

How does the Believer become Spirit filled pt. 1

By Charles Feinberg

In this fourth message in the series on truth and error about the Holy Spirit. The subject is, how does the believer become Spirit filled. Message is by Dr. Charles Lee Feinberg dean emeritus and professor of Semitic and Old Testament at Talbot Theological Seminary. Among the numerous questions and phases of the Doctrine of the Holy Spirit, perhaps there has been as much confusion in this area as in any. Specifically on how does a believer become Spirit filled or the Spirit filled Christian. The basic passage with reference to this truth is in the book of Ephesians. Paul's letter to the Ephesian believers. It's in the fifth chapter after he's gone through a great doctrinal section in the first three chapters and spoken of the Godly walk, the Christian walk, in Chapters 3 and 4. Chapter 5 he speaks of there being imitators of God as beloved children walking in love and then as he comes to Verse 17 the Apostle through the Spirit of God says, "Wherefore be ye not foolish but understand what the will of the Lord is." Verse 18 Ephesians 5 and be not drunken with wine where in is riot but be filled with a Spirit speaking one to another in psalms and hymns and Spiritual songs. Singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord. Giving thanks always for things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God even Father. Subjecting yourselves one to another in the fear of Christ." That's Ephesians 5 verses 17 through 21 that we've just read. Satan friends, has made it his concern to pervert and confuse the doctrine of the Holy Spirit in the minds of many many Christians. His purpose his aim is to keep believers from the privileges and blessings of the Spirit fill a life and rather to inject misgivings and doubts and fears instead. Probably this phase of the doctrine in scripture

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has been more misunderstood and confounded than any other. It is so important friends. Let me repeat it, so important for us to have a right understanding of the Ministry of the Holy Spirit because if you'll read through the thirty nine books of the Old Testament you will find emphasis with reference to the Godhead you'll find emphasis in the Old Testament on the unity of God. Principally on God the Father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.

When we get to the Gospels the emphasis there is on the Messiah incarnate. The messiah in his appearance. It is emphasis on the second person to the trinity of God the Son. By the time we get to act 2 and the remainder of the New Testament the emphasis there is on the Ministry of the Holy Spirit. Now it doesn't mean that in any one of these other areas and one of the persons of the Godhead is left out. That's not true. But are we talking about where the emphasis is and then if we read carefully first Corinthians 15 verses 24 to 28. We see that an eternity there will again be an emphasis on the unity in the Godhead namely when the kingdom is delivered over to the father then God. That's Father Son and Holy Spirit shall be all and in all. So we must understand the Ministry of the spirit because in a very real sense we are living in the age in the era generations when this ministry is paramount and being emphasized. Well as we've seen in previous studies the Bible teaches that every believer alike partakes of a convicting Ministry of the Spirit, as a regenerating Ministry of the Spirit, of his baptizing ministry, his indwelling ministry, and his ceiling ministry. The passages are clear on each phase of his work. We cannot become too well acquainted with every phase of this was the truth. Notice it here and convicting Ministry of the Holy Spirit and John 16 verses 7 through 11. "Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is expedient it's wise for you that I go away for if I go not away the comforter will not come to you. But if I depart, notices this, that if I depart I will send him unto you and when he is come, that's Holy Spirit Himself the comforter, and when he is come he will reprove." That means he

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will convince, he will persuade, he will convict, he will beyond a shadow of a doubt make it clear with reference to whom he will convince the world of sin and of righteousness and of judgment and the Spirit of God through the Apostle John giving the words of our Lord Jesus tells us why our Lord Jesus spoke with a reference to conviction in these three areas sin and righteousness and judgment of sin because they believe not on me. That's the all condemning, all damning sin because men do not believe in the Lord Jesus Christ of righteousness which means God provided one. In Christ because I go to the father and you hold me no more. He's completed the work with utter complete absolute perfection and then thirdly the Holy Spirit is convinced of judgment because the Prince of this world Satan has been judged. The cross speaks of Satan's doom, his failure, his bankruptcy. So the convicting work of the Holy Spirit here at my dear friend that convicting work of the Holy Spirit is his ministry to all alike. We have seen that every believer alike partakes of that convicting ministry. Every believer partakes a life or he couldn't be a believer of the regenerating ministry of the Holy Spirit.

John 3:3 to 5, "Jesus answered and said to him that Nicodemus rarely verily I say unto you unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God" Nicodemus said to him." How can a man be born. When he's old he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born Can he? Jesus answered truly truly verily verily in the old versions truly truly I say to you unless one is born of water and of the Spirit he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God." Born of God, born again, born from above, that involves the regenerating ministry of the Holy Spirit and then everybody alike partakes of the baptizing ministry of the Holy Spirit. First Corinthians 12:13, "Whereby one Spirit we were all baptized into one body whether Jews and Greeks, whether slaves are free, and we were all made to drink or to partake of one Spirit. All alike partaking of one blessed at work as the Holy Spirit. So we've seen all alike partake of convicting,

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regenerating, baptizing, now indwelling and John 14 16 and 17 our Lord Jesus says, "As I will ask the father and he will give you another comforter another helper that he may be with you forever." That is the Spirit of truth whom the world cannot receive because it does not behold him or know him, but you know him because he abides with you, that's not the indwelling but notice it now at the end of John 14 17. "But you know him because he abides with you and will be in you every believer no matter how young in the faith or how old, how much advanced in truth or otherwise, how knowledgeable or ignorant of Bible truth that believer is in dwelt by the precious Holy Spirit. And then all believers alike partake of the ceiling Ministry of the Holy Spirit. Ephesians 1:13 and 14 and then Ephesians 4:30 seasons 113 and 114 in [inaudible] also after listening to the gospel of truth the gospel of your salvation. Having also believed you were sealed in him with the Holy Spirit a promise who was given as a pledge of our inheritance with a view to the redemption of God's own possession to the praise of his glory. Then Chapter 4 verse 30 and do not grieve do not cause pain. Do not cause grief to the Holy Spirit of God by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. So there is the ceiling ministry. The passages I've said are clear on each phase of his work, but the filling of the Spirit is an altogether different phase of the office work of the Spirit than those just mentioned as we saw in a previous message the leading ministry that and the teaching ministry and the filling Ministry of the Holy Spirit. Those ministries are different. They are repeated once

Now, this filling of the Spirit is vital because it makes the difference between a carnal, a fleshly and the Spiritual Christian. How so? Well a carnal Christian, a Christian who is living in the world and for the world and living for the flesh and its pleasures. He has all the ministries of the Spirit that we've been mentioning like convicting, regenerating, baptizing, and dwelling and sealing but he doesn't have the filling of the Spirit if he were filled with the Spirit. He would not

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have it said of him. You, you are carnal. You are not spiritual as Paul said in First Corinthians 3:1 to 4. He has an amazing statement to say there, to divulge to us in that passage. He shows in the first Corinthian epistle, especially in those first three chapters, that a person can have all types all kinds, he can run the whole gamut of Spiritual gifts and yet not be Spiritual. Because in the first chapter he says you are enriched never a Spiritual gifts, and wisdom, and knowledge, and utterance. All these things and yet by the time he gets that third chapter he said, "I couldn't speak unto you as a Spiritual, but as unto carnal as unto babes in Christ you are in your Spiritual babyhood." Now let's look at the elements in the Spirit filled life.

We hear somebody talking about the Spiritual life and we're on the subject how does a believer. This is only the province of a believer. He has had to be regenerated first before he can ever talk about becoming Spirit filled. How does a believer become Spirit filled? Well let's notice first of all in Ephesians 5:18 the command and it's as clear as it can be, "Be not drunk with wine, don't be drunken with wine. Where in is excess there's a Riot, there's dissipation, but be filled with a Spirit." Will you notice please with what the command to be filled with a Spirit is contrasted? At first it strikes you as a shocking thing that the feeling of the Spirit could even be contrasted with drunkenness. But if you know logic in speech you know there's a point of similarity. Things that are similar don't need a great deal of time. For instance one cow and another cow. One horse and another horse. One dog and another dog. One cat and another cat. They have so many things in common that we can point out many similarities and we don't need to point out the very insignificant dissimilarities, but if you're contrasting that means you're showing differences. But even if you are showing differences between two factors, two elements, two entities, they have to have something in common. For instance, you wouldn't think of contrasting a lemon and an elephant. Even if three of the five letters in the word lemon are in the

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word Elephant three fifths more than half of the word more than half of the word Lemon. You find those letters in the word elephant, but you would never in a logical speech or thinking contrast a lemon or with an elephant, but you would think of contrasting a lemon with an orange. You would think of confessing a lemon with a grapefruit. You would think of contrasting an elephant with a giraffe. There has to be some similarity or you would not even contest them. What is the point of similarity between drunkenness with wine and filling with the Spirit?

Well in both instances there is the indication of control by an outside power or force. With a drunkard it's that wine that is imbibed it's that intoxicating drink that is he's imbibed, with the Spirit filled one, he is not going under his own power under his own prowess under his own sustenance but he's going by the omnipotent power of the Holy Spirit of God. So there is a point of similarity, but also dissimilarity. The Apostle now isn't speaking of a state of high excitement and here's where so many make the mistake. They think one has to be teed up. One has to be in a state of tremendous agitation or tension. No, being filled with the Spirit is not a state of high excitement not a case where you're holding on with knuckles white. It's certainly not a state of sinless perfection because first John the first chapter has some very strong things to say about people who think that they have no sin nature or have no sin. They may got out to be a liar. The truth is not in them. They are absolutely in error and being filled with a Spirit does not mean a state of sinless perfection because we don't attain to that on this earth and if so then God wouldn't tell us to attain to something that was impossible and was not meant for this time and yet he says be keep on being filled with Spirit and it's certainly being filled with the Spirit is not what so many Iranians please, so many in error are called a second blessing. Why would anyone want a second blessing or talk about a second blessing?

My dear friends you wouldn't even need to be saved a week before you would be in your second hundredth blessing. And if you'd been a believer for any length of time you've had more than 2000 blessings and so on. That is error and not only that, you do not have any such words in the Bible second blessing. Now the command, I call your attention to this in the Greek is in the present tense in the original language it says, "Be not drunken with the wine or in it is that Riot and dissipation, but keep on being filled." It's a transaction and this is so vital. It's a transfection that needs error to be made again and again and again. God made our physical bodies so that we would need food, but God never intended us to eat one meal and never eat again even when we've been at that wonderful Christmas dinner with the soups and nuts, ingredients and all the wonderful pies, the mincemeat and all the rest of it even though we've been sitting at the table perhaps for between one and two hours and push away the food from us at the end push away from the table also and say I don't think I could stand to look at food for a week, but strangely enough. That person will be at the table come breakfast the next day. Why? The body demands it and it's the same with the Holy Spirit and His filling. We need a transaction to be made again and again and we will see that in Acts. One time will not suffice for a lifetime. Something suffice for a lifetime. When one takes unto himself a wife, that's for a lifetime. If a child is born into a home by the good grace of God and his gift that child doesn't need to be born into that home physically another time. No one time suffices for a lifetime and you see here the falling of the Spirit is unlike regeneration it is unlike conviction for sin before receiving Christ. It's unlike the baptizing ministry. It's unlike the indwelling's it's unlike the ceiling the filling of the Spirit is unlike acceptance of the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior. You see well I get it now, there is a definite command then the Lord must want us to obey that command if he states it so seriously. If he stated so clearly and it makes it so general he didn't say, he's going to have something to say

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about husbands and wives, and employees and employers, children and parents and all, but he is talking now in the most general terms. It is for all believers God meant this not to be just for some super super believers or super-duper believers. He meant it to be for all of us.

Now, that command is clear that doesn't mean we just say by word of mouth I want to be filled with the Holy Spirit just as if you go into a department store and say pointing is something I want to buy that particular article and then it's given to you. Oh there's more to the selling of the Spirit of the believer. There's more to the Spirit filled Christian life than that there are conditions and there are three simple ones. Oh many say yes you are to pray and pray and pray. How would you know whether you pray enough? How would you know whether you surrendered enough? How would you know whether you've striven and sought and longed enough all day may intervene? But they are not the conditions that God the Spirit is looking for and were not left to ourselves. To find out what these are they told us Ephesians 4:30. The first condition is not to grieve the Spirit of Ephesians 4:30, "Grieve not the Holy Spirit by whom ye are sealed unto the day of redemption." What's that mean? The Holy Spirits grieved by sin of all kinds. Remember he is the Holy Spirit. The emphasis for the moment we want to put on that adjective. Holy, not the unholy. He is the Holy Spirit. He intends to have a Holy temple and when that temple is defiled it is contrary to his nature. Therefore he can't fill that individual with himself. Every one of us has the Holy Spirit in totality, but does the Holy Spirit have us in totality. Are we making enough room for him? Or are we confining him and pressuring him and narrowing him down into a corner of our life by putting all the rest of our lives in defilement of the body which is the temple of the Holy Spirit and when it is defiled his creed. He cannot hear it, he cannot live in complacency with that which is contrary to his nature.

Now this I grant you is quite quaint and may appear somewhat awkward, but you wouldn't think very much of a person who would come into a church on the Lord's Day morning a little bit before eleven o'clock and bring a rubbish can in. A bag of rubbish or bring in a garbage can. Why you'd say that person ought to be thrown out. Why? Because he shown disrespect for the sanctuary and yet the real church is our body. We do have to show respect for the House of God, that's clear. It is a place where God is worshipped. But what makes it important is that we're there, we're to be kept clean. Well then how do you think the Holy Spirit feels if we put all kinds of trash in our bodies in, our minds and our mouths? Oh my dear friends, the Holy Spirit is like an inscription to a dove that's noted for its purity anything sullied anything that state it is a cause of grief to him. I remember how I was impressed when I read once of the way in which trapper's catch the ermine. The ermine is a little animal and yet you know the fur is worn by kings and princes and Queens. Very very costly is ermine. E.R.M.I.N.E. It's a marvelous lightness. Now, do you know how the trappers catch it? For some reason it's the very nature of the mind to hate dirt pollution defilement and the trappers know that. So they use that to catch the ermine. When they find that are mine in that area. They spread over all the area with containers and all the filth they can and then they chase that ermine into a place where it's got to cross that filth and do you know the ermine that little animal will suffer capture rather than be defiled. What a beautiful beautiful nature and what a beautiful lesson it is for you and me. We must friends, we must remember the first and foremost is grieve not the Holy Spirit. Sometimes when men get together they say, "Well, there are no ladies here so I suppose I can tell you this joke if that's among the Believers." That person certainly has missed his way because there are some one more sensitive to filth to indecency to vulgarity than any lovely Christian lady or non-

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Christian lady. It's the Holy Spirit of God. And we're told grieve not the Holy Spirit. Ephesians 4:30.