

Part 3

Faith Alive Through--

**GETTING TO KNOW THE
HOLY SPIRIT**

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My being filled with the Holy Spirit, as shared in the last chapter, was so simple that it seemed too good to be true. Several questions demanded answers:

#1-HOW could I c-o-n-t-i-n-u-e to be filled with His power?

#2-HOW could I keep Jesus on the throne of my heart?

#3-HOW could I have missed such an obvious teaching and power for so many years?

Answers to these questions were in waiting when I attended the "Conversational Prayer Workshop" spoken of in the last chapter. Arriving early on Saturday morning at the church building in Emporia, Kansas, I decided to walk through the Sunday School classrooms.

There it lay on the floor, a little blue tract-booklet authored by Bill Bright of Campus Crusade for Christ. Its subject was--"Have You Made The Wonderful Discovery of the Spirit Filled Life?" I sat down and gave it a cursory reading. My spirit rejoiced because the contents, most of which is Scripture, seemed to be true to the Bible.

My strong desire for TRUTH led me on a search of the Word of God. This chapter is a retracing of my unlearning and learning about the Holy Spirit.

One of the true stories that Bill Bright gave me permission to share is this one:

During the depression years a Mr. Yates owned a large sheep ranch; but was unable to make enough money on his ranching operation to pay the principal and interest on the mortgages. He was in constant danger of losing his ranch. With little money for clothes or food, his family, like many others, had to live on government subsidy.

Day after day, grazing his sheep over those rolling West Texas hills, he was greatly troubled about paying his bills. Then a seismographic crew from an oil company sought his permission to drill a wildcat well. They said there might be oil on his land. He signed a lease contract.

At 1,115 feet they struck a huge oil reserve. The first well came in at 80,000 barrels a day. Many subsequent wells were more than twice as large. Thirty years after the discovery, a government test of one of the wells showed that it still had the

potential flow of 125,000 barrels of oil a day. And Mr. Yates OWNED IT ALL! The day he purchased the land he received the oil and mineral rights. Yet, he was living in near poverty on relief. A multimillionaire living in poverty! He owned it, but HE DID NOT POSSESS IT.(1)

This true story illustrated the plight that I had been in for some twenty years. The moment I became a child of God through obedience to Christ, I became an heir of God, and all His resources were made available to me. Everything I needed—including wisdom, love, power—to be a man of God, and a fruitful witness for Christ, was available to me. But like most Christians I continued to live in self-imposed poverty, because I did not know how to appropriate God's spiritual resources. Like Mr. Yates with the oil beneath his feet in the land, we live in ignorance of our vast riches.

Up to this point in my spiritual journey I knew a lot about the Holy Spirit, having studied the theology of the Godhead in Bible College, memorized Scriptures and taught courses on the Holy Spirit from time to time. Yet, I lacked the reality of the Presence and Power of Jesus in my life.

Like Mr. Yates who owned the land but did not possess its resources, I too possessed the Holy Spirit but HE DIDN'T POSSESS ME.

For years I had been a church member worshipping on Sunday, preaching, serving on committees and doing all kinds of church busy work. Yet, while busy and laughing on the outside, I was empty and crying on the inside. I knew about Jesus, but didn't know Him as Lord and Guide. The Holy Spirit was NOT filling and controlling my life as Jesus said He ought to in John 7:37,38a:

“ ‘He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of heart will flow rivers of living water’. But this He spoke concerning the Spirit whom those who believe in Him would receive”(2)

The Scripture the Lord used in speaking to me at that time was Ephesians 5:18-21. It will be our guide throughout this chapter.

“And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be

filled with the Spirit, speaking...singing and making melody...giving thanks always...submitting..." (Ephesians 5:18-21).

Five truths came alive to me in the above verse. They will be signposts along the trail of our thinking in the following order:

1. DON'T DRINK the Old Wine!
2. New Wine Defined!
3. Be Filled!
4. Be Filled with the Spirit
5. Fruits of His Presence!

I - Don't Drink the Old Wine!

"And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation"
(Ephesians 5:18).

The word "wine" in Scripture is used both in a literal and a metaphorical sense. I see both concepts in Paul's admonition here in Ephesians 5:18.

Beyond question is the fact that drinking the wine that Solomon speaks about--"Do not look on wine when it is red...At the last it bites like a serpent, And stings like a viper"(3)--leads to dissipation*. Other translations render this word "dissipate" as --*

*riot...ASV

*debauchery...RSV

*makes prodigals...Greek

*leads to ruin...Knox

Jesus used the word "wine" in a metaphorical sense in the "Parable Of the Wineskins" when he says--"And no one, having drunk old wine, immediately desires new; for he says, 'The old is better.'"(4)

Looking at the context of Paul's own words here in the fifth chapter of Ephesians, he speaks of the old wine of vile sin along with the second kind of low sighted priorities.

OLD WINE OF Ephesians 5:

**Vs3--fornication,
uncleanness,
covetousness,**

**Vs4--filthiness,
foolish talking,
coarse jesting,**

**Vs5--whoremonger,
unclean person,
covetous man (idolater)**

Vs6--empty words that deceive

**Vs14--spiritual sleeping that leads to death,
walk not as fools,
abusing-misusing time**

I drank the "old wine" for some thirty years. Early in my life, I made "friends" with a couple of sins. The "lust for things" started when I was five and stealing satisfied it. The "lust of the flesh" reared its head a few years later. I tried to give them up time and time again, but the "pleasure of sin for a season" (Hebrews 11:25) was stronger and my daily victory became weaker.

While vile sin is one kind of OLD WINE which leads to dissipation, there is another type which is far more subtle. It is well expressed in these words--THE WORST ENEMY OF THE BEST IS THE GOOD. Paul alludes to it in the above list from Ephesians 5:14-16 when he talks about followers falling asleep, walking as fools and abusing the use of time. Many are pulled into the devil's den by this philosophy of the second best. One of my Bible College Professors, Howard Hayes, summed it up by quoting an old mountaineer as saying--THERE AIN'T NO BAD LIQUOR, IT'S ALL GOOD AND BETTER. Jesus alluded to this when He advised Martha with these words--"Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her."(5)

While many give higher priority to amusements, hobbies and sports placed before searching the Word of God and seeking the Will of God; yet, with me it was over involvement in church busy work--files, forms and a consuming spirit about church buildings and equipment.

The Lord was teaching me that the NEW WINE of His HOLY SPIRIT is the antidote for deadening the appetite for both kinds of OLD WINE.

II - NEW WINE DEFINED.

"And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking...singing and making melody...giving thanks always...submitting..." (Ephesians 5:18-21).

My scientific, logical set-of-mind demanded to know--How could the Holy Spirit fill me?

Out of Scripture the Lord reminded me that both the Holy Spirit and I are by intrinsic nature, spirit.

Jesus said "God is Spirit." (6) Now spirit defies an absolute definition. This was emphasized in a conversation I had with Professor Nibarger. While sharing in a Faith Alive Revival with Gerald Zuck at Valley Center, Kansas, it was my privilege to be hosted at Tuesday noon dinner by Bill and Agnes Nibarger. Professor Nibarger was head of the Physics and Chemistry Departments of Wichita State University. I like to ask science-minded people certain questions, so I said:

Professor Nibarger, may I ask you some scientific questions?

"Yes, but I can't guarantee you all the answers."

"I am interested in a definition of fire."

She responded: "So am I. What else do you want to know?"

"Can you give me a definition of electricity?"

She smiled and said. "Now, Preacher, there are a great many things that science does know about fire and electricity but no absolute definition can be given. Ask me something that I do know."

I congratulated Agnes on possessing true wisdom and told her she was the first among many, in a search I was making, to acknowledge that no absolute definition existed.

I observed for our thinking and consideration that day that **NO ABSOLUTE** definition can be established for **LOVE, TRUTH, LIFE, DEATH, LIGHT or SPIRIT**. The reason may be that the Bible declares--“God is a fire(7); life(8); love(9); Light(10); Spirit”(11). You see, if we could define these words in an absolute, final sense, then we could define God. But, the Bible says that God and His ways are past finding out. (Romans 11:33). Since God’s essential nature is **SPIRIT** he operates on a plane that cannot be discerned by our senses. Even though spirit is ethereal, yet His work is very real! Jesus compared being born again of the water and spirit to the wind when He said:

“The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound , but cannot tell where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.” (John 3:8)

This matter of the new birth being like the wind is a strong indication, much to the consternation of our logical mind set, that the total work of the Holy Spirit **CANNOT** be traced like a line on a map. I made a long study of the blessed Holy Spirit as revealed in the Bible which has resulted in a special study course--“The Holy Spirit Applied.” In this, I point out that the **w-o-r-k** of the Holy Spirit begins in the life of a human even before he is born. (Psalm 139:13-16.) This was true with me in being an unwanted pregnancy in 1931. It was the days of the Big Depression and one more mouth to feed and person to clothe was not desirable. As my Mother drove down the seventeen miles of dirt road into Medicine Lodge to get an abortion, a voice spoke to her--“Turn back! Turn back!” And she did! I believe it was the Voice of the Spirit speaking. The Spirit is the giver of our breath of life as Genesis 2:7 records--“And Jehovah God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the **BREATH OF LIFE**;

and man became a living soul." This expression "breath of life" in the ancient Hebrew is the word for "spirit,"

When does He begin to CONVINCe us about Truth? To CONVICT us of sin? To CONVERT us to Jesus? My answer is: when a human first hears the TRUTH! But, that is like the wind for no man can name the day and hour when a baby, a child first hears the Truth and Name of Jesus.

One doubt that plagued me for years was the thought--"Spirit isn't real." The Lord led me to see that to the contrary, **s-p-i-r-i-t** is **r-e-a-l-i-t-y** and that which we see and touch all around us is NOT real. I owe this insight to my College Science Professor at Oklahoma City University. Dr. Hammer could be rather dramatic in illustrating his teaching. One day in teaching us about the atom, he jumped upon his desk and stomped on it. "How many of you think this desk is solid?" Everyone raised their hand and he said, "You're wrong. The atoms in this desk are only more dense than those of the air you breathe. Given enough time, many thousands of years, and all the atoms that are now flying off this wood desk will leave nothing in its place."

What Professor Hammer was teaching was given Christian application by my Bible College professor, Howard Hayes,(12) in pointing out that this concept is first stated in Hebrews 11:3 and Colossians 1:16,17. In these verses the truth is established that the unseen atoms are God's building blocks. Further, the Scriptures state in II Peter 3:10; I John 2:17 and Revelation 21:1 that this material earth will in God's time, dissolve but the **real world of the spirit** will go on and on. Matters of the Spirit--joy, peace, love, mercy, etc. will never cease. Since we are not evolutionists, humanists or materialists, we remind ourselves that God is spirit and the unseen virtues of the Spirit are the greater.

This "Unseen Presence" of God's Spirit that had been working in my behalf before I was born is much like the man in Francis Thompson's poem: I share here the beginning and end of the long journey he describes.

I fled Him, down the nights and down the days;
I fled Him down the arches of the years;
I fled Him down the labyrinthine ways
Of my own mind; and in the midst of tears
I hid from Him, and under running laughter.
Up vistaed hopes I sped;
And shot; precipitated,
Adown Titanic glooms of chasmed fears,
From those strong Feet that followed, followed after.
But with unhurrying chase,
And unperturbed pace,
Deliberate speed, majestic instancy,
They beat--and a Voice beat
More instant than the Feet--
'All things betray thee, who betrayest Me.'

After a long pursuit covering many years, and through a myriad of fears, this Unseen Pursurer--The Holy Spirit--brings his man home. Here are the final words.

Now of that long pursuit
Comes on at hand the bruit;
The Voice is round me like a bursting sea:
Save Me, save only Me!
All which I took from thee I did but take,
Not for thy harm,
But just that thou might'st seek it in My arms.
All of which a child mistakes
As fancies lost. I have stored for thee at home:
Rise, clasp My hand, and come!
We're going Home!(13)

Unseen He is and yet Reality personified! We need Him! Must have Him! Therefore, He seeks us like this "Hound of Heaven" from the cradle to beyond the grave where His work will be completed when we are crowned in that Last Day!

III - BE FILLED!

1. DON'T DRINK the Old Wine!
2. New Wine Defined!
3. Be Filled!

Now that the Spirit had reminded me from Scripture that I was a spirit, living in a body and had a soul, I

continued my search as to WHY I needed to be filled?

A high school senior asked: "How can the Holy Spirit fill me and does this mean He is measured in pints, quarts and gallons?"

My answer to him was, "No" and "Yes." No, He doesn't come in pints, quarts and gallons and yes we can receive more of Him into our spirits."

It is to Believers that Paul speaks in this fifth chapter of Ephesians:

"Therefore He says: 'Awake, you who sleep; Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light.'

See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.

And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,"(14).

The Word came alive reminding me--The Holy Spirit desires to CONTINUE FILLING ME.

It is this truth that Paul was speaking when he said--"but be filled with the Spirit," Ephesians 5:18. Three truths shined out of this statement into my understanding.

#1-It is a COMMAND.

#2-It is an assumed command.

#3-And a continuing command.

Bible commands are known by the Imperative mood in the ancient Greek language. Dake's Daily Study Bible reveals there are 1,050 commands in the New Testament; but, only about 700 when all the duplicates are consolidated.

Examples of these 700 imperatives are:

*"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations."
(Matthew 28:19)

*"Repent and be baptized." (Acts 2:38)

*"Love one another" (John 13:34)

*"And be not drunk with wine...; but be filled with the spirit."
(Ephesians 5:18)

Ephesians 5:18 contains a double imperative: one negative--don't be drunk with wine and one positive--do be filled with the Spirit.

Professor Seth Wilson(15) points out there are four (#) imperatives (commands) in the New Testament relating to the Holy Spirit.

#“Walk in the Spirit” Galatians 5:16

#“Do not quench the Spirit” I Thessalonians 5:19

#“Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God” Ephesians 4:30

#“Be filled with the Spirit.” Ephesians 5:18

When I attended high school in Cherryvale, Kansas there were two kinds of courses: (1) Required, such as math and English and (2) Electives, such as band, FFA, home economics and shop. Now in this vein of thinking--Being FILL-ED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT is a REQUIRED course in our spiritual walk.

1. A command.

2. An ASSUMED COMMAND.

The Lord taught me from my search of Scripture that in language construction of the verse--“Be filled”--is in the passive voice - a passive verb. Meaning that the subject is acted upon. Namely, the Holy Spirit is the One that does the filling. We are the receivers.

It is couched in casual language because, Paul the writer, assumed that what Christians were given when they received Jesus as Savior according to Acts 2:38--“The gift of the Holy Spirit”--they would c-o-n-t-i-n-u-e to need and seek. After nearly two thousand years of church history, a multitude of people, including me, did NOT know!

When our children were home I might send one of them to brush their teeth. I would say, “Galen, go to the bathroom and brush your teeth **and don’t forget to open your mouth.**” No, I didn’t add that last phrase for I *assumed*, and rightly so, that Galen would know he must open his mouth to brush his teeth. Just so, the record of the early followers of Jesus in the Book of Acts indicates they knew the necessity of continuing to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

I knew that the Holy Spirit took up residence in my life when Jesus came in even as Acts 5:32 affirms:

"And we are His witnesses,...and so also is the HOLY SPIRIT whom God has GIVEN to those who Obey Him"

Falsely I assumed that this was the end of the matter not knowing of Jesus' continuing plan for the Holy Spirit to fill His Followers.

1. A command.
2. An assumed command.
3. A CONTINUING COMMAND.

This is made clear from the Greek that this statement "Be filled with the Spirit" is a continuous present imperative. Literally it could be translated: **Be filled and keep on being filled.** My Greek professor, Boyd Lammiman(16) of Midwest Christian College used to describe this tense to us by saying, "Boys, this tense is like the waves on the ocean. They seem to go on and on and on forever. Just so the linear (continuous present) tense indicates an action that keeps moving on."

After searching out the Greek words, I turned to a review of plain English since this is what I had read and studied for many years.

I looked at the promised coming of the Holy Spirit and His arrival on the Day of Pentecost in the eight different references in the first two chapters of Acts.

(#1)Acts 1:1,2 declares that it was through the Holy Spirit commandments were given to the apostles.

(#2) Acts 1:4,5 speaks of the coming of the Holy Spirit as "the promise of the Father." Jesus interprets this in Vs. 5 as being "baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days hence."

(#3)Acts 1:8 records Jesus' last words before returning to Heaven--"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you."

(#4)Acts 1:15,16 records an event in the Upper Room where the 120 were gathered praying. In preparing to elect an apostle to take the place of Judas, Peter quotes David from Psalm 69:25-28 and 109:8-15. Peter's words are--"Men and brethren, this Scripture had to be fulfilled which the Holy Spirit spoke before by the mouth of David concerning Judas...."

(#5) Acts 2:1-4 tells of the promised arrival of the Holy Spirit. "And when the day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them divided tongues as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."

(#6) Acts 2:14-18 is the beginning of Peter's sermon. "But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, 'Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words. For these are not drunk, as you suppose, seeing it is only the third hour of the day. But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel:'

'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, I will pour out of my Spirit on all flesh; And your sons and your daughters will prophesy, And your young men will see visions, And your old men will dream dreams. And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out in those days of My Spirit;' "

(#7) Acts 2:32,33 Peter continues his sermon: --"This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear."

(#8) Acts 2:36-38 Peter concludes his message:--"Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this same Jesus, whom you have crucified, both Lord and Christ." (The people respond:)

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and to the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God shall call."

THE BOTTOM LINE

So-to-speak of these first two chapters in reference to the filling and continued filling of The Holy Spirit is this.

(_____)

When the sun went down on the Day of Pentecost the 120 (Acts 1:14), the 12 (Acts 2:14) and the 3000 (Acts 2:41) **had in the words of Scripture received one or all of these--***

*****the promise of the Father****

*****baptized with the Holy Spirit.****

*****filled with the Holy Spirit.****

*****Spirit poured out upon them.****

*****the gift of the Holy Spirit.****

There is an old adage that says--You can't see the forest for the trees. Meaning that when one is walking through the woods, it is impossible to have a total overview of the forest. In reference to the Holy Spirit's coming in Acts 1 and 2, this same problem often exists. I became lost among the "trees" so-to-speak in trying to decide WHO received WHAT in reference to the three groups of people named above and the various phrases used to describe the arrival of The Holy Spirit. My thinking here does NOT concern this proposition. The question is: **WILL THERE BE A CONTINUING NEED FOR THESE PEOPLE TO BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT AGAIN?**

It is at this crucial point that I made a serious mistake in supposing that the BOTTOM LINE of the coming of the Holy Spirit in the first two chapters of Acts was:

--ONCE FILLED - ALWAYS FILLED.

My plight is illustrated by an incident that happened while driving in Colorado. I said to the Denver policeman: "I'm just a visitor here in your City and I didn't see the One-Way sign." He was most considerate, giving me a good safety talk and providing assistance in turning around. It is true, that ignorance of the law is no excuse. Yet, this is all I could plead concerning my lack of being filled with the Holy Spirit. No one ever told me or showed me any different. I assume that well meaning people assumed that I knew the WHY, WHEN and HOW of continuing to be filled with the Holy Spirit. They were wrong and so was I!

I discovered that CONTINUING TO BE FILLED with the Holy Spirit in the Book of Acts is a reality.

Acts 4:23-31 records the n-e-x-t filling. In between the end of Acts 2 and this place several events transpire--*

*A lame man is healed (Acts 3:1-10)

*Peter and John are arrested as a result of this healing (Acts 4:1-4)

*They are tried before the Jewish Council and finally let go. (Acts 4:5-22)

Acts 4:23 says "And being let go, they went to their own companions and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them." WHO the "companions" or "company" was is not absolutely certain. They may be the 12 apostles, the 120 of the Upper Room or the entire church which had now grown to 5,000 men plus women (Acts 4:4)

Do keep in mind that at least two of this group were apostles, Peter and John (Acts 4:19), which is most significant considering their having just received the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. (Acts 1:12,13; 2:14). The WHO of "their own company" is secondary to the BIG NEWS about to happen.

Acts 4:24-30 records a prayer that was prayed by the assembled group. Much different from most church prayers today and prayed in unison. (Vs. 24). The HOW is secondary to the BIG NEWS about to happen.

THE REFILLING with the HOLY SPIRIT now takes place.

#"And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness." (Acts 4:31)

#ACTS 6:1-6 indicates that "full of the Holy Spirit" (Vs. 3) was one of the qualifications required for selecting seven men to serve the church. We will explore this in the next part.

So, the followers of Jesus continue to need the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit continues to fulfill this need by filling them!

IV - BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT!

1. DON'T DRINK the Old Wine!
2. New Wine Defined!
3. Be Filled!
4. Be Filled with the Spirit!

While the filling of my life with the Spirit was as silent and unseen as the wind; yet, MUCH VISIBLE were HIS WORKS, FRUITS and GIFTS!

A QUESTION:

HOW do we **KNOW** when we are Spirit Filled?

President Jimmy Carter often used the expression "born again Christian," while other contemporary thinkers talk about "Spirit filled believers." These expressions are well meant. There are plenty of people in American churches who have NOT been born again and so are NOT Spirit filled while there are too many others who walk after the flesh and so quench the Spirit. New Testament expressions that speak to these spiritual conditions include:

"So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God."
(Romans 8:8)

"Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His." (Romans 8:9b)

"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." (Romans 8:14)

"This I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh." (Galatians 5:16)

I conclude that it was a matter of simplicity for the First Century Christians to recognize men full of the Holy Spirit. Our problem today is that men make matters complex while God reveals simplicity!

These early Christians were asked by the twelve apostles according to Acts 6 to assist in solving a problem of discrimination.(17) The solution involved being able to recognize a Spirit filled person. The problem originated when tens of thousands of Jews from many nations came to Jerusalem for the Passover (during which Jesus was crucified)

and stayed over fifty days for the Feast of Pentecost (Acts 2:1,9-11). Some three thousand of these responded to Peter's invitation on the Day of Pentecost to accept Jesus as Saviour (Acts 2:38-41) Verse forty-one says--

"Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and the same day about three thousand souls were added to them."

So these became the first members of the Lord's church. These Christians, former Jews, elected not to return to their homes in foreign lands. They pooled their resources and out of a common purse shared with each other (Acts 2:45). In the daily handing out of food, money, etc. certain Grecian widows were neglected (Acts 6:1).

The twelve apostles proposed solving the problem by asking the church to select seven men to be responsible for the daily distribution. They specified the qualifications for these seven as follows:

"Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, FULL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business." (Acts 6:3)

Wisdom of the apostles' advice is seen in the simple qualifications, clear procedure and the resulting solution to the problem.

Ten words in verse 5 tell the rest of the story--

"And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose..."

HOW could it be so *simple* when countless words have been written in our age concerning the qualifications of certain leaders in the Church and whole books written concerning the matter of being filled with the Spirit? Because GOD in His wisdom provides SIMPLICITY! Man, out of the flesh, complicity!

WHAT were the qualifications and **HOW** did the brethren discern them in the seven men?

#1 - "GOOD REPUTATION" Acts 6:3. No difficulty in the Brethren identifying this in the seven men. Listen to what others say about the man. Look at him in his

business and home.

#2 - "WISDOM" Vs. 3. Easy recognition of this quality by listening to what a man says and how his advice turns out for himself and others.

#3 - "FAITH" Vs. 5. You can't miss it! Not how much he talks about faith or blindly tries to lead; but, HOW MUCH DOES HE WAIT UPON GOD IN THE MATTERS OF LIFE?

#4 - "FULL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT" Vs. 3.

Some say that everyone is equally FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT. Don DeWelt, Professor of Ozark Christian College, Joplin, Missouri points out that if everyone was equally filled and there was no such thing as being part filled, half filled or not filled, then this qualification would be superfluous - without purpose or meaning.

It was not difficult for the disciples in Acts 6 to determine a SPIRIT FILLED MAN as they observed one another in daily living. They noted the Presence or absence of JESUS in one another's daily WALK. In relation to---*

*daily living, fellowship, praying, daily communion, preaching, sharing with one another and praising of God. (Acts 2:42-47)

*On the other side of the coin of life they also observed the profane, carnal, mundane focus such as Ananias and Sapphira in Acts 5. Note the expression by Peter-- "*Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit...?*" (Acts 5:3)

HOW could I recognize a SPIRIT FILLED PERSON?

A true story by Bill Bright of Campus Crusade for Christ answers this question with a very simple picture.

"There is a throne, a control center, in every life--either self (ego) or Christ is on that throne. This concept of Christ being on the throne is so simple that even a child can understand it.

We began to teach our sons this great truth when they were very young. One evening when we were saying our prayers together, I asked our then eight-year-old son, Zac, 'Who is on the throne of your life?' He said, 'Jesus.' I asked our then five-year-old son, Brad, who was on the throne of his life. He answered, 'Jesus'

The next morning, their mother had prepared for breakfast a special dish called 'egg in a bonnet.' It was a delicious thick piece of French toast with a hole in the middle, and in that hole was a poached egg. As I was enjoying it, I looked over at our little lad. He was not eating the egg nor the toast.

I said, 'Brad, eat your breakfast.' He replied, 'I don't want it.' 'Of course you do,' I said. 'You'll enjoy it. Look at me; I am enjoying mine.' 'Well,' he said, 'I don't like it and I'm not going to eat it.' Being a bit dramatic, he began to release a few tears. I had to make up my mind what I was going to do. I could either say to him, 'Now, young man, you eat that breakfast or else I'll spank you'; or 'Forget it. I'll eat it myself.'

However, I thought of a better idea. I asked, 'Brad, who is on the throne of your life this morning?' At that, the tears really began to pour. He understood the point that I was making. He had learned the concept that Christ must be on the throne; but Christ was not on the throne of his life at that moment. When he regained his composure, he replied in answer to my question, 'The devil and me.' Then I asked him, 'Whom do you want on the throne?' He answered, 'Jesus.'

So I said, 'Let's pray,' and he prayed, 'Dear Jesus, forgive me for being disobedient and help me to like this egg.' God heard that prayer; and Brad enjoyed his breakfast. As a matter of fact, he ate it all. You see, he had said that he did not like it before he had even tasted it.

That evening we were saying our prayers, I asked Brad who had been on the throne of his life that day, and he said, 'Jesus.' 'Oh,' he added, 'except at breakfast this morning.' "(18)

How can I know that the Holy Spirit is filling me?

The simple answer is--when JESUS is on the throne of my heart!

The above question is answered by three simple phrases:

- #1. My WALK;
- #2. My TALK;
- #3. My GAWK.

Let us note that these three specific areas of the Spirit's Presence in our lives is named in Ephesians 5:18ff.

Ephesians 5:18 - fruit

WALK

submitting:

submit one to another-Vs. 21
wives submit-Vs. 22-24
husbands love-Vs. 25-33
children obey-6:1-3
fathers provoke not-Vs. 4
servants, be obedient-Vs. 5-9
masters, do the same-Vs. 9

TALK

speaking:

singing-Vs. 19
giving thanks-Vs. 20

GAWK

be strong in the Lord...6:10
put on the whole armor of God.-6:11-17
praying always-6:18

SIGN #1 - OUR W-A-L-K!

While sharing in a Faith Alive Revival in Denver, Colorado it was impressed upon me that we measure certain things about people by their w-a-l-k.

Following the evening Revival service, Preachers, Rodger and Connie Thompson, provided a time of fellowship. We enjoyed food and talk. I drank two cups of coffee. It was 11 o'clock as I left their house to drive to my housing hosts in Golden. On this cold November night an ever-so-thin coat of frost covered my windshield. Scratching through it with my fingernail I determined the defrosters would remove it in seconds. I backed out of the driveway and drove slowly towards the freeway two blocks away. By the time I reached the Interstate my windshield was still frosted over. With no traffic in sight, I pulled on to the outside lane driving about 10 mile per hour, with two wheels on and two wheels off the

pavement, waiting for the frost to disappear. Within two minutes a flashing red light appeared in my rear window. Instantly I knew why I was being pulled over. They suspected intoxication because drinking drivers often drive ever so cautious and slowly afraid of making a mistake. And when the blood alcohol reaches yet another level, they drive very fast.

A black policeman inquired: "What are you doing in our City?" Pointing to the Green Mountain Christian Church building I said: "See that church building up on the hill. I'm preaching a Revival there."

He said: "Let me see your driver's license and registration papers." I found the first but not the latter.

"Mr. Johnson we will need to run some tests on you. First of all walk right down the edge of that pavement." I tried and fell off as there was a 8 to 10 inch drop off down to the dirt.

Next he said: "Stand down here on the dirt and hold your right leg up and spread your arms out." I did and lost my balance. "Now, try the other leg," he said. Same results.

"One last test, Mr. Johnson. Put your hands down to your side. Now bring your right arm up and touch your nose. Now your left." I did it!

"Mr. Johnson, why couldn't you pass the first two tests?" the policeman inquired.

I'll never know if the Lord gave me a Word of Knowledge for the moment or force of habit from preparing many three-point sermons for a lot of years. Instantly I said, "There are three reasons, Sir. Concerning the first test, I do not walk tight ropes and so I fell off the edge of the pavement. I can walk a straight line on a level surface but not on these frozen mud ruts. Concerning the second test, I do not usually stand with one leg in the air and thirdly I'm cold and scared to death." I saw a faint smile in the corner of his eyes and my heart started beating again.

He made a radio call and a white policeman showed up with more questions and a firm talk: "Don't drive with frost on your windows and have a good evening!"

Having learned a lot of lessons, I scraped away the frost, and continued West.

Just so, we can t-e-s-t the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives by our w-a-l-k. The kind of spirit that controls our w-a-l-k is known by what we w-a-l-k towards and what we w-a-l-k away from.

Scripture is an excellent means of checking our w-a-l-k to determine if we are Spirit led.*

*Romans 6:4:

"Therefore we were buried with Him by baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."

*Romans 8:1:

"There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit."

*Romans 13:13:

"Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in licentiousness and wantonness, not in strife and envy."

*II Corinthians 5:7:

"For we walk by faith not by sight."

*Ephesians 5:1,2:

"Therefore be followers of God as dear children. And walk in love."

*Ephesians 5:8b,9:

"Walk as children of light (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth)."

*Colossians 4:5:

"Walk in wisdom..."

*I John 1:7:

"But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another..."

*3 John 1:4:

"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth"

SIGN #2 - OUR T-A-L-K!

A. Walk.

B. TALK.

When the church of Acts 6 was asked by the apostles to select 7 men who were “**full of the Holy Spirit**”, they listened to what the men t-a-l-k-e-d about.

J.B. Phillips in his introduction to the Letters to the Young Churches says something very important concerning why we TALK about certain matters.

The great difference between present-day Christianity and that of which we read in these letters (New Testament epistles), is that to us, it is primarily a performance; to them it was a real experience. We are apt to reduce the Christian religion to a code or, at best, a rule of heart and life. To these men it is quite plainly the invasion of their lives by a new quality of life altogether. They do not hesitate to describe this as Christ living in them.(19)

Acts 4:31 tells WHY the early disciples of Jesus were so BOLD!

“And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.”(20)

If one KEY WORD can be coined to judge the work of the Spirit within us in relation to our TALK, I suggest it is the name, JESUS.

Here are some probing questions that assist in measuring the Spirit's control of my TALK.

1. **Do I use His Name in my casual conversation?** Such as-****The Lord blessed me today in... **The Lord led me in this... **God is my strength!**

I note that folk often give the devil credit in their conversation when they say (#):

#“That's the way the ball bounces” or #“That's the way the cookie crumbles,” or “Whatever's to be will be,” and again #“It's written in the stars,” or “Lady Luck sure smiled on me.”

Let us cultivate more and more the use of the sweetest Name in all of earth and Heaven--JESUS!

2. **Am I embarrassed at the use of His Name?** I often

seek spiritual knowledge about people by asking--“How are you and Jesus getting along?”

This question brought me to the edge of being thrown out of a house in Circleville, Kansas. Preacher, John Messer, and I were out visiting folk in their home during a Revival there. One lady had been a Christian many years before but had grown cold in her love and service. Knocking on the door, I prayed as always: “Jesus, be in charge!” We were invited in and seated in the living room. Trying to avoid all the often trite talk about the weather, politics and community grapevine, I said: “Mrs..., we are having praise and preaching services down at the church building. John and I are out checking on people’s spiritual health, and came by to see how you and Jesus are getting along?” The dear soul responded instantly by saying: “Preacher, it is none of your...(blank, blank)...business about me and Jesus.” “Oh, but dear lady it is my business! So much so that the church pays me. Please know that God loves you and I do too and how can we help you know Jesus better?” She said--“Listen, you...blankety...preacher, if you’re going to talk about Jesus, there is the door!” Now, I have visited in a few thousand homes across 40 years and never been thrown out. Not seeing that there could be any possible gain for the Kingdom of God, I backed down. We struck up a conversation about the weather followed by a discussion of farm problems and politics. In the midst of this, she put on the coffee pot and opened the cookie jar. We had a good time and a long talk as long as Jesus wasn’t included.

When we walk with Jesus and know Him on a first Name basis as did Peter and John, then our TALK will reflect His Presence!

“Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that **they had been with Jesus.**”
(Bold marking, mine.) (Acts 3:13)

SIGN #3 - OUR G-A-W-K

A. My Walk.

B. My Talk.

C. My GAWK.

When the disciples of Jesus in Acts 6 were asked to select 7 men full of the Holy Spirit, they would be looking for men with a Christ-like WALK, a Christ-centered TALK and a GAWK that focused on JESUS.

Our G-A-W-K, that which commands our attention, is determined by which spirit is on the throne of our hearts--Self and sin or Jesus.

Following is a paraphrase of our key verse, Ephesians 5:18, which I prepared from the Greek test:

*Don't get your stimulus from the spirits, which makes prodigals,
but be drunk with the Spirit.*

Let me draw a picture with words. This verse turns on one axle so-to-speak and two bearings. The one "axle" is that of being FILLED. The bearings are the two spirits. The first "spirit" which we have already discussed in Part I is usually translated with the word "wine". I remind us that we often refer to alcoholic beverage as "spirits", so I chose this word in the above paraphrase with that thought in mind. It is the "spirits" of alcohol or the flesh on the one hand and the "Holy Spirit" on the other hand that determines whether we produce what Paul calls "works of the flesh"(21) o-r the "fruits of the Spirit"(22).

Our GAWK is determined by one of these spirits. It is defined in the language of today's youth with this question--what turns you on?--Money? Things? Music? Pictures? Sex? Praise? etc. To each of these must be addressed certain questions--*What Kind? and What for?*

Our G-A-W-K (that which causes us to intently gaze) is determined by WHO is on the throne of our hearts? If we are engrossed with SELF (fleshly mind, carnal desire, earthly lusts), then our focus will see the sordid, base, vulgar, mundane side of everything around us. If we are FILLED with THE SPIRIT, then JESUS will be the focus of our lives and we will see that which is beautiful, good, holy and meaningful all

around us. Look at a lovely lady. What do you see? **HOLY SPIRIT FILLED** hearts s-e-e a being made in the image of God, a help-meet for man, a temple of beauty, The **CARNAL MIND** looks at the same woman and sees thru the eyes of lust a sexual object.

Do not complicate the matter of recognizing a person **FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**. These simple fruits of our walk, talk and gawk will reveal the presence or the lack of the blessed Holy Spirit.

“And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another in the fear of God.” (Ephesians 5:18-21)

V - WHAT MUST I DO?

While I had almost stumbled into the process of being filled with the Spirit, or so it seemed to me; yet, God was at work with a well defined order of procedure. Here is the order of **HOW** Jesus fills His followers with the Holy Spirit.

There are four actions necessary on our part.

- A. Desire
- B. Surrender
- C. Confess sin
- D. Ask

I was, so to speak, like the dog in a joke that my friends tell about preacher, Roland Hill. Bro. Hill preceded me a few years at the Minneola (Kansas) Christian Church. Preacher Hill was bothered by a little dog that made havoc of his garden and shrubs. One day when Bro. Hill was cleaning his lawn mower's gas tank, he poured the bad gas into a bowl. The little obnoxious dog appeared and quickly drank the contents of the bowl. The dog took off like a rocket and ran clear downtown making both blocks of main street and came back to the parsonage, falling over on its back with four little legs up in the air. Bro. Hill was always asked--“What was wrong with the dog?” His answer--“**IT RAN OUT OF GAS and CAME**

BACK FOR A REFILL." Now, according to this story, that dog had more sense than I did. I didn't know **HOW** to get a refill of the Holy Spirit.

Now that we have explored the desire of the Holy Spirit in wanting to fill us, we come to the actual--**HOW TO BE FILLED** with the **HOLY SPIRIT?**

A. Desire

Jesus gave us a valuable life principle from the "Sermon on the Mount"

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled."(23)

Can't we assume that everyone knows they must **DESIRE** a closer walk - to be filled with the power and presence of Jesus through the Holy Spirit?

One person said to me "The Holy Spirit can fill me if He wants to, I am not going to seek Him." Entertain no illusions, the Holy Spirit will **NOT** fill those who have no desire. The Holy Spirit only walks through doors that are already open. The door of our heart is our **WILL** and the latch on that door is **DESIRE**. Desire is a door latch to every grace God has to offer--salvation, prayer, guidance, victorious living, strength, our daily needs, etc.

James wrote it down with these words--"Draw near to God and He will draw near to you."(24)

David encourages us--

O God, You are my God
Early will I seek You;
My soul thirsts for You
My flesh longs for You
In a dry and thirsty land
Where there is no water.(25)

This simple story impressed on me the need for heartfelt **DESIRE**.

A seeking soul once went to a religious wise man asking how he could know God better. The teacher took the seeker down to the ocean and they waded out into the water. As they

approached shoulder deep water the teacher pushed the disciples' head under and held it there. The lad began to thrash around and flail his arms. The teacher continued to hold him under the waves. Finally he allowed the lad to surface. He came up gasping for breath and saying--"What is the meaning of this?" The wise teacher said--"Lad, what did you want more than anything else when under the water?" "To breathe air" he replied. "Very well," the teacher said, "and when you desire God as much as you wanted air under the water, you shall have Him."

Now the Bible says, (God) "is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and have our being..." (Acts 17:27b, 28a) Yet, it is forever true that we must o-p-e-n the door of our wills with d-e-s-i-r-e if the Holy Spirit is to fill us.

I had MUCH DESIRED over some 20 years for the Holy Spirit to fill me; but, there had been a lack of surrender and the habitual sin problem in my life.

A. Desire.

B. Surrender.

As common as saying water is wet and ice is cold is the admonition to Christians to continue SURRENDERING. It is to Christians that James and Paul speaks:

"Submit therefore to God."(26)

"You must dedicate yourselves to God as men who have been brought from death to life."(27)

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice,..."(28)

Paul's picture of sacrifice is drawn from the daily Temple sacrifices. The lamb's legs were tied together, its chin pulled back so the Priest could cut the jugular vein to begin the sacrifice. A bonus for us as we offer ourselves to God is that having died to self, we get to go on living while tied-up on God's Altar of service.

Surrender begins when we first receive Christ. However men like Carl Ketcherside, who I shared about in Chapter 1, found a new beginning in inviting Jesus into his life. And,

across the country many people tell me that in their original confession of Christ before being baptized, they simply answered a preacher's question about Jesus with a "Yes" or "No." I suggest they again confess Christ and renew their surrender with a prayer like the following:

A PRAYER OF SURRENDER

Lord, Jesus I believe You are the Son of God who died for my sins and rose again that I may live forever according to the Scriptures.

"As far as the East is from the West" so remove my sins from me.

I still believe and receive You as my Lord and Saviour. Come into my heart and be the Lord of my life.

Use me as You choose through all my days and ways to glorify You!

In Your Name Jesus - Amen!

A. Desire.

B. Surrender.

C. Confess all known sin.

Now that we DESIRE to be filled with the Spirit and are SURRENDERING OURSELVES, we need to search out and CONFESS ALL KNOWN SIN in our life.

S-i-n and self are the great obstacles to being filled with the Spirit. Living in sin or as Paul says in Romans 6:1, continuing in sin, keeps the Holy Spirit from doing His work. Many are the Scriptures that speak of this danger:

Psalm 59:1,2 "Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear."

Galatians 5:16 "This I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lusts of the flesh."

Ephesians 4:30,31 "And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice."

It is necessary, so to speak, to break-the-back of habitual sins. I conclude that it was to this need that Jesus spoke when He said, *"And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you; for it is profitable for you that one of your members perish, and not that your whole body be cast into hell."*(29) As one of my Bible College Professors, Professor Howard Hayes, used to say--"Boys, the best place to cut a snake's tail off is right behind its ears." And so it is with sin. Not that in a practical sense we become sinless; but, that we bring to an end the practice of living in the same sin day after day. See Hebrews 12:1.

We are encouraged by John to confess our sin.

"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we CONFESS OUR SINS, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."(30)

David found it essential to deal with sin in his life and so he prayed:

"Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your loving kindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done this evil in Your sight---Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow...Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your Presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And uphold me with Your generous Spirit."(31)

A living illustration of this occurred while I was engaged in a Faith Alive Revival with Mark Bowers in Walterboro, South Carolina. The evening message was on this subject of HOW TO BE FILLED with THE HOLY SPIRIT? Following the service, a lady asked me if we could talk the next morning. We agreed on 10 o'clock. With her permission I share this story using a fictitious name "Mary Doe."

When the appointed hour came I walked into the building. There was a lady that I did not recognize. Coming closer I

said--"Mary, is that you?"

"Yes, it's me," she responded.

I bantered with her--"Mary, you look like you have been up all night."

"I have been," she said.

"Oh, you work the night shift?" I inquired.

"No, I work days but I have taken today off. You said last night that if we had a habitual sin to cut it off with definite action. For years I have fulfilled the lust of the flesh by looking at pornographic stuff. I was up all night running magazines, pictures and books through the paper shredder down at the office. Now, I have cut my hand off so-to-speak and am **READY TO DO BUSINESS WITH GOD**. Will you pray with me that His Holy Spirit will fill me?"

We prayed and hallelujah the Holy Spirit filled her just as He promised!

A. Desire.

B. Surrender.

C. Confess sin.

D. ASK.

The Holy Spirit is ready to **FILL US** now that we **DESIRE** Him and **SURRENDER** self with a **CONFESSING OF SIN**. Jesus was telling His disciples **HOW TO BE FILLED** with **THE HOLY SPIRIT** when He said:

"And I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. If a son asks bread from any of you who is a father, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"(32)

And **H-O-W** shall we ask? I offer the following words as a prayer frame for our asking.

*Dear Father, I love You, Praise You and Seek You!
Thank You for Jesus and His power and presence
through the Holy Spirit.*

*Please forgive me for those times when I have acted as
boss of my life.*

*Jesus, I now invite you to take your place on the throne
of my heart.*

*Fill me with your Holy Spirit as you have promised in
your Word.*

*And, now as an act of faith, I thank You for directing
my life and filling me with the Holy Spirit.*

In Jesus' Name - Amen

And, HOW OFTEN shall we ask?

I respond to this posed question by asking a question--
What size is your "fuel tank"? For many years I drove a
4-cylinder Opel station wagon. It had a 10 gallon gas tank
and when full would take me 300 miles. Now I drive a 8
cylinder 454 engine Suburban with a 30 gallon tank and if
the terrain and weather are favorable I can go 210 miles on
a full tank. I suggest we human beings vary as much or
more than automobiles. Because I made a dry run for so
many years in NOT knowing to ASK for the Holy Spirit to fill
me, I now ask every morning before getting out of bed.
Other times during the day when I am weak in body, lack
strength in my spirit, need wisdom, etc. I instantly
pray--"God, fill me with Your Holy Spirit and thank You in
Jesus' Name."

VI - FRUITS OF HIS PRESENCE.

"And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be
filled with the Spirit, speaking...singing and making melody...
giving thanks always...submitting..." (Ephesians 5:18-21)

1. DON'T DRINK the Old Wine!
2. New Wine Defined!
3. Be Filled!
4. Be Filled with the Spirit!
5. Fruits of His Presence!

My special study of the Holy Spirit in the Bible revealed

there are sixty-seven blessings or fruits the Holy Spirit has for us. The **GREATEST** fruit-evidence of the Holy Spirit is the **GLORIFYING OF JESUS IN OUR HEARTS** as our Lord said:

However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and **HE WILL GLORIFY ME**, for He will take what is mine and declare it to you.(33)

We need not seek the gifts but the **GIVER**. Even as Jesus said:

I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in Him, **BEARS MUCH FRUIT**; for without Me you can do nothing.(34)

The **FRUIT** of the Holy Spirit is illustrated in this beautiful life story.

The second time I shared these truths about being **FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT** was in a Faith Alive Revival at Havensville, Kansas. Tim and Cathi Newton from Manhattan Christian College were the student Ministers.

Among those that packed the building night after night was a young couple - Sam and Jeannie Keehn - who lived in the neighboring country town of Soldier. Sam had been a lukewarm Christian Church member prior to this time and Jeannie had been a lukewarm Methodist Church member.

With their permission I share this letter Jeannie wrote concerning their being filled with the Holy Spirit.

"God touched our lives in August, 1973 and I knew it was important that I be immersed, because I did love Jesus and believe He is the Son of God. It was a new beginning. I would live a changed life from now on.

Oh, how Satan deceived me, for the harder I tried to be good the worse things got. My greatest good deed for God was manipulating my husband until he would consent to go to Church with our two boys and myself, but somehow the victory was usually short lived, for the rest of the day was full of tension and unrest between us.

Sam and I have a good marriage, in spite of the usual ups and downs. So, after working a 2nd. shift (3 pm to 11pm) for seven years (this included Saturdays) we were elated when Sam finally got a 1st. shift. We now had Saturday night free and could have some good times together. So for many Saturday nights we left the boys with my folks, bought a bottle and went with friends to a night club, out to eat, to play cards, to have fun, usually getting home anywhere from 2 to 6 am. I always got up with enough time to pick the boys up and make it to Sunday School. I was one of the teachers and definitely wanted the kids to have religious training. If we had some money or time left over from the week, we graciously gave it to the Lord. Oh, how good I was! So, why was I getting more confused by the week?

What happened to the peace? Why didn't I know without doubt what was right and wrong? Why the feeling of guilt about leaving the boys so much and teaching young children God's Word when my mind and body were so tired? Every Sunday I vowed to do better: would overcome my sins. Well, I was probably as good as anyone and just wasn't appreciated.

PRAISE GOD! He has a plan and takes care of us even when we are floundering. First, a weekly Bible study was started. After badgering, Sam consented to go. It was a fascinating study on prophecy and we were hooked and never missed.

Then in March, '74, the Havensville Church held a Revival. I'll never understand why we went? But, PRAISE GOD, He has control of everything and knew we were ready to hear HIS WORD thru Wilbur. The evening was anything but ordinary. Ron and Haven Howard stirred my spirit as the songs of Christ they sang were so alive, because Christ is alive in their lives. Wilbur's message was different too, almost as though he were looking into my soul telling me things about myself I thought was a secret. Of course there are no secrets from God, He knows everything and He was talking to me thru His servant, Wilbur, that March evening and PRAISE GOD it soaked in!

The next morning I sat at the table reading one of the tracts the boys had picked up, I even got out the Bible and then I began to pray, REALLY PRAY, and for the first time (after all those years of Sunday School and Church) I ASKED JESUS INTO MY HEART and THAT I MIGHT BE FILLED WITH HIS HOLY SPIRIT. In that moment my life was changed in a way that can't be put into words. Suddenly I realized I wasn't good, and even if I was, my good works couldn't buy my salvation. God wanted me and my will just as I was and in the light of His love - His beautiful

perfect love - I saw how black my heart was and I shed tears of sorrow and thanked God that He loved me so much He sent His Son to shed His blood for my unrighteousness. Jesus went to the cross for ME and all I need to do is accept Him. THANK YOU JESUS!

The second night of the Revival Sam got around to go without any hassel. Seemed strange. I wondered why he acted so differently? PRAISE GOD, he had accepted Jesus as LORD OF HIS LIFE, too! How good God was to us! We attended the classes on "Dealing With The Devil" and the Revival every night. There was so much to learn and our minds were thirsty for God's Word after that long dry spell. The following Sunday Sam was the first one ready for Sunday School and Church and our home was FULL of JOY because CHRIST is at the head of our family now!

The days were EXCITING as the Bible came alive! It made sense now with Jesus helping us to understand it. The works I did now, I did out of love for Jesus, not for a pat-on-the-back. I was no longer confused, I knew right from wrong because the Holy Spirit convicted me of my sins and continues to guide me day to day and show me the right path. Our tastes in entertainment, music, magazines and TV programs have changed and it wasn't even a sacrifice because they were only things we used to fill a void that only God can satisfy. Most important of all our security is in Christ now and not the material things of this world that will not last. We know that everything we have is from God our Father because He loves us, HIS to give, to use or take away. I am finally able to open my home for meals and prayer gatherings without worrying about the way things look. My what JOY I have received!

I thank God that I belong to His family and for my brothers and sisters in Christ. What a precious gift.

No, I'm not perfect, my life isn't perfect, and my days aren't perfect. God didn't promise that, I still slip and fall, but my Father in Heaven picks me up, brushes me off and helps me on my way again. He walks with me every step and shares my sorrows and my joy, listens to my complaints, requests and praises of thanksgiving and patiently and lovingly teaches me as I serve Him with the best I have. Praise God for His goodness to me and for sending Wilbur Johnson to open our eyes to His love."

Signed--Beverly (Jeannie) Keehn(35)

May this beautiful poem by Glenda Fulton Davis encourage you as it has me in seeking to do God's Will by being filled with His Spirit from day to day.

HELP ME HOLY SPIRIT

I want to talk like Jesus,
words of truth my mouth to speak.
I want to walk like Jesus,
circumspect with holy feet.
I want to see like Jesus,
through the man into the heart.
I want to be like Jesus,
Spirit-filled and set apart.
I want to live like Jesus,
faithful to my God above.
I want to give like Jesus,
not of duty, but of love.
I want to pray like Jesus,
"Father, not my will but thine."
I want to stay like Jesus,
in God's presence all the time.
I want to dare like Jesus,
speaking out on wrong and sin.
I want to care like Jesus,
seeking souls to win for Him.
I want to preach like Jesus,
seeing captive souls set free.
I want to teach like Jesus,
of the blood He shed for me.
O help me, Holy Spirit,
your Presence to receive,
Yes, help me Holy Spirit,
close to Jesus, to cleave.
Lift me up to things above,
that through me all may see
Christ's redeeming love
exemplified in me.(36)

FAITH ALIVE IN HEART, HOME and CHURCH
NOTES - Chapter 3

1. Booklet-"Filled With the Holy Spirit", by Bill Bright of Campus Crusade for Christ, Pgs, 21,22. Copyright, Campus Crusade for Christ, Inc. 1971. Used by permission of "Here's Life Publishers," San Bernardino, California. Christ.
2. John 7:38,39
3. Proverbs 23:31a,32
4. Luke 5:39
5. Luke 10:41,42
6. John 4:24
7. Hebrews 12:29
8. John 14:6; Psalm 36:9; Acts 17:28
9. I John 4:8
10. John 1:5
11. John 4:24
12. Howard Hayes has been a life long Bible College Professor. He is now retired living in Johnson City, Tennessee.
13. Poem "The Hound of Heaven" by Francis Thompson
14. Ephesians 5:14-18
15. Seth Wilson is a retired Dean and Professor of Ozark Christian College, Joplin, Missouri
16. Boyd Lammiman has been a life long Bible College Professor and President. He is now retired and living in Calgary, Alberta, Canada
17. Acts 6:2,3
18. "How to Walk in the Spirit," Pgs. 18,19,20. Copyright.
19. "Letters to Young Churches" by J.B. Phillips.
20. Acts 4:31
21. Galatians 5:19-21
22. Galatians 5:22,23

23. Matthew 5:6
24. James 4:8
25. Psalm 63:1
26. James 4:7-1960 New American Standard translation.
27. Romans 6:13c-James Moffatt translation.
28. Romans 12:1a
29. Matthew 5:30
30. I John 1:8,9
31. Psalm 51:1-4a, 7, 9-12
32. Luke 11:9-13
33. John 16:13,14
34. John 15:5
35. Letter to me from Beverly Keehn of Soldier,
Kansas, November, 1974. Used by permission.
36. Poem "Help Me Holy Spirit" by Glenda Fulton
Davis.



**Sam and Jeannie Keehn
and Sons
Soldier, Kansas**