

The Holy Spirit

QUICK REFERENCE COUNSELING KEYS Excerpt

Surrendering Control . . .

Just mention the word *control* and people dart for the door! For many, the concept of control is negative. A marriage is damaged if a mate exerts heavy-handed control. Cults are rampant with “mind control”—even to the point of inciting mass suicide. Mind-altering drugs and alcohol can lead people to think they are in control when they are not—when, in fact, the substance is. While many people spend their lives in a quest for control, others have an unhealthy fear of losing control. This human dilemma finds an answer only in God. He wants you to give Him control! By choosing to submit your will to the leading of God’s Holy Spirit, you will have His supernatural peace.

“To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.”
(Romans 8:6)

Q: “What does the filling of the Holy Spirit mean?”

The apostle Paul uses the word *filling* to mean “under the influence of” (in a positive sense), much as you would speak about someone who is intoxicated as being “under the influence of alcohol.” If you were under the influence of wine, your walk . . . your talk . . . your thoughts would be affected. In the same way, to be “filled with the Spirit” is to yield every part of your life to the leading of the Holy Spirit with the result that your walk, your talk, and your thoughts are different. The term “be filled” is a continuous action verb, literally meaning “being filled.”¹

*“Do not get drunk with wine . . .
but be filled with the Spirit.”*
(Ephesians 5:18)

Q: “Can I have the Holy Spirit living in me without being ‘filled’ with the Holy Spirit?”

Yes. At the time of salvation you are sealed with the Holy Spirit as seen in Ephesians 1:13: “*When you . . . believed in him, [you] were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit.*” When you deliberately sin, the state of being “filled” is lost; however, the Holy Spirit is not lost. Consider a flower in full bloom during the daylight. The darkness causes the flower to fold. Although the flower is not gone, its full blossom is temporarily gone. Similarly, upon salvation, you receive the filling of the Holy Spirit. When you choose the darkness of sin, you lose the “filling” because you are not giving the Spirit room to work in your life. However, as an authentic Christian, you do not lose the Holy Spirit, who lives in you forever.

“I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever.”
(John 14:16)

Evidence of Being Filled with the Spirit

Love—Am I seeking the highest and best for others or seeking to serve my own needs?

Joy—Am I living with gladness over what I have or fretting over what I don't have?

Peace—Am I resting in the strength and security of God or worrying about my circumstances?

Patience—Am I enduring difficult trials calmly or complaining and becoming bitter?

Kindness—Am I helping others or resenting having to meet the needs of others?

Goodness—Am I displaying godly character with purity of heart or adopting the world's standards of morality?

Faithfulness—Am I trusting God in the midst of suffering and sorrow or doubting His perfect and persistent love?

Gentleness—Am I treating others with tenderness or being short-tempered?

Self-control—Am I doing what is right or giving in to my selfish desires?

“The wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.”
(James 3:17)

Rejecting God's Flight Reports

Are You . . . Resisting the Holy Spirit?
(Acts 7:51)

- by ignoring your God-given conscience (Romans 1:20)
- by rejecting the claims of the Lord Jesus Christ (John 14:6)
- by holding to a form of religion without having a relationship with Christ (2 Timothy 3:5)

Are You . . . Quenching the Holy Spirit?
(1 Thessalonians 5:19)

- by refusing to act or speak as the Holy Spirit leads
- by resenting circumstances that God allows to come into their lives

Are You . . . Grieving the Holy Spirit?
(Ephesians 4:30)

- by doubting and distrusting God's love and promises
- by refusing to submit completely to God
- by neglecting personal time with God through His Word

Key Verse to Memorize

“To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.”
(Romans 8:6)

Key Passage to Read and Reread Galatians 5:13–25

How to be SPIRIT FILLED

Submit to the authority of Jesus Christ.
(Matthew 16:24)

Pray for conviction of sin. (Psalm 139:23–24)

Identify with Christ's death. (Romans 6:11)

Recognize the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit. (John 14:26)

Initiate immediate obedience to the prompting of the Holy Spirit. (Galatians 5:16)

Trust in the Holy Spirit to be your power for living a holy life. (2 Peter 1:3)

Fellowship on a regular basis with other believers.
(Hebrews 10:25)

Impant God's Word in your heart. (Psalm 119:11)

Learn to have a thankful heart. (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

Live with an attitude of prayer. (Ephesians 6:18)

Expect victory! (Zechariah 4:6)

Depend on the Holy Spirit to develop the character of Christ in your life. (2 Corinthians 3:18)

Self-centered People . . .

Spirit-controlled People . . .

Misuse their freedom

Are called to freedom

Are self-indulgent

Are self-sacrificing

Destroy one another

Love one another

Live by sinful desires

Live by the Spirit

Desire what is sinful

Desire what is spiritual

Display the acts of sin

Display the fruit of the Spirit



Related Topics . . .

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1. See Charles Caldwell Ryrie, *The Holy Spirit* (Chicago: Moody, 1965), 93-94.



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