

Questions & Answers About Being Filled With The Holy Spirit

(First Question)

I. How Do I Know If I Am Filled With The Holy Spirit?

- A. First, the signs of being filled with the Spirit are objective, not subjective. In other words, they are indicators that other people can see and agree upon, not something we feel inside of ourselves. On the day of Pentecost¹ the disciples in the upper room heard a rushing mighty wind, they saw tongues of fire on each one's head, they spoke in languages they had never learned, and they were transformed in their character and anointed with power.
- B. The initial baptism of the Spirit may be accompanied by a fresh anointing of spiritual gifts and outward manifestations of the spiritual gifts.²
- C. The manifestation of tongues of fire is a representation of practical holiness. While miraculous signs and wonders may accompany the initial baptism* and filling*, the HOLY Spirit always manifests holiness as the proof of His controlling presence. This holiness is referred to by Paul in Galatians 5:22-24 as the *Fruit of the Spirit*:
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|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. Love | 2. Joy | 3. Peace |
| 4. Patience | 5. Kindness | 6. Goodness |
| 7. Faithfulness | 8. Gentleness | 9. Self-control |
- D. This Spiritual Fruit is objective—it is fruit that anyone can see in your life. These are not feelings, they are behaviors, outward manifestations of the controlling presence of the Holy Spirit Who fills every part of your being.

** There are three terms that are applied to our experience and relationship with the Holy Spirit: indwelling, baptism, filling.³ Of the three, indwelling is quite clear, while baptism and filling seem to be used somewhat interchangeably. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit is the experience of every believer and occurs at the instant of the new birth (salvation) and is the pledge of our inheritance assuring us of eternal salvation.⁴ (The disciples were indwelt with the Holy Spirit in the upper room on the evening of the resurrection.) The baptism of the Holy Spirit is a second type of control that comes with our total surrender to His will. (The disciples were baptized in/by the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, ~50 days after their indwelling.) The filling of the Holy Spirit is a fresh outpouring, akin to the baptism, that may occur more than once in our spiritual walk. As one person put it, we need to be filled again because we leak!⁵*

References:

1. Acts 2:2-4; (Acts 2:2, 4; Acts 4:8, 31; Acts 9:17; Acts 13:9, 52)
2. See references in number 1 above
3. Indwelling Romans 8:9; Baptism Acts 1:5; Filling Acts 2:4 & 4:31
4. Ephesians 1:13-14
5. "We leak" . . . nearly all of the New Testament letters were written to churches whose members were showing some signs of "cooling down" in their fervor for the Lord. Unless we remain devoted to Christ in love and commune with Him in prayer and in His Word we will gradually drift. This is when we need a fresh outpouring and filling of the Holy Spirit to renew our devotion.