

The Holy Spirit – *Empowers us for living*

5

Strength beyond our own

It is impossible for any person to live victoriously the Christian life and grow into the likeness of Jesus Christ in human strength alone.

Supernatural ability is needed if believers are to stand firm in the Christian faith and be able to confidently follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ as He inspires and leads them through the challenges of life. Believers struggle unnecessarily and fail in their Christian lives because they rely completely on their natural strength instead of drawing upon the supernatural strength that comes from God.

Taking hold of the following biblical truths will prevent frustration and defeat in your life as you seek to follow after Jesus Christ.

Power SOURCE

Firstly you need to understand the nature of the power source for Christian living.

In your own words, write down what Jesus says in Acts 1:8 concerning this power source.

Who is the power source for Christian living?

Acts 1:8 _____

Believers have been called by God to live their lives as full-time witnesses of Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit is the power source who makes this possible.

When Jesus says, “*You shall receive **power** when the Holy Spirit has come upon you ...*” He is saying you shall receive His **ability** so you can live powerfully and unashamedly for Him in your private and public life.

This being the case, we have no valid excuse for not stepping forward in our lives by living as authentic witnesses of Jesus Christ for the entire world to see. In the context of living wisely, and with regards to the Holy Spirit, what does the Apostle Paul strongly urge us to do?

Ephesians 5:18b _____

Power EXPLAINED

“Be filled with the Holy Spirit” is the clear command of Ephesians 5:18. What does the term “be filled” with the Holy Spirit mean?

The verb “be filled” is present tense, which means a continuous action. This means we are to be filled continuously with God’s Spirit – an everyday filling experience.

To “be filled” with the Spirit in a very real sense means to be filled with Christ – where Christ essentially lives His life *in* us and *through* us.

What does Galatians 2:20a say about this?

In Ephesians 5:18, Paul compares the effect of being filled with the Holy Spirit with drunkenness. The intention of his comparison is to show that being filled is basically a matter of control. The person who is drunk is controlled by alcohol in his bloodstream. He is no longer behaving normally or with self-control. The person filled with the Spirit is controlled by Christ and is also not behaving normally. Either way the person is no longer living his/her life controlled by self.

Even though we are saved from our sins and belong to God we do not live on “auto pilot” with God making the decisions for us. The decisions affecting our lives are ours to make. We have been given the freedom to choose to live worldly lives through our natural self-control, or godly lives through Holy Spirit-control.

Choosing to “be filled” with the Holy Spirit is choosing to “be controlled” by God. Making this wise decision enables us to live a life that is pleasing to the Lord – enabling us to follow after Him confidently and successfully through every challenge in life.

Power PROMISES

Whenever you choose to live under the control of the Holy Spirit you can expect to experience and enjoy all the promises of God for your life.

Read through the following references and write down some of these promises. The Bible is a treasure chest full of God’s promises, waiting to be discovered and enjoyed by every believer.

John 10:10b _____

John 14:26 _____

John 15:7, 16b _____

Acts 1:8 "Power (ability) to _____"

2 Corinthians 3:18b _____

Power CONDITIONS

There are certain conditions which must be met before we can be filled with God's Holy Spirit – filling us with His infinite power for victorious Christian living.

Note: The following power conditions need to be met continuously. Being filled with the Holy Spirit is a continuing act. It is not so much the product of "asking" as it is of "meeting certain conditions".

These conditions are: Desire, surrender, obedience and confession.

Desire

Being filled with the Holy Spirit is a voluntary act. Without expressing a personal desire you cannot be filled with the Holy Spirit.

In the following verse, what words does Jesus use to illustrate desire?

Matthew 5:6 _____

Surrender

Without surrender you cannot be filled with the Holy Spirit.

In the following verse, what does Paul urge us to surrender (present) to God "*that is our reasonable act of worship*"?

Romans 12:1 _____

Obedience

Without obedient living you cannot be filled with the Holy Spirit.

What is proved by living obediently to God?

1 John 2:3 _____

Confession

Without confession you cannot be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Whenever we sin we take back control of our lives. When this happens we are no longer filled with the Holy Spirit and therefore we forfeit the guidance and power of

God in our lives. Note: Corrective action is needed if supernatural power is to be restored.

What does God promise to do whenever you confess your sins to Him?

1 John 1:9 _____

Summary

Each time you realise the step of confession needs to be taken in your life, the steps of desire, surrender and obedience must also be retaken if you are to experience a restoration of God's power.

It is only when confession is present in your life that you can begin to experience the transforming power of God's Word in your life.

Living in a Spirit-filled state is tremendously satisfying and rewarding – ensuring victory and effectiveness in your life.

Caution: Avoid power failure in your life by remaining connected to God. Be filled, and continue being filled, with the Holy Spirit!

