

Full to Overflowing: the Cruciality of Being Spirit-Filled Counselors

Terry Enns





1. What the Filling of the Holy Spirit *Is Not*

- Filling is not a SECOND act of blessing after salvation that produces advanced spirituality
- Filling is not a reference to the INDWELLING of the Holy Spirit
- Filling is not a process of PROGRESSIVELY receiving Him by degrees
- Filling is not the same as the BAPTISM of the Spirit
- Filling is not the same as being SEALED by Him (Eph. 1:13)
- Filling is not a reference to spiritual SIGN GIFTS



2. What the Filling of the Holy Spirit Is (Ephesians 5:18)

- A picture of Spirit-filling: drunkenness
- The meaning of Spirit-filling:
 - To be filled contains the idea of PRESSURE
 - To be filled contains the idea of PERMEATION
 - To be filled contains the idea of DOMINATION and CONTROL



2. What the Filling of the Holy Spirit Is (Ephesians 5:18)

- The circumstances of Spirit-filling:
 - Filling is a COMMAND
 - Filling is NOT done by the believer
 - Filling is done REPEATEDLY
 - Filling is CONDITIONAL
 - We won't be filled by the Spirit when we intentionally engage in SIN (Eph. 4:30)
 - We won't be filled by the Spirit when we intentionally QUENCH His work (1 Thess. 5:19).
 - Being filled by the Spirit is conditioned on our OBEDIENCE to the Spirit.



3. What the Filling of the Holy Spirit Looks Like (Eph. 5:19-21)

- A Spirit-filled believer ENCOURAGES other believers in Christ (v. 19a)
- A Spirit-filled believer REJOICES in the Lord (v. 19b)
- A Spirit-filled believer gives THANKS to God in all things (v. 20)
- A Spirit-filled believer is appropriately SUBMISSIVE (v. 21)



4. How Counselors (and Counselees) are Filled by the Holy Spirit (Col. 3:16-17)

- The believer is to be filled by the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit fills him with SCRIPTURE
- The DEGREE to which we are controlled by the Holy Spirit will be revealed primarily by how much we love and TAKE IN the Word of God



4. How Counselors (and Counselees) are Filled by the Holy Spirit (Col. 3:16-17)

- What is the benefit of taking in the Word (and being filled with the Word, v. 16b-17)?
 - It will give you wisdom and knowledge to TEACH
 - It will give you wisdom to admonish, COUNSEL, and disciple
 - It will give you wisdom to WORSHIP
 - It will give you wisdom to be THANKFUL
 - It will keep you living for God's GLORY (v. 17)



5. Implications for Biblical Counselors

- Counselors need to be filled by the Spirit's Word in the same way counselees should be filled.
- Make specific homework assignments from Scripture:
 - Scripture MEMORY
 - Scripture READING
 - Scripture STUDIES
 - Scripture AUDIO



5. Implications for Biblical Counselors

- Make the connection between what you are reading and how you are living:
 - THINK something renewed
 - Do something renewed
 - Stop doing something “OLD”
 - Regularly EVALUATE how you are doing



5. Implications for Biblical Counselors

- Take a class in Bible study methods/hermeneutics or do a Bible study related to that process
- CONFESS sin quickly and often



“The new birth is the Holy Spirit’s sovereign work (John 3:8). And every aspect of true spiritual growth in the life of the believer is prompted by the Spirit, using the truth of Scripture (17:17). The counselor who misses that point will experience failure, frustration, and discouragement. Only the Holy Spirit can work fundamental changes in the human heart. Therefore, the Holy Spirit is the necessary agent in all effective biblical counseling. The counselor, armed with biblical truth, can offer objective guidance and steps for change. But unless the Holy Spirit is working in the heart of the counselee, any apparent change will be illusory, superficial, or temporary, and the same problems or worse ones will soon reappear.” [John MacArthur]

