

THE POTENTIAL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

By Thomas Lindberg

Text: Ephesians 5:15-21

INTRODUCTION

“Keep yourself filled with the Spirit” (Ephesians 5:18, author’s translation). What a significant phrase! That is the potential Christians have in their relationship with the Holy Spirit — a constant fullness of the Spirit. What is needed?

MESSAGE

1. WE NEED A SPIRITUAL WALK

Be careful how you walk (Ephesians 5:15).

a. Walk in faith (see 2 Corinthians 5:7).

Hebrews 11:6 declares how essential faith is in our lives. A person initially receives the Spirit by faith and by faith continues to be filled.

Illustration: Leonard Bernstein, conductor/composer, was asked, “How did you become so great?”

He replied, “Practice.”

Then he was asked, “How do you stay so great?”

“Practice,” he said.

A believer gets the Holy Spirit by faith and stays filled the same way — by faith.

b. Walk in love (see Ephesians 5:2).

Paul had to rebuke the saints at Galatia because of their lack of love (Ephesians 5:14–16). Will the Holy Spirit be rich and full in a life or a church where love is absent? Where abounding love is present, the abiding Spirit is present.

2. WE NEED GODLY MINDS

Jesus commanded us to love God with all our minds (Mark 12:30). What a difference a godly mind makes (Proverbs 23:7).

a. Each person needs a godly mind that avoids evil.

“The days are evil” (Ephesians 5:16). The Holy Spirit is sent by a holy God to make each one a holy person. Evil is deadly to the Spirit-filled life.

Illustration: On TV’s Hee-Haw, a man came to Dot Campbell and cried, “Dot, I broke my leg in two places!”

Dot replied, “You ought to stay out of those places.”

Entering wrong situations can break our fellowship with God (1 John 1:7).

b. Each person needs a godly mind that accepts God’s will.

“Understanding what the will of the Lord is” (Ephesians 5:17). A desire to know God’s will and readiness to do His will is a mark of Christlikeness (Matthew 16:39). God gives the Holy Spirit to those who obey Him (Acts 5:32).



THE POTENTIAL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT *continued*

3. WE NEED A PRACTICAL FAITH

A practical faith includes:

a. **Worshipping God.**

“Making melody in your heart to the Lord” (Ephesians 5:19). Genuine followers of our Lord have always been worshipers. Amazingly, Jesus stated that God seeks humble believers to worship Him (John 4:23).

Illustration: Use the Book of Acts to demonstrate that people were often filled with the Holy Spirit as they worshiped God.

b. **Submitting to each other.**

“Submitting yourselves one to another” (Ephesians 5:21). Submission is not being dominated by another; it implies properly getting along.

Illustration: D.L. Moody once said, “Nothing I know quenches the Spirit more quickly than disunity” (Ephesians 4:3).

CONCLUSION

A Swedish man who fell upon hard times sold his body to a medical institute for research to follow his death. He later inherited a fortune and wanted to buy his body back. The institute refused, went to court, and maintained possession.

God Almighty wants you — not a part or for just a short while. Give yourself to God for eternity and be filled with the Spirit” (Ephesians 5:18).

Endnote

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