How does the Believer become Spirit filled pt. 2

By Charles Feinberg

Thus far in our study and in our message we have dealt with one of the conditions one of the conditions of being filled with the Holy Spirit. You remember we saw the command and Ephesians 5:18 now indicated that there were three conditions for a believer to be filled with the Holy Spirit. First was grieved not the spirit. Now the second is quench not the Spirit, quench not the Spirit. First Thessalonians 5:19 "Quench not the Holy Spirit." How do you do that? What do you mean by quenched not the Spirit? Do you mean to put the Holy Spirit out of your life altogether? No. Does that mean putting his ministry at a minimum in your life? Yes it means more of that than it does of the other because he is in us and he abides with us forever. I think we can illustrated best by thinking of a candle and then someone taking a handkerchief out of his pocket or a lady taking it out of her purse. She takes that handkerchief spreads it out and then puts it over the flame so that the flame in time is powerless to burn. He's quenched, the Holy Spirit is suppressed, his not allowed full sway. Notice he's not driven off. No, no, not a believer. He dwell with us forever, but he's not allowed full sway, his full lighting power, he is full illuminating power and that's done by unyieldingness. Having our way come what may. It’s a lack of full reliance, a lack of dependence on the blissed Spirit. Now those two conditions friends are negative I grant you. It's grieve not the Spirit, quench not the Spirit, but there is a third condition that's walk in the Spirit. Galatians 5:16. What does that mean? He says, "Walk in the Spirit and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. Walk in the Spirit." Did you know that for the Christian life in the New Testament the verb that used more often probably than any other is the one walk and rightly so?
The Spirit of God has chosen the correct word. The only one that will tell out the full truth that is intended. What happens when we walk and I'm afraid we've been doing it so long that we take it for granted? That is a very complex thing to walk a person who's been ill for a long time, a person who has a spine injury, or other injury in the limbs will find it takes a long time to walk or to coordinate and to have the proper balance. What happens when we walk beloved is this. We're standing erect. Let's say we put the right foot forward. We push that foot out. Now if we were to keep on going in that direction without moving keep our body going where that right foot is we would ultimately bump our nerves on the ground. What do we do then? We bring the left foot and we balance and that's what the walk is of a believer. He casts himself he puts himself out of balance by casting himself on the Holy Spirit who in turn beautifully sustains him and upholds him and maintains him, so walking in the Spirit is to walk and live each day by means of and full dependence upon the Holy Spirit hearkening to his bidding.

Now we have these three conditions then, grieve not, quenched not, walk. When once these three conditions are present, the believer is filled with the Holy Spirit. In John 7:37 to 39. Our Lord Jesus is speaking of the coming Spirit of God. He says in that coming day that blesses Spirit will be the believer, not as a trickle, not as a pond, not as a lake, but a rivers from within his being. From within the being of the Holy Spirit of the child of God. The Holy Spirit will make himself known in all rivers of living water and then he remembered John 4:14 our Lord Jesus speaking with a woman of Samaria talks to her about being the true water, the living water fountain that wants to bubble forth into everlasting life and you know a fountain. All it needs is to have the debris removed. You remove the debris from a fountain and you will not have to get on your knees and say oh please, please, gracious fountain please, spring forth, please give your
refreshing flow. No. All it needs is to have the debris removed. If a fountain is to be springing up it must be always fed from a source higher than itself. The inlet must be kept open and the outlet must be kept open. Only then does the fountain send forth crystal clear water, refreshing waters. We obstruct the inlet when we grieve the Spirit of God. We have struck the outlet when we quench the Spirit of God. The command to keep on being fill, the conditions grieve not, quench not walk. Now what are the characteristics of the Spirit feel life? Someone may say well that's saying a great deal about this condition of being filled with a Spirit. But what will it [inaudible] me? What will it help me to do? How will it be recognized to the glory of God, not that I want to boast? Well the first thing Ephesians 5:19, "When one is filled with a spirit speaking the one to another in Psalms and Hymns and Spiritual song, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord." Did you see how many were there? Songs, Hymns, Spiritual songs. Three singing is a fourth word, melody is a word with your heart to the word, heartfelt.

Ephesians 5:19. Praise then is the first characteristic. That follows immediately the [inaudible] to be filled. Is he a drunkard has his song if you're sitting at a window or walking outside and someone comes by your home or walks by you on the street? You can tell whether that drunkard is inebriated, you can tell us that man had too much because a drunkard has a characteristic song. He may be singing Sweet Adeline or something of that character. Oh yes, you can tell him and the slurring of his words and the like. Well the Spirit filled believer has his song. I know how different. Think of the songs and praises of Paul and Silas in the Philippine jail Acts 16 and do you know when they began singing the time when you're most down in the dumps. The time when you are the most depressed in the middle of the night. Only the Spirit can give such praise. Don't forget it now friend's music is a barometer. It's not by accident that rock music and drugs have gone together, yes. Neither one of them fits into the life pattern of a
believer. Market, never, rock music are high, drugs are high and all that not calculated to give glory to God.

In Daniel 3, you remember when Nebuchadnezzar put that huge image, that colossus with a head of gold, but more than the head of gold that was seen in the second chapter. He wanted the head of gold the body of gold and the legs and the feet and the toes all of gold. You remember how he got uniformity and worship? Know how he sponsored that idolatry? He had all kinds of music. The dulcimer, the Sackbut, the psaltery and all kinds of music had a veritable jazz band and then he said it what time you hear all that music you bow down and worship. Oh yes an accompaniment of idolatry. Music is a tremendous barometer and all the marvelous music in the church. I'll never forget some 50 years ago when I first came into the faith. I learned easily a couple of hundred songs and hymns to the church because it was so marvelous. Oh the glory of the hymnology of the Church. It has doctrine the doctrine that it magnifies Christ and it is a joyous. It is a joyous music, is a joyous praise. Now all my previous life I had known only synagogue music which is all in the minor key. Ah, in our Christian faith, we have some minor key songs but Christianity isn't the dominant major key. Yes. The first characteristic, just as you have it here in Ephesians 5. The first characteristic of the Spirit filled Christian is praise.

We're told somewhat humorous account of a man who knew very little about electricity. He had his house wired and a battery installed for the ringing of different bells. He thought that if a battery could ring a bell and had done the job so well for such a long time he thought if a battery could ring a bell it could make a light. So he started to run wires up into his study. Then he adjusted a globe in the fashion of an electric light, turned on the current and wasn't he greatly surprised and disappointed to find that he got no light. About that time a friend of his who was an electrician came into his home and saw his predicament. He said, "May I ask what you're doing?"
What's the matter? Well, I don't know, I have a battery that's been ringing all the bells for a long time it's never failed me. I thought it would like my study. I tried and it's a failure." The electrician looked at him and said, "Don't you know friend that it takes more power to make a light than it does to make a noise." Oh friends far better than criticism, or a censorious Spirit, or a critical carping manner, his praise. When you've tried all else try praise. Try it at the beginning. Scripture says, "Praise is calmly, it's becoming, it fits us. It's appropriate." Praise is company for the righteous. That's the first characteristic is praise. The second is personality or character. The Spirit gives the believer this feel. It gives him a Spiritual personality or character because Paul says, "Ye that are Spiritual restore a man." Galatians 5 who's fallen into a fault. He that is Spiritual discerns this that and the other. That character can be seen. Now character, there's so much spoken of by liberal preachers, interestingly enough, is never found as a word in the whole Bible, but what it stands for is in the Bible.

The personality of the believer is filled with a Spirit. Has the fruit of the Spirit. The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, and so on and notice there if you have your bible open before you. It's in the fifth chapter of Galatians, notice with what it is contrast and in that context we read concerning the works plural. Verse 19 Ephesians 5:19, "The works the works of the flesh." Now the works of the flesh are manifest, pretty clear, you can't miss them which are these, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness all those beloved are immoralities, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife's enmities of hatred, strife, jealousies, graphs, factions, divisions, parties. These things have cost endings, drunkenness, reveling in such like which I forewarn you even as I did forewarn you that they who practice such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God, but now watch this. Verse 19 has now the works of the flesh but verse 22 not the fruits that's incorrect, it's the fruit of the Spirit, it's all there. What is the fruit of the spirit? Love, joys and I'm full of love,
joy, peace, long suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, self-control. Again such there is no law. It fulfills every law. It's above, it's above and beyond anything that the law could touch because it touches the intent, the heart. Notice each particular given love, Romans 5:5 [inaudible] he should have brought in our hearts, by the Holy Spirit has been given unto us. That's the word of the Spirit. Joy that's part of the fruit of the Spirit. John 17:13, "These things have I spoken while I've been with them in the world that my joy might be in them and that my, that their joy might be for peace." Oh yes. That which the world know so little about, even when everything is warring and conflict and conflagration around us. Still we can have peace. John 14 27, "Peace I leave with you. My peace I give unto you. Not of the world giveth, giveth I unto you and not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." Long suffering.

First Corinthians 13:4, "Love supper of the Long." Oh yes, that's fruit of the Spirit. Kindness, be kind one to another. Forgiving one another because God, for Christ's sake, has forgiven you, Ephesians 4:32 and so we could go under goodness and faithfulness and meekness and self-control. What a beautiful beautiful portrayal of a Spirit filled personality. Yes, oh ten thousand times ten thousand times it's worth it. Yes, if we can praise God in such a manner and if we can have that personality. F.B Meyer, the great Spiritual giant of a previous generation said, "I used to think that God's gifts were on shelves, one above the other and that the taller we grow in Christian character the more easily we should reach them. I find now that God's gifts are on shelves one beneath the other and that it is not a question of growing taller but of stooping lower and that we have to go down to get his best gifts meekness, humility." Yes, he mentions meekness in Galatians 5:22, "The Spirit filled life will manifest the life of Christ and be occupied with him." The Holy Spirit came to testify of the Lord Jesus and that's why the claim of so many to be Spirit filled is furious because they're always talking about themselves. They're always
talking about the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit doesn't even speak of himself or from himself. He came to testify of the Lord Jesus. We're to be occupied with Christ, just as John the Baptist kept pointing. He said, "Don't be worried about my identity and who I am and my qualifications and all that, but look at that one greater than I could ever be who comes after me, who shoe latches I'm not worthy, Spiritually or any other way, I'm not worthy to lose." So what are the characteristics of the Spiritual Christian? Praise, Spiritual character, personality and now power. Praise, personality, and power.

Did you realize friends that nowhere does Paul or any other writer of the New Testament in any of the epistles or any of the books of the New Testament asked us to seek power for service. If the command to be Spirit filled is heated there will be power for service. Put the scriptures down friends and see if it isn't born out. Acts 1:8, 2:4, Acts 4 Verse 8 and 31, Acts 6:3, Acts 7:55, Acts 9:17, Acts 11:24, Acts 13 verse 52. Each shall receive power the Holy Spirit coming upon you should be witnesses unto me and Jerusalem or Judea, Samaria and unto the uttermost part the last place on earth and onto the outermost part of the earth and we read again and again in their testimony. And they were the believers, the disciples, the apostles were filled with the Holy Spirit and with great power, hear the word, and with great power I gave the witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ and in that type of ministry there is going to be fruitage. Fruitage from service, John 15 we find fruit bore fruit much fruit. John 15:8 tells us that here it is the father glorified that you bring forth much fruit, not just fruit, not just more fruit, much fruit. How often I'm reminded of the incident told concerning Thomas Edison. He said once, "I cannot allow myself to stand and look and contemplate the Atlantic Ocean, it would drive me out of my mind." He says, "There I see infinitudes of power unharnessed, o the power that there is in the spirit filled life. Yes power, all power and the power of the blessed Holy
Spirit." Think of how Christ must be heartbroken at the right hand of the father. He views the finished work of redemption because he did it, but he also views at the same time an unfinished work of evangelization. Because that depends upon our willingness to go and so powerless.

Friend of mine said that if you go into a town, small town and find five churches, they're bound to be four of them dead and the fifth one breathing hard. No power." Instead of being able to be warriors and soldiers on the battlefield with power for our Lord, many are more ready for a hospital bed than for the battlefield. It was Dr. A.C. Dixon who ministered at what we know is the Moody memorial church. We're told the standing beside Niagara Falls and looking down by the bank of the river, he saw a great house, which he was told was the powerhouse, which it is, and that house was a great dynamo. From there, wires go to Buffalo New York and to New York City and they light Toronto in Canada by Niagara Falls. They heated by the fall. They cook their dinners by the fall. They run the streetcars by the falls and there's a sanatorium near Toronto where the patients get their electric baths by the falls and in New York State they electrocute criminals by the power that comes from the falls and the reason is quite simple. The reason behind it all is this. That Lake Ontario is one hundred and sixty nine feet below Lake Erie. If you were to lift up Ontario to the level of Lake Erie, you'd have no falls, no power. They love it, hear it. It's something to have power from behind you such as a church with prestige and history, the background. Something to have power from before such is the thrill and the hope of achievement. Something to have power around us such as organization, culture, wealth, that frames the power behind and front and round about us is all power on our level. What we need is the power from on high. The power of its [inaudible] long from the great dynamo of Go.

Is it any wonder then that there are so many [inaudible] powerless Christians in the church? Why? They're not depending upon the wonderful dynamo. The wonderful blessed
ministry of the Holy Spirit. Oh you say, "How can I have this way of blessing, others just that
one way of blessing for us all." Let's obey the command to be continuously filled with the spirit.
My dear friend if you've ever studied any doctrine or any passages in the scripture and you've not
seen that it's been intended of God to touch your life in some way, in some respects then you've
missed the meaning. Really I have. There's nothing in the Bible that’s just to fill up the page.
Why the message of God could be a thousand times bigger than our bible is. No, these things are
there for these things are needful for our life. Just as Peter said God has given us all things that
are needful that pertain to life and Godliness. So let’s obey the command to be continuously
filled with the Spirit, always meeting the conditions. Too many want the blessing, but they want
to meet the conditions. You can't have it. You must, how can you have the blessings of a married
life if you do not have the marriage? Oh many are trying to circumvent it. They just don't know
that they're fooling themselves. Devil is taking them down a primrose path. No, you have to meet
the conditions to have blessings in the Christian life. There are signposts along the way and on
every one of them obey, obey [inaudible] how on our highways obey traffic laws obey. Do you
want to be safe? Do you want to be helped, obey? So here it is, obey the command to be
continuously filled with the Spirit, meeting the conditions and ever knowing, ever realizing, ever
sure of no in feelings of the blessed Holy Spirit.

All my dear friends I don't know how all this rip your heart but it makes my heart sing for
joy that God has given us away even through this terrible terrible vail of tears and of agony and
trials and conditions, relaxing worse and worse. We can still have through the Spirit of God the
praise that we need on our lips, the kind of a personality that folks say well that person is
different, he must be a Christian. Christ must mean something to him. He has an unseen power
that I can't hold on and then he has power to do what he ought to do. He's not afraid of every
whim. He's not afraid of every shadow. He's not afraid of every bluff for Satan he stands in the
might and in the power of God. Don't you want that filling of the Spirit? You can't have it. You
can't have it. God would not have mocked you. You wouldn't mock me. He is not teasing us.
He's in earnest and the apostle says, "Keep on being filled with the Spirit of God our Father in
heaven. This is too marvelous to think even for our poor puny minds to contemplate, but Lord
what may be darkness to our intellect can be glory to our soul. Lord we do want the Spirit filled
life because we know that's the pleasing life. It reflects to the best, to the highest the most proper
way all that Christ came to do in us. We pray that for everyone who hears in Jesus name Amen.