

# How Do We Live A Spirit-Filled Life?

## Notes

September 23, 2013

Paul is expressing a common human problem in Romans:

*For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right but not the ability to carry it out.* *Romans 7:15-18*

We have the desire to do what is right but not the ability to carry it out. We try and we fail. So we give up.

But the exhausting life can be replaced by the exchanged life, which is the idea that God has made no provision for you to live the Christian life. You're not supposed to *be* a good Christian. But the power for the Christian life is not you. The power for the Christian life is Christ in you, the hope of glory. It's Jesus Christ raised from the dead by his Holy Spirit living his life through you. It's not you being more loving; it's you cooperating with Jesus Christ's desire to love people through you. It's more about resignation and surrender than it is about volition or conscious active choosing on your part. The primary thing is Christ in you.

*Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!" The amazing provision is through Jesus Christ our Lord!* *Romans 7:25*

The power is Christ *in* us. We actually only have to do one thing—at every moment resign our mind, emotions, and will to Jesus Christ in us. Christ in us is the hope of glory. Seek the exchanged life.

*Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God. You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness.* *Romans 8:1-10*

All who have repented of their sin and embraced Christ by faith have the Holy Spirit in them. This is called the empowered life, life in the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 5:18 - "...be filled with the Spirit"

- "**continually**" - it is to keep happening
- "**plural**" - for every believer, not a select few
- "**pleroostha**" - filled, controlled, intoxicated, permeated, thoroughly influenced

Illustration: a glove - When you are washed clean by the blood of Christ, you are like a glove. A glove can't do anything on its own without being totally filled by a hand. The hand does all of the work. The Holy Spirit comes into you and totally permeates you, just like a hand filling a glove.

- **a command** - God doesn't give a lot of suggestions - What we need to ask is, *Does the Holy Spirit get all of me?*

#### **Hindrances to the Spirit's filling:**

- grieving the Holy Spirit - doing things we shouldn't
- quenching the Holy Spirit - not doing things we should

The tragedy in your life and mine is not that we have a bent toward selfishness or sin. The tragedy is that we fail to use the resources God has given us to live a different kind of life, to open ourselves to the infilling of the Holy Spirit.

#### **Acts 5:**

- The sin of Ananias & Saphira wasn't that they didn't give all the proceeds from the sale of their land. It was theirs to dispose of as they pleased.
- The sin was feeling convicted by the Spirit that they should give the proceeds of the sale, but their greed (the flesh) wouldn't let them part with it, so they lied that it was the whole amount.
- How much death do we bring into our lives by not only rejecting the nudgings of the Spirit regarding our giving to God and our financial dealings with others, but then lying to God (and ourselves) about our actions and our motives?

Illustration - Spray-on Mud - There are many expressions of imitation Christianity that we can try to pass off as the real thing. Being filled with the Holy Spirit is allowing ourselves to look like Jesus.

So, do you want to be filled with the Holy Spirit?

- **confess all known sin**

*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9*

- **ask for the filling of the Spirit**

*If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him! Luke 11:13*

- **believe that you have been heard**

*Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. Mark 11:24*