

How Are We Filled With The Holy Spirit?

Before we read this study we need to read and acknowledge that we are fully prepared to be filled by the Holy Spirit.

See our Five Minute Study entitled '*Are We Ready To Receive The Holy Spirit?*'

To be filled with the Holy Spirit follows a total surrender to our Creator God.

Romans 12:1-3 [Message Bible] *“So here’s what I want you to do, God helping you: **Take your everyday, ordinary life, your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life, and place it before God as an offering.** Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don’t become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, **fix your attention on God. You’ll be changed from the inside out.** Readily recognise what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you. I’m speaking to you out of deep gratitude for all that God has given me, and especially as I have responsibilities in relation to you. Living then, as every one of you does, in pure grace, it’s important that you not misinterpret yourselves as people who are bringing this goodness to God. No, God brings it all to you. **The only accurate way to understand ourselves is by what God is and by what he does for us, not by what we are and what we do for him.**”*

God will not fill what He cannot own.

Are we willing to take this **first step**?

This is a total surrender of life, our mind, our personality, our spirit, our love, our ambitions, our all!

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 [NIV] *“Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honour God with your body.”*

As a Christian we are owned by Jesus Christ who purchased us by His blood sacrifice.

Second step is to ask for the special **active presence** of the Holy Spirit.

Luke 11:13 [NIV] *“If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”*

God could have chosen to give us the special presence of the Holy Spirit without our asking but here He tells us to ask, so we go ahead and obediently ask.

This leads us directly into the **third step**.

Acts 5:32 [NIV] *“We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has **given to those who obey him.**”*

God only gives the Holy Spirit to those who obey Him.

That is to simply live by His Word, the Holy Bible [the '**Handbook for Life**'] as the Holy Spirit reveals them to you.

Simple but revolutionary.

The **fourth step** is to have faith in God and His Promises.

Galatians 3:2 [New Jerusalem Bible] *“There is only one thing I should like you to tell me; how was it you received the Holy Spirit, was it by the practice of the law [our own efforts], or by believing in the message you heard?”*

We receive the full measure of the gift of the Holy Spirit in the same way as we receive our salvation, by faith.

John 14:15-18 [NIV] *“If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you for ever, the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.”*

The three stages of this journey of faith with the Holy Spirit are:-

- a) **Know** – experience influence of Holy Spirit as He convicts us of sin.
- b) **Walk** – the Holy Spirit leads us into the knowledge of a new way of life by opening our minds to the Word of God.
- c) **Surrender** – we surrender our bodies, minds, life and heart to the Holy Spirit.

Only then can we become a *“temple”* – dwelling place for the Holy Spirit.

When we make this final decision of total surrender to the Holy Spirit, *“hold tight”* for your life will *“take off”* with unlimited power from God who will be driving it.

John 10:10 [Message Bible] *“... I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of.”*

Jesus Christ comes into our lives through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, this is how we receive the abundant life He promised all His disciples.

The choice for this to happen to us individually is ours to make!