

BAPTISM & FULLNESS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

*“And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be **filled with the Spirit,**”*

Ephesians 5:18

There are two words that we need to define one is **baptism**: immersion into water, to purification or cleansing; identification with. *Synonyms*: immersion, purification, beginning, dedication, initiation, introduction, rite of passage. The second is **fullness**: the quality or state of being full; containing all that possibly can be placed or put in. *Synonyms*: brimming over, furnishing, replenishment, satisfaction, saturation.

It seems that the last 200 years or so have led to a lot of confusion concerning the ministry of the Holy Spirit personally working in our lives. There have been hundreds of books written with a large variety of conclusions. My desire is not to prove one point or another, but just to show the disciple the importance of walking in the anointing and power of the Holy Spirit daily in our lives (Gal 5:16:25). What you need to be clear on is whether or not you have a personal relationship with the Holy Spirit in your life. If you do, keep building that relationship, and if you are not sure or do not, it is time to cross this bridge and allow God to baptize and fill you with His presence (Acts 8:15, 11:16).

It is important to realize that you cannot be full of two different things at the same time. If you have more than one thing in your cup, something becomes diluted. What is in your cup? It can be the world, your own selfishness or God’s Holy Spirit. What is poured in is what will come out? We are warned that fresh water and saltwater cannot come out of the same spring (James 3:12). Having been identified with Christ’s death and resurrection and placed into the body of Christ by the baptism of the Holy Spirit (Rom 6:3-4; Eph 1:13-14; I John 4:13), we are also to be daily filled by the Holy Spirit by yielding ourselves to Him in obedience. The Greek word here means, to make full. One author state, *“The Greek present tense is used to indicate that the filling of the Spirit is not a once-for-all experience. Repeatedly, as the occasion requires, the Spirit empowers for worship, service and testimony”*. (NASB Study notes. p.1725) Again the word filled describes a continuous tense: “being filled” which is done by yielding to Him continuously (Eph 5:18).

We need to understand what baptizing and filling picture for us. The first is washing or covering over (dying to self and being covered in Christ righteousness), and the second is a pouring in and filling up. The question we need to ask ourselves is simple: have we by faith in Christ been washed and cleaned by God’s Holy Spirit, and are we now allowing Christ to continuously fill us with the Holy Spirit? It is important to hear what Scripture says, not what men teach. God’s Word is our authority, and our salvation rests on our having God’s Spirit by faith in Christ.

We are like a cup that the Holy Spirit wants to fill up. We are a container that can house His presence, and as we move from place, to place He moves with us. We should not be satisfied with a drop in the bottom of the cup, but we should desire to be running over. The Holy Spirit

wants us to have an abundance of His blessing and power. Just as water can quench our thirst, the Holy Spirit can also meet our needs.

The purpose of the fullness of the Holy Spirit is so that He can comfort, teach, give direction, empower, and give us boldness and faith to serve God. Without Him we can do nothing, and what we do will be done in our own ability and strength, which we are told it is like filthy rags (Isa 64:6). We need to let go and let God do all the work in and through our lives.

There is much discussion on what the evidence should be concerning the power of the Holy Spirit in one's life. Some say it is certain gifts, but I would argue that it should be first the fruit of the Spirit as Paul taught the Galatian church (Gal 5:22-23). All, service must come from a heart full of the Holy Spirit, and the evidence of that is the fruit which is what Jesus commands us to look for (Matt 7:16; John 15:16). In addition, the gifts are given as He desires for ministry in the church and out to the world. The key is not all kinds of formulas or timelines. It just simply boils down to whether we are or are not filled and covered over by God's Spirit. Have I died to self (1 Cor 15:36) and does He now reign totally and completely in my life so that others see it?

When our lives have been emptied of the world it is very important that we be filled by the Holy Spirit. Our temple is not to be empty but full of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 3:16; 2 Cor 6:16). You might think that I am trying to avoid some thorny issue. My goal is not to fill my time with arguments, but to see people anointed and empowered by God, going out into the harvest field where they are greatly needed Matt (9:35-38). We are filling up our time and lives with so much of the world and other things that we have no time for service. We also need to see that God is not going to give us something to keep just for ourselves. The Holy Spirit is like water that needs to be poured in and flow out so that you will not become stagnant (John 4:10, 7:38; 1 Cor 3:6). It is like the manna in times of old (Ex 16:4-5): we must go to the source each day and collect from God what is needed. That's why Paul teaches us the importance of being filled daily (Eph 5:18).

Related Scriptures:

Matthew 3:11; Luke 1:67; Luke 4:1; Acts 1:5-8; Acts 4:8; Acts 4:31; Acts 6:3; Acts 7:55; Acts 11:24; Acts 13:9; Acts 19:4; Romans 6:3-4; Ephesians 1:13-23; I John 4:13; I Corinthians 6:19