

Introduction: Are you “Spirit-filled”?

- My Experience = Confusion
- My Search = Honest
- The Answer = 3 Keys
 1. Clarify the terminology
 2. Understand the book of Acts
 3. Obey the command of the New Testament

1. Clarifying the terminology: **Baptism ≠ Filling**

The Baptism of the Spirit:

“The non-experiential, unrepeated work of the Holy Spirit at regeneration whereby we are placed into the Body of Christ.” F.F. Bruce
Acts 2, 1 Corinthians 12:13, Romans 8:9

The Filling of the Spirit:

“The unobstructed, or unhindered, control or influence of the Spirit upon the believer’s life.” C. Ryrie
Acts 2:4, 4:8, 4:31, 6:3, 6:5, 6:55, 9:17, 11:24, 13:9, 13:52

Baptism	Filling
Occurs only once in each believer's life	A repeated experience
Never happened before the Day of Pentecost	Occurred in the Old Testament
True of all believers	Not necessarily experienced by all
Cannot be undone	Can be lost
Results in a position	Results in power
Occurs when we believe in Christ	Occurs throughout the Christian life
No prerequisite (except faith in Christ)	Depends on Yieldedness

2. Understanding the book of Acts

Key Issues to Compare	Acts 2	Acts 8	Acts 10	Acts 19
Who?	Jews	Samaritans (mixed)	Gentiles	Jews who knew only John's baptism (Unsaved)
Spoke in tongues?	Yes	Not mentioned	Yes	Yes
When did they receive baptism?	After salvation	After salvation	At conversion	At conversion
Peter's key role	Present when Jews received	Present when Samaritans received	Present when Gentiles received	This group previously validated as authentic (Acts 2)

3. Obeying the New Testament command to “Be Filled”

Ephesians 5: 15-21 (NIV)

- :15 *Be very careful, then how you live – not as unwise but as wise,*
:16 *asking the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.*
:17 *Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is.*
:18 *Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead,*
be filled with the Spirit.
:19 *Speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs.*
Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord,
:20 *always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our*
Lord Jesus Christ.
:21 *Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.*

- The context – Ephesians 5:1-2, 8
- The command to be “Spirit-filled”-
 - The command = “Be filled!”
 - Meaning of “filled” –
 - The plural form –
 - The passive voice –
 - The present tense -
- Four Evidences: The proof of being “filled”
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
 4. _____

Conclusion – Four principles to remember:

1. The issue is not getting more of the Holy Spirit, it's Him getting more of you.
2. We are never told to seek an experience or gift as evidence of being filled with the Holy Spirit.
3. The conditions for being filled are:
 - Obedience – dedication – yieldedness to God and His Word. Romans 12:1-2
 - Undefeated life (dealing with known sin) Romans 6:12-13
 - Dependent life – John 15, Galatians 5:16
4. The key perspective: It is relationship, not mechanical.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is the difference between the baptism of the Holy Spirit and the filling of the Holy Spirit? Why is it important to understand the difference?
2. How does knowing the historical transitions of the book of Acts help us in understanding the working of the Spirit then and now?
3. What does it mean to be “filled with the Spirit?” How often can this happen?
4. How does one know if they are “filled” with the Spirit?