

Are You *Being* Filled with the Spirit?

Sometimes we think of the Spirit like a commodity: We want more of the Spirit. But the issue isn't how much of the Spirit we have; it's how much of *us* the Spirit has! Being filled with the Spirit isn't an event or an experience; it's a process. Is the Spirit filling you?

Two Kinds of Filling with the Spirit

- **Special Filling** – Greek: *πίμπλημι* (*pimplaymi*)
Lk. 1.15, 41, 67; Acts 2.4; 4.8, 31; 9.17; 13.9
 A sovereign work of God; the HS empowers for special service (prophecy).
 Conditions: None
 Definition: “He was filled” means “He was inspired”
 Description: An instantaneous, sudden event, evidenced by inspired speech.
- **Normal Filling** – Greek: *πληρόω* (*playra-o*)
Lk. 4.1; Acts 6.3, 5; 7.55; 11.24; 13.52; Eph. 5.18
 A work of God in which the HS leads a believer to live a godly life.
 Conditions: Yes
 Definition: “He is filled” means “He is spiritual”
 Description: An abiding, continuous state, evidenced by fruit of the Spirit.



God's Command for Every Believer Today

- Key Verse: Ephesians 5.18
And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit...
- Main Idea in the filling of the Spirit: _____

(continued on other side)



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Some important applications:

- It's a process, not a position!
- Some are more 'filled' than others.
- No formulas, short-cuts, or gimmicks
- Not 'all or nothing'

How can I be *being* filled?

- God's Word: *Read it, meditate on it, submit to it*

Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you... (Col. 3.16)

- Give it Time: *Practice, endurance* (see Heb. 5.11-14; 12.1-2)

What will show I am being filled?

- The fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5.22-23)
- Christlikeness, contribution to the body of Christ (Eph. 5.19-21)

Digging Deeper

1. Develop your own understanding of the two different kinds of 'filling of the Spirit' in Scripture by looking up each Bible verse that uses the Greek words (listed on the other side). Knowing the difference can help you avoid practices that not only do not help your Christian walk, but may even hurt it.
2. Being filled with the Spirit *is* a progressive, life-changing goal for the Christian life, which can and will affect every area of our lives if we let it. The key here is us *submitting to the Spirit*. Read Ephesians 5.15-6.21. What relationships will submitting to the Spirit affect in our lives? How? Ultimately, our struggle is against 'the schemes of the devil' (6.11), who wants to ruin our lives. What effect will the progressive filling of the Spirit have on this ongoing spiritual battle in our lives?