

## **Church and Sanctification: Christian Life, Filled with the Spirit (Ephesians 3:14-21)**

### **Introduction**

Christian life, according to the Apostle Paul, is a life of walking in the Spirit of God (Galatians 5:16), being led of the Spirit (Gal 5:18), and living in the Spirit (Gal 5:25).

- Only such a life be able to produce the fruit of the Spirit, namely, “love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control” (Gal 5:22-23).

The Spirit of God is God’s gift to the Church, and without Him, we would be a people led by the flesh.

- So Jesus told to His disciples in John 16:7-8, “it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you, and when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.”
- The word “convict” means to expose. The Spirit will expose the sinfulness of man, and Christ’s righteousness, which is the only solution for sin, and judgment for those who deny the salvation provided by Christ.
- The Spirit will empower every child of God to battle sin as He reminds the consequences of unconfessed sin.

It is, therefore, an imperative for Christians to be filled with the Spirit.

### **The Inevitability of the Power of the Spirit (Eph 3:14-21; 5:18, 6:10)**

The word inevitable means unavoidable. It was Paul’s prayer for the Ephesians that:

- They would “be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man” (3:16).
- This means Christians must be mightily strong with spiritual power.
- They must be “filled with all the fullness of God” (3:19). This is again the work of Spirit that Christians will be experiencing the presence and the full power of God.
- Again in 3:20, Paul adds, “according to the power that works in us.” It is the quickening power of the Spirit that worked in the resurrection of Christ.
- This power strengthens “inner man” (v 16) which is in contrast to the outer man (Rom 7:22), the spiritual man as opposed to the fleshly man.
- Paul continues this thought again in 5:18 and 6:10.

### **The Availability of the Power of the Spirit (John 20:22; Acts 1:4-5, 8; 2:4)**

Christ has promised to the disciples that they will be filled with the Spirit (Acts 1&2) which was necessary for their devoted and fearless lives and witnessing for the gospel.

- They were already believers, and had experienced the baptism of the Holy Spirit (John 20:22).
- But continuous filling will happen with Acts 2 experience (Acts 1:4-5, 8; 2:4; 4:8, 31; 9:17).
- The power of Spirit was upon the Apostles that they became Spirit-filled, turning the world upside down (Acts 17:6).

The availability will be a reality to us if only we:

1. Seek and ask for the power of the Spirit (Luke 11:13).
2. Come to the Lord with a desperate need (Genesis 32:24-30).

## **The Profitability of the Power of the Spirit (Matt 5:20, 48)**

When God's people are filled with the Spirit, the result will be:

1. The inner purity of the heart (Matt 5:20, 48).
2. The love of God has been poured out in our hearts (Rom 5:5).
3. The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus gives us freedom from the law of sin (Rom 8:2).
4. We truly be overcomers (Rev 3:21).
5. We be a blessing to others (John 7:37-38).

## **Conclusion**

We, Christians, need to be fully liberated from being slaves to the lust of the flesh, lust of the eye, and the pride of life, and the only way for this is to be filled with the Spirit of God, and experience His power, which will make us overcomers.