

“Growing 101”

“Introduction to Foundational Principles”

“Experiencing a New Power: Filled by the Spirit”

“Don’t be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life.
Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit,”
Ephesians 5:18

A. God promised and provided that we would have an abundant and fruitful life in Christ...

1. Jesus came that we would have a full life in Christ!
“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” John 10:10
2. Jesus came that we would produce much fruit!
“Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in Me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from Me you can do nothing.” John 15:5
3. Jesus came that the fruit of the Spirit would be evident in our lives.
“But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!”
Galatians 5:22-23
4. Jesus came to give us His power to live this life.
“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you...” Acts 1:8a
5. As a result of the Holy Spirit’s work in us, our life would demonstrate His power in sharing our faith, in our prayer life, in obedience, and in demonstrating the fruit of the Spirit.

B. If God promised all this, why do most Christians not experience this?

1. Many Christians do not experience this because they do not keep on a spiritual pathway of growth.
“But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins.”
2 Peter 1:9
2. Many Christians do not experience this because their spiritual lives are up and down.
“Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it

says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.” James 1:22-24

3. Many Christians do not experience this because the struggle is overpowering!
“I don’t really understand myself, for I want to do what is right, but I don’t do it. Instead, I do what I hate... I love God’s law with all my heart. But there is another power within me that is at war with my mind... Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord...”
Romans 7:15a, 19a, 23, 24b-25a
4. Many Christians do not experience this because they fail to trust Christ for His power and fall back into their old pattern of life.
“Dear brothers and sisters, when I was with you I couldn’t talk to you as I would to spiritual people. I had to talk as though you belonged to this world or as though you were infants in Christ. I had to feed you with milk, not with solid food, because you weren’t ready for anything stronger. And you still aren’t ready, for you are still controlled by your sinful nature. You are jealous of one another and quarrel with each other. Doesn’t that prove you are controlled by your sinful nature? Aren’t you living like people of the world?”
1 Corinthians 3:1-3
5. As a result of all of this, the Christian’s life is filled with unbelief, sin, legalism, aimlessness, worry, discouragement, and lacking love for God and others.

C. Walking in the Spirit...

1. When you are walking in the Spirit, your life will become more and more like Jesus.
“So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like Him as we are changed into His glorious image.”
2 Corinthians 3:18
2. When you are walking in the Spirit, your relationship with Jesus will become more vital.
“For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.”
Hebrews 4:12
3. When you are walking in the Spirit, you will have a greater power to share your faith.
“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be My witnesses...” Acts 1:8a
4. When you are walking in the Spirit, you will have a greater power to resist temptation and sin.

“and His incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength He exerted when He raised Christ from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly realms,” Ephesians 1:19-20

D. The solution...be filled with the Spirit...

1. When we are born again, the Spirit comes to live in our hearts, but He lacks control over our lives.
“They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.” John 1:13
2. To be filled, we first must offer God a clean heart. So, confess your sins to Him.
“If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. But if we confess our sins to Him, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.” 1 John 1:8-9
3. Offer every area of your life to Him.
“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.” Romans 12:1
4. By faith, claim the promise of being filled with the Spirit.
“Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit,” Ephesians 5:18a
“God knows people’s hearts, and He confirmed that He accepts Gentiles by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as He did to us. He made no distinction between us and them, for He cleansed their hearts through faith.” Acts 15:8-9

E. Practice “Spiritual Breathing”...

1. Be alert to the Spirit’s work in your life. When you fail by an act of disobedience, don’t stop...practice “Spiritual Breathing.”
2. Exhale by confessing your sin. Agree with God in His view of sin and thank Him for forgiveness!
“But if we confess our sins to Him, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.” 1 John 1:9
3. Inhale by surrendering control of your life to Christ. By faith, trust God to empower you to a cleaner walk with Him. Thank Him for His power and promises.
“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.” 1 John 5:14-15

Next Week:

“Seeing Adversity from a New Perspective: Suffering”

**A NEW POWER:
HOW TO BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**

Coming to know Christ is the greatest event one can ever experience. The Holy Spirit brings a person to Christ and continues to dwell with that person. However, after conversion, the believer often experiences defeat and fruitlessness. Even though he has the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit does not have all of the believer. It is possible for the believer to be filled with the Holy Spirit and walk in spiritual power.

IN WHAT WAY DO I EXPERIENCE SPIRITUAL DEFEAT?

COMPARE THE LIFE BEFORE BEING FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT AND AFTER BEING FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT:

BEFORE:	AFTER:
1. Little fruit	1. Much fruit
2. Coward	2. Courageous
3.	3.
4.	4.

The New Testament refers to the Holy Spirit nearly 300 times. "Power" is the one word which is continually associated with the Holy Spirit. The process of being filled and controlled by God's Spirit could be explained like this:

What I give Him—He takes
What He takes—He cleanses
What He cleanses—He fills with His Spirit
What He fills—He anoints with His power
What He anoints with His power—
He uses effectively!

Today we will study how the Holy Spirit works in our lives.

I. BEFORE CONVERSION

1. John 16:8 teaches us that the Holy Spirit
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2. How does the Holy Spirit give assurance of salvation?
Romans 8:16
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II. WHEN ONE BECOMES A CHRISTIAN

1. What does John 6:63 say the Holy Spirit does?
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2. How does the Holy Spirit give assurance of salvation?
Romans 8:16
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III. AFTER ONE IS BORN AGAIN

1. Ephesians 4:30 tells us not to
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2. Ephesians 5:18 commands us to
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IV. HOW IS THE FULLNESS OF THE SPIRIT RECEIVED?

1. Ask God to give you the Holy Spirit in His fullness.
Luke 11:13
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2. Yield your whole life to God. Romans 12:1-2
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3. Admit your need for inner cleansing and purity. Acts 15:8-9
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4. Receive the sanctifying Spirit by an act of faith.
1 Thessalonians 5:23-24
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V. AFTER ONE IS FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. In John 14:17, Jesus taught His disciples that the Holy Spirit would come to live with them and be
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2. In John 14:26, Jesus assured His disciples that He would send the Holy Spirit to them
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3. Acts 1:8 shows us that when we receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit we will be endued with _____ and we will be _____

4. Galatians 5:22-25 tells us that the Holy Spirit will be manifested in nine ways:

1. _____ 6. _____
2. _____ 7. _____
3. _____ 8. _____
4. _____ 9. _____
5. _____

5. 1 John 4:4 teaches us that the believer is victorious because
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CHALLENGE: Follow Cornelius' example. Acts 11:15-17

1. Cornelius was a devout and God-fearing man. Acts 10:1
2. Cornelius was obedient. Acts 10:30-33
3. Cornelius received the Holy Spirit. Acts 11:15

QUESTION: Have I been filled with the Holy Spirit?

APPLICATION: Pray to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Dear God,

I need You. I want to be filled with the Holy Spirit. I admit that I have been in control of my life. I thank You for forgiving my sins. I ask You to cleanse me of my sinful nature. Right now, I surrender totally to the Lordship of Christ. All that I am, have, or hope to be, I surrender. I put myself completely in Your hands. I do this now as an act of faith. Please make me clean, and fill me with the Holy Spirit. Thank You for cleansing me, and for taking control of my life. In Jesus' Name. Amen

FOR FURTHER STUDY:

1. Who did Jesus say would give us an overflowing experience?

John 7:38-39

2. Who is our teacher of truth?

John 14:26

3. When does the Holy Spirit begin to work in a person's life?

John 3:5

4. Why were the Corinthians not spirit-filled?

1 Corinthians 3:3

5. What should we do with impure attitudes?

2 Corinthians 7:1

6. How complete does God wish our cleansing to be?

1 Thessalonians 5:23

7. How is my relationship with the Holy Spirit maintained?

Romans 8:4

CONCLUSION: As we have seen in this lesson, God has provided a solution to our emptiness and fruitlessness. It is the fullness of the Holy Spirit. This full surrender to the Lordship of Christ and dynamic filling of the Holy Spirit gives power for witnessing and results in fruitful, effective Christian service.