

The Christian's Racecourse

The Holy Spirit's filling ministry

- I.** The filling ministry of the Holy Spirit is not control of the Christian; it not a mysterious, esoteric concept; it is not a feeling.
 1. “. . . be you all being filled by the Spirit.” (Eph. 5:18).
Therefore:
 - 1) Not every Christian is filled.
 - 2) All Christians have the potential to be filled.
 - 3) Filling is repetitive—happens over and over again.
 - 4) Filling is in the passive voice; however, the Christian is only passive in the sense he cannot fill himself, the Holy Spirit fills him.
 - 5) Spirit filling ministry enables the Christian when facing temptation from spiritual enemies, particularly the sin nature (Ephesians chapter five context).
 - 6) Temptation is in the area thoughts.
- II.** Prerequisites to Spirit filling.
 1. Family relationship to the Father, hence to the Son and Holy Spirit (1 Jn. 1:9 cf. Eph. 4:30).
 2. Desire to please the Father (Phil. 2:13).
 3. Righteous thoughts come from the new nature.
- III.** Thoughts/lusts verses counter thoughts/lusts (Gal. 5:17).
 1. The Holy Spirit fills in the realm of the human spirit.
 2. The Holy Spirit fills in the area of thoughts.
 3. Unrighteous thoughts are in the mind of the flesh (Col. 2:18).
 4. Righteous thoughts are in the mind of Christ (1 Cor. 2:16).
 - 1) The quality of the mind belonging to Christ: potential.
 - 2) The quality of the mind belonging to the Lord: relationship.
 - 3) “Instruct” in KJV should be translated “joined together in purpose.
- IV.** The term filling as used in the New Testament.
 1. Not directly tied to the Holy Spirit at Philippi.
 - 1) Those at Philippi provided physical support for Paul’s ministry (Phil. 1:5; 4:15-17).
 - 2) The physical gift provided what Paul needed to continue his ministry (Phil. 4:17-18).
 - 3) They made up what Paul lacked.
 2. Used of the Holy Spirit (Rom. 15:13).
 - 1) Fills with three facets of the fruit from the Spirit.
 - 2) Believing in the promise that God has a plan (v. 4).
 - 3) Believing that the Spirit will supply strength—the hope.