

**GROWING IN GRACE**  
"The Facilitator of Spiritual Growth"  
**2 Peter 3:18**

**INTRODUCTION:**

1. When God saved us, He gave us all the pieces necessary for Spiritual Growth.
2. God has given us a New Mind, a New Heart, a New Conscience and New Emotions.
3. It is only when we are empowered by the indwelling Holy Spirit that we will produce what our lives are supposed to produce.
4. The Holy Spirit is God's Supernatural Gift to make real the New Beings we have become.
5. The HOLY SPIRIT is the Heart and Soul of a flourishing Christian Life.
6. VERY IMPORTANT: BUT once we are plugged into the Spirit we will experience the SUPERNATURAL WONDER of life in which God's Grace Flows through our New Nature.

**I. WE ARE GIFTED**

**1. John 7:37-38**

**2. Vs 39**

a) Notice the word "**given**".

1) Something given is a **gift**.

**3. Understand that the Holy Spirit is a PERSON.**

a) The Third Person of the Godhead.

1) The Holy Spirit is a not something but a **SOMEONE**.

**4. Vs 39**

a) "*whom those who believed in Him were to receive*"

**A. THE HOLY SPIRIT'S ROLE**

1. The night before Jesus' crucifixion, He announced His soon departure and the Holy Spirit's coming.

**2. John 13:33**

a) That caused the disciples to come to grips with the fact that Jesus was leaving.

3. **John 14:16**

- a) **"And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper..."**
- b) **"to be with you forever."**

4. **Notice 2 key words:**

- a) **"another"** - means another of the same kind.
  - 1) God was not sending a cheap substitute.
  - 2) God was sending Someone just like Him.
- b) **"helper"** - means one who is called alongside, to assist, to enable, to make it work.

5. **John 14:26**

6. That promise was made a reality at Pentecost. Acts 2

7. **1 Corinthians 12:13**

- a) This baptism is not some special or emotional experience that we have to seek after conversion, but the act by which we are placed into Christ.

8. **FACT:** All believers are Spirit baptized and Spirit indwelt.

9. **Romans 8:9**

10. And according to Jesus the Holy Spirit wants to flow through you and out from you to others in a Mighty Stream of Power.

- a) Jesus wants to go public.
- b) **John 7:37-38**

**B. NOT A SELF-HELP PROJECT**

1. **John 15:5**

2. The Holy Spirit is the divine enabler for Spiritual Growth.

3. **LISTEN UP:** If you are tired of trying to make your Spiritual Life Work.

4. The Holy Spirit lives in every believer, but **NOT EVERY BELIEVER ALLOWS THE HOLY SPIRIT TO EXPRESS THE FULLNESS OF HIS POWER.**

5. The Spirit's power comes through the Spirit's filling.

## II. OPERATING UNDER THE INFLUENCE

1. The Bible makes it very clear that even though every Christian possess the HOLY SPIRIT it is possible to experience VERY LITTLE POWER and influence in our daily lives.

2. *Ephesians 5:11-17, 18*

3. **VERY IMPORTANT:** The more consistently you and I are FILLED with the Holy Spirit the faster we will grow in our faith.

### A. THE MEANING OF FILLING

1. To be "*filled*" means to be controlled.

2. To be "*filled*" means that something else has taken over your life.

a) The Holy Spirit wants to take control!!

3. *Luke 22:31*

4. *2 Corinthians 11:13-15*

5. If you are not under the **INFLUENCE** of the Holy Spirit, you are giving permission to Satan to influence you.

6. **VERY IMPORTANT:** To be "**FILLED**" means to be filled and "*keep on being filled.*"

7. *Ephesians 5:18*

a) "*and do not get drunk with wine*"

b) "*but be filled with the Spirit*"

### B. THE HOLY SPIRIT BRINGS POWER

1. Power to CHANGE

a) When we are filled with the HOLY SPIRIT we witness to the LOST.

b) We spend serious time with the Lord in HIS WORD AND IN PRAYER

c) FELLOWSHIP with Jesus becomes a delight instead of duty.

### C. THE KEY TO FILLING

1. *Ephesians 5:18*

2. Paul's concern here is to tell us how to be filled and keep being controlled by the SPIRIT.

a) **HERE'S THE ANSWER - WORSHIP**

### III. THE KEY TO FILLING

- *Ephesians 5:18*

#### A. MAKE WORSHIP A LIFESTYLE

1. *Ephesians 5:18*

2. **QUESTION:** How do you leave church on Sunday?

a) Do you feel Spiritually FULL?

1) Is it the Music?

2) Is it the WORD?

3) Is it the FELLOWSHIP with other BELIEVERS?

3. **THIS IS IMPORTANT:** All of these things add up to a WORSHIP SERVICE!!!!!!!!!!!!

4. **WORSHIP DOESN'T END ON SUNDAY**

#### B. TAKE WORSHIP HOME

1. When we leave church FULL OF THE SPIRIT it is because we were in the PRESENCE OF GOD AND HIS PEOPLE.

2. If the Holy Spirit is going to **MINISTER through us**, we need to **REFUEL**.

3. *Ephesians 5:15-21*

4. We need to draw on the Spirit's filling as a day-to-day way of life.

a) We do this as we learn how to come into God's presence and WORSHIP on a daily basis.

1) **WE DO THIS WITH A SONG IN OUR HEARTS, AND A SPIRIT OF THANKSGIVING.**

b) We do this with an attitude of HUMBLE SUBMISSION toward other believers.

### IV. THE NECESSITY OF WALKING IN THE SPIRIT

1. *Galatians 5:16-17*

2. The issue in Ephesians 5 is who will be in control.
  - a) The issue in Galatians 5 is who will win the BATTLE.
  
3. **Romans 7:24**
  - a) **Romans 8:1**
  
4. **Galatians 5:16; 24**
  
5. Walking by the **SPIRIT IS A DAILY PROCESS**
  1. Walking involves a **DESTINATION**
    - a) John 16:14
  2. Walking involves **DEDICATION**
    - a) If we are to get anywhere it takes a continuous process
  3. Walking is **DEPENDENCE**
    - a) One foot in front of another.