

The Spirit-Filled Life

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Galatians 5:13-16 (NLT)

For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love. For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." But if you are always biting and devouring one another, watch out! Beware of destroying one another. So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves.

Acts 3:1-11 (NLT)

Peter and John went to the Temple one afternoon to take part in the three o'clock prayer service. As they approached the Temple, a man lame from birth was being carried in. Each day he was put beside the Temple gate, the one called the Beautiful Gate, so he could beg from the people going into the Temple. When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for some money. Peter and John looked at him intently, and Peter said, "Look at us!" The lame man looked at them eagerly, expecting some money. But Peter said, "I don't have any silver or gold for you. But I'll give you what I have. In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, get up and walk!" Then Peter took the lame man by the right hand and helped him up. And as he did, the man's feet and ankles were instantly healed and strengthened. He jumped up, stood on his feet, and began to walk! Then, walking, leaping, and praising God, he went into the Temple with them. All the people saw him walking and heard him praising God. When they realized he was the lame beggar they had seen so often at the Beautiful Gate, they were absolutely astounded! They all rushed out in amazement to Solomon's Colonnade, where the man was holding tightly to Peter and John.

Acts 2:1-4 (NLT)

On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability.

Filled (Acts 2:2) – πλήρης (pleres): This is an adjective that means "full" or "complete." It describes a state of fullness, lacking nothing.

Filled (Acts 2:4) - πληρόω (pimplēmi): This verb means "to fill" or "to make full." It often refers to the act of filling something to capacity or completing something.

Ephesians 1:19-23 (NLT)

I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms. Now he is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else—not only in this world but also in the world to come. God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made him head over all things for the benefit of the church. And the church is his body; it is made full and complete by Christ, who fills all things everywhere with himself.

2 Timothy 3:5 (NLT)

They will act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly. Stay away from people like that!

Ephesians 5:18 (NLT)

Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Luke 11:5-13 (NLT)

Then, teaching them more about prayer, he used this story: “Suppose you went to a friend’s house at midnight, wanting to borrow three loaves of bread. You say to him, ‘A friend of mine has just arrived for a visit, and I have nothing for him to eat.’ And suppose he calls out from his bedroom, ‘Don’t bother me. The door is locked for the night, and my family and I are all in bed. I can’t help you.’ But I tell you this—though he won’t do it for friendship’s sake, if you keep knocking long enough, he will get up and give you whatever you need because of your shameless persistence. “And so I tell you, keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. “You fathers—if your children ask for a fish, do you give them a snake instead? Or if they ask for an egg, do you give them a scorpion? Of course not! So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him.”

Two types of Greek words for “ask” in Scripture:

Aiteo: to ask for, to demand, to plead for with expectation of a reply. The focus is on the object asked for.

Erotao: to ask a question; more intimate and less self-serving. The focus is on the person you ask.

1 John 5:14-15 (NLT)

And we are confident that he hears us whenever we ask for anything that pleases him. And since we know he hears us when we make our requests, we also know that he will give us what we ask for.

Hebrews 4:16 (NLT)

So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.

- 1. The Spirit-Filled Life is marked by confidence as we regularly ask Holy Spirit to fill us.**
- 2. The Spirit-Filled Life is marked by internal transformation as we relationally seek the person and presence of Holy Spirit.**
- 3. The Spirit-Filled Life is marked by a strong sense of purpose in God's Kingdom, compelling us to love and serve one another wholeheartedly.**

Spirit-Filled & Biblically Directed

God gives Holy Spirit as a gift to those who ask, and we boldly ask for him and his continual filling, recognizing that life with Holy Spirit is a fully-empowered one. We remain grounded in him and in God's word, trusting him to instruct, guide, encourage, and equip us to accomplish all we are called to.

Small Group Guide: The Spirit-Filled Life

Opening Question

The way to the good life, for this world and the next, is a life formed and transformed by the Spirit. N.T. Wright, After You Believe

What's one way you've seen the Holy Spirit forming or transforming your life recently—either in how you live now or in how you're being prepared for what's ahead?

Living by the Spirit

When we put our faith in Jesus, we are made new—righteous, justified, and born again. But God also gives us His Spirit to fill us with power for daily living. Holy Spirit doesn't just help us with big spiritual moments; He is our daily guide, encourager, and source of strength.

To be filled with the Holy Spirit means we allow His presence to shape the way we think, speak, and live. This filling goes beyond a one-time experience. Scripture calls us to be continually Holy-Spirit-filled so we can stay in step with God and remain spiritually strong (Ephesians 5:18).

Think of the lame man in Acts 3. He had never walked before, but through the name of Jesus and the power of the Spirit, he stood, walked, and leapt in praise. In the same way, Holy Spirit enables us to walk in new ways—free from sin, full of love, and with a boldness that reflects Jesus. He transforms us in ways we could never accomplish on our own.

When we let the Holy Spirit fill us and lead us, our lives begin to reflect God's heart and power in every area—our relationships, our decisions, and our purpose.

For Discussion

1. **Read Galatians 5:13–16.** What does Paul say freedom is for? How does Holy Spirit help you live that out?
2. In Acts 3, the lame man receives healing and walks for the first time. What area of your life has Holy Spirit strengthened—or is currently strengthening—so you can “walk” in freedom?
3. Holy Spirit leads us into new ways of living. What area of your life is He leading you to grow in—relationships, decisions, parenting, work?
4. What does being filled with the Holy Spirit look like in your everyday life? How do you know when you’re walking in His strength versus your own?
5. The message described the Spirit-filled life as making us “unrecognizable” because of the change within. Can you identify ways you’ve changed since walking with Holy Spirit?

Activation: Invite a Fresh Filling

Take a few minutes to pray for each other to receive a fresh filling of the Holy Spirit. Get into groups of two or three. Take turns praying over each person, asking Holy Spirit to fill them with His presence, strengthen them in areas of weakness, and empower them for what they are walking through.