



# What Does It Mean To Be Filled With The Spirit?

## Relying On The Holy Spirit In The Day-To-Day

*Being filled with the Holy Spirit is so much more than a one-time occurrence. We need to rely on the Holy Spirit more and more every single day, both in our own lives and in our ministry to others. This resource talks about what it means to be continuously filled with more of the Holy Spirit. It is a little bit of a language lesson, but when taken to heart it will be powerful you on your spiritual walk.*

### Looking at the Greek: What Paul was really talking about when he said “Be filled with the Spirit”

Ephesians 5:18: “Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, *be filled with the Spirit*, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit.”

The Greek word for “be filled” is **plerousthe**, which is the present passive imperative second plural of the Greek word **pleroo**.

According to Dr. Gary M. Gulan, there are four huge reasons that Paul’s words here are vital to our understanding of how we should live in the Spirit and that the English translations are terribly weak or even wrong.

**Reason #1:** The root word **pleroo** means “to fill full,” which means “to occupy every place.” This reveals control over our whole being. As a Christian, our life should be completely controlled and full of the Holy Spirit.

(Note for the leader: If appropriate, refer back to areas of struggle in your student’s life.)

**Which areas of your life do you feel that you are letting the Holy Spirit work or have control in your life?**

**Which areas of your life do you feel that you need to allow and trust the Holy Spirit to be in control more?**

Acts 4:31 says, “*After this prayer, the meeting place shook, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. Then they preached the word of God with boldness.*” The Holy Spirit will help you with boldness in your leading of others. You will be better and unafraid to minister to others if you have more of the Holy Spirit in your life!

### How do you think that you let the Holy Spirit have control of your life?

1. You have to know what the Bible says. The Holy Spirit’s job and words to us are always to reveal who Jesus is and what He wants to say to us.
2. Pray the dangerous prayer of “God grow your Fruits of the Spirit in my life.” Ask God to change you and help you trust Him more.
3. You should eagerly desire allowing the Spirit to be in control. 1 Corinthians 14:1 says “*Let love be your highest goal! But you should also desire the special abilities the Spirit gives.*” Ask Him to help you give Him more control, and talk to others who have experienced it.

**Reason #2:** The word **plerousthe** is in the present tense which means “continuous,” or “moment-by-moment.” This *filling of the Spirit* is a continual activity.

### How do you think the Spirit continually fills us?

There are many different answers, but some include:

- By giving us new mercy every day (Lam. 3:22-23).
- Speaks to us if we spend time intentionally listening for Him to speak. Speaks to others to help us as we learn to hear Him.
- He strengthens us and helps us to resist and stand firm in the midst of testing and tempting if we are obedient to Him.



- He grows the Fruits of the Spirit in our lives the more obedient we are to Him. As we feel His love in our lives, we are more likely to love others better.

**Reason #3:** The word **plerousthe** is in the passive voice, which means that being filled is something done to us, not something we do to ourselves. This reveals that it is not a manufactured experience from within or something that we are starting on our own. We didn't start it and we must allow Him to fill us.

#### **How do allow Him to fill us?**

We have to ask and trust. Trust is hard, but it gets easier the more and more that we do it. These simple concepts are the game changers! The Holy Spirit is waiting for us to seek Him, and God promises that we will find Him (Jer. 29:13). If we knock, He will open the door to His love, peace, joy, wisdom, miracles, and so much more.

**Reason #4:** The word **plerousthe** is in the imperative mood, which means "it is commanded that this be done." This shows that Paul is urging his readers to continue in the same course that they began. The idea of always remaining filled is seen here.

#### **When we are commanded to do something in Scripture, how should we respond?**

We should listen and obey! If we want more, then we have to obey. Obedience to God shows Him we love Him, and His response to our love is so much greater than anything we can imagine.

Paul does not give Christians a choice in how we should live and how we should be seeking the Holy Spirit in our daily lives. Jesus says that it is better for the Holy Spirit to be with us on a daily basis than for Him to be here with us physically. This is a really big deal, and we cannot ignore this command. We *have to* eagerly desire more of the Holy Spirit in our life.

**Close in prayer, and pray that the Holy Spirit would fill their whole life and fill them up every single day!**