

## **What Every Christian Ought to Know - Adrian Rogers**

### **How to Be Filled with the Holy Spirit - Chapter 9**

Read Ephesians 5:15-18. At the end of these verses, we are directed to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Rogers uses the example of someone who has never driven before buying a brand new car and doesn't realize that it has an engine in it.

The car becomes a burden because he has to push it instead of driving it until someone shows him how to use it properly. "Vroom" it went when it was started. The Holy Spirit is a power source that is instilled in us when we got saved. The Holy Spirit is the power of a Christian life. We are proud of our Christianity but like the man who didn't understand the power of the engine in the car, we do not understand the power of the Holy Spirit.

If we do not learn to take advantage of the Holy Spirit in our lives, then our Christianity will become a burden. Acts 1:8 tells us, "*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you.*" Not taking advantage of that power is the problem.

#### **The Reasons for the Spirit-Filled Life**

Obedience – Ephesians 5:18 says, "*Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.*" This is not a request, it is a command. We need to be obedient to this command.

James 4:17 says, "*If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them.*" The sin of omission is as bad as the sin of commission. If you are doing what God wants you to do, then you will have less time to do what He has told us not to do.

In the case of Ephesians 5:18, we won't be getting drunk if we are Spirit-filled. Some people do not get drunk but they aren't Spirit-filled either. Rogers points out that people who are not Spirit-filled do more damage to the reputation of a church than drunk people.

Back to Acts 1:8, it says “*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you.*” We do not have the ability to fill ourselves with the Holy Spirit. It is all up to the Holy Spirit to fill us. Ephesians 5:18 says, “*be filled with the Spirit.*” The Holy Spirit is a gift of God.

The second reason for being filled with the Holy Spirit is it is your obligation. You need the power of the Holy Spirit to fill your obligations to God. Back in Acts 1:8, it says that one of our obligations is to be witnesses for Jesus. (He likes ‘w’ for these things.)

**Spirit-Filled in Worship Life** – In John 4:23, Jesus tells us that we are to “*worship the Father in spirit and in truth*”. This is an obligation that we have to God the Father. It means that we should come to worship or church on Sunday prepared to meet God and truly worship.

Rogers says that we should also be spirit-filled in our wedded life. Ephesians 5:25 says “*Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.*” And verse 22 says, “*Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord.*”

We should be Spirit-filled in our work life. The first 5 years of my work life at OC would have been considered this way but after all of the downsizings from 1986-2000, I struggled with it. Read what Paul says about this one in Colossians 3:23-24. We are to work as if we are working for Jesus.

We are to be Spirit-filled in our War Life. Ephesians 6:12 says that we are warring against Satan and his minions and not people. In VBS and our Sunday School study about Satan, we learned that we need to put on the full armor of God in order to defeat Satan. With the help of the Holy Spirit, we can have the attributes of Jesus but we have to be Spirit-filled.

We need to be Spirit-filled in our witness life. In Ephesians 6:19, Paul asks the church at Ephesus to, “*Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel.*” To reach others for Christ, we need the help of the Holy Spirit. Acts 5:32 says, “*And we*

*are witnesses of these things; and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him.” We are witnesses to Jesus’ life-changing power.*

### **Your Opportunities**

Ephesians 5:15-16 tells us to “*15 Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.*” We are to be witnesses for God everywhere we go or to all the people that we meet.

One of the worst feelings is to realize, “I should have told them about Jesus.” A missed opportunity can haunt you. If you truly believe that Jesus is the answer to the world’s problems today, then why not share the solution with those you know and meet?

John 15:5 says that we are connected to Jesus as the vine and without Him, we cannot reach people. “*I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.*” The fruit are those that you help lead to Christ. Without a spirit-filled life, we cannot reach others for Christ.

### **The Requirements of the Spirit-Filled Life.**

We are but a vessel for God to fill with His spirit. The only thing that we can do to be spirit-filled is to be open to God. We don’t have to convince God to be filled, we just need to allow Him to fill us.

Requirement 1. Complete Commitment - You need to fully surrender to the Spirit of God. Don’t forget that the Holy Spirit is a person. Paul in Romans 8:11 says, “*The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.*” The Holy Spirit is a “He”.

When you surrender, then your body is not your own. It is a temple of the Spirit of God. 1 Corinthians 6:19 says, “*Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own.*”

Rogers says, “Think of the Holy Spirit as a person who wants to come and take complete control of your body, which is His temple.”

In the book, “My Heart – Christ’s Home” by Robert Boyd Munger, the reader is taken through the journey as Christ/Holy Spirit moves into your heart. The most difficult part of surrendering to the Holy Spirit is when He wants to move into the room that contains your darkest secrets.

Rogers uses the example of a friend moving into your house with you. You say make yourself at home. The next thing you know he is going through everything in your house. Your bank statements, personal letter, nothing is off limits. You did tell him to make himself at home, what is the problem?

When you invite the Holy Spirit in, He has access to your innermost thoughts, you can’t put limits on what He changes or has access to. In order to communicate with God about you, He has to know everything. Nothing can be out of bounds. That is what it means to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Requirement 2. Continual Control. Ephesians 5:18 says, “*Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.*” When you are drunk, you are under the influence of the wine or the world or Satan. The ways that you think and behave are not under your control usually in a bad way. Quite often you behave in a way that you will regret later.

If you are filled by the Holy Spirit, then you are under God’s influence which affects you in a good way. You will never behave in a way that you will regret.

When you are filled with the Holy Spirit, it is not part of a list of things to be completed. “I accepted Christ, check. I came forward at church, check. I was baptized, check. I was filled with the Holy Spirit, check.” It begins a continuous commitment. You will have to learn to live with Him and learn to yield control over to Him.

Requirement 3. Conscious Claiming. For most people, yielding control of your life requires a lifelong commitment. It is not in our nature to give up control. It is

not based on emotions, it requires a conscious choice, as the hymn says, “I Surrender All.”

John 7:37 records what Jesus said concerning the Holy Spirit. He says, “*If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink.*” John 3:16 uses the word ‘whosoever’ but it is whosoever chooses to drink or be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Earlier I used the example of being an empty vessel to be filled but the vessel does not make the choice. We have to consciously claim to be filled. We consciously claimed salvation, we must do the same with being Spirit-filled.

Finally, if we live a spirit-filled life then there are results. Read Ephesians 5:18-21. Paul tells us that if we are filled with the Holy Spirit, it will change our relationships with God and other people. It will also change how we view or relate to our circumstances.

Guzik says “When we are *filled with the Spirit*, we will have a desire to worship God and to encourage others in their worship of God.” When I look at God’s impact on my life and the things that He has got me through, I want to show Him my love for Him. I want to praise Him.

Throughout the Bible, the Israelites praised God for the exodus from Egypt. Do you have “exoduses” in your life that you want to praise God for? Being Spirit-filled makes you want to praise God for what He has done.

Joy can only come from God. You have joy regardless of your circumstances. It is similar to being happy but you can’t be happy in the bad times, that is joy.

Ephesians 5:20 says, “*always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.*” It says, “*always*” and not just when you feel like it. That is joy. When you are Spirit-filled, you have true joy.

Ephesians 5:21 says, “*Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.*” Being spirit-filled changes your relationship with other people. If we are spirit-filled then we treat others with 1 Corinthians 13 type of love. “*Love is patient, love is kind. It*

*does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.”*

We read these verses at weddings and most people think that this only applies to a married couple but for a Spirit-filled Christian, it applies to their relationship with everyone. We are to have the love of Christ in us. That is what is described in these verses.

Remember when Jesus was asked about which commandment was the most important one, the second most important was to love others as ourselves.