The Bible entrusts us to "the patience of Christ" (2 Thessalonians 3:5); reminds us of the riches of God's "kindness toward us in Christ Jesus" (Ephesians 2:7); and encourages us that the good work God has begun in us will find its completion in "the day of Jesus Christ" (Philippians 1:6). The Bible presents Jesus to us as one who is "faithful and true" (Revelations 19:11); one who, though in the form of God, "humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross" (Philippians 2:8); one who displayed self-control in that He, "for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross" (Hebrews 12:2); and in the midst of His anguish in the garden, prayed to the Father and said, "Your will be done" (Matthew 26:42). For us to allow the Holy Spirit to display His fruit in us, then, is nothing less than letting the perfect qualities of our Lord Jesus being displayed in us. It's to allow the Holy Spirit to live the very life of Jesus in us and through us.

III. PREVAILING HAPPINESS AND CONTENTMENT.

Jesus Himself established the promise of complete satisfaction and fulfillment through the Spirit to us. During the last great day of the feast in Jerusalem, He publically cried out, "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water" (John 7:38). And we're told by the apostle John, "But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive" (v. 39). The indwelling Spirit that Jesus promised to give would result in a satisfaction that nothing else on this earth could provide; because, as He told the woman at the well, "whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life" (John 4:14). Thus, He could say, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst" (John 6:35); and could say of those who trusted Him, "I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). It's why the psalmist could write, "There is a river whose streams shall make glad the city of God" (Psalm 46:4). It's why--even in a prison cell--Paul could say, "I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:11-13). It's why Peter could say that, though not seeing Christ right now, "yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory" (1 Peter 1:8). It's why John could write a letter to his fellow believers about fellowship with Christ, and say that it's "that your joy may be full" (1 John 1:4).

¹Rene Pache, J.D. Emerson, trans., *The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1954), p. 133).

²See Merrill F. Unger, *The Baptizing Work of the Holy Spirit* (Wheaton, IL: Van Kampen Press, 1953), pp. 17-18.

³Cited in Unger, p. 18.

⁴All Scripture readings are taken from *the Holy Bible, New King James Version*; copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc.