



**Filling of the Spirit**  
*Various Passages April 23, 2017*

I. Introduction:

- A. We are excited about the Compassion Experience coming to MVC starting next Friday. The sign up has been so big that they have asked us to add an extra day on Tuesday to accommodate all the people who want to go through it! Also, since we have added that extra day, we will need 10 additional people to serve on that Tuesday.
  - 1. Remember to sign up on line if you want a slot to go through Compassion Experience or to serve on Tuesday.
  - 2. Our goal for just the people of MVC is to support 138 children from Haiti which we will explain more about next Sunday and you will have an opportunity after the service in our atrium to select one of those 138 children from Haiti.
  - 3. If you go through the Compassion Experience on Friday or Saturday and you want to be a part of this goal we have and a special area we want to impact, just let the people running Compassion Experience trailer know you are from MVC and you want one of the children from Haiti reserved for MVC!
- B. We are in a series on the Holy Spirit called Empowered and are learning together more about how the Spirit empowers us to live out the mission God has given us here together at MVC.
- C. Two weeks ago we learned that in order to win the personal world war each one of us faces deep within ourselves we must walk by the Spirit. But in order to properly understand what it means to walk by the Spirit we must also understand what it means to be filled with the Spirit, since they really go hand in hand.
- D. And when we walk filled with the Holy Spirit our heart moves from a war zone that is filled with all sorts of internal disorder and fleshly junk flying around in it to a singing heart that is filled with gratitude and humility towards one another and on top of that the very character of the Spirit of Jesus fills our life!

- So today let's start with the results of being filled with the Spirit, then let's see just what it means to be filled with the Spirit and close with how we are filled with the Spirit. First, what are ...

## II. The key results of being filled with the Spirit

1. Gal 5:22-23
    - a) He is not talking about different heavenly spiritual commodities called love, joy, peace, patience, etc. that the Holy Spirit transports down from the heavenly storehouse to our hearts
    - b) He is talking about the very Spirit, the One who lives in us, His love, His joy, His peace, His patience, etc. being expressed within and through us!
    - c) The character of Jesus becomes our character!
  2. Turn to Eph 5- Here we see more results, by-products or fruits of being filled with the Spirit. Read v17-18
    - a) Singing Heart
      - (1) Read v19
      - (2) Both with other believers and in private with the Lord.
    - b) Grateful Heart
      - (1) Read v20
      - (2) Always (all the time) giving thanks for All  
(Everything – good, bad and in between) things
    - c) Submissive Heart – that means the Spirit produces in me a yielding to other believers and a placing of my life under them. Note this is a one another – mutual – both ways humbling ourselves before one another read v21
      - (1) He goes on to talk of three major relationships – and in each of these relationships he explains what submitting our lives to each other looks like for each one in the relationship
        - (a) Marriage - husband & wife,
        - (b) Family – parents & children,
        - (c) Servants and masters – relationship with authorities in our lives like boss/employee.
- Now that we know what some of the results are from being filled with the Spirit, let's look at what it

### III. means to be filled with the Holy Spirit

A. Reread v18

B. First, let's look at the meaning and use of the word filled

1. Filled simply means to cause something to become full, completely occupied.
2. In the New Testament it is not only spoken of regarding being full of the Spirit but also of a heart that is full of rage, fear, sorrow, wonder and amazement, jealousy, joy, comfort or of a room filled with smoke or fragrance.
  - a) You know what a person is like or what you are like when you are filled with rage, fear, sorrow or joy. It is what preoccupies, fills or is controlling your heart and dominating your responses
3. Now what do we learn in this verse about being filled with the Spirit.
  - a) Read v18 again
  - b) And just like a person living under the influence of alcohol does not act like they normally would without it but their attitudes and action are influenced by the alcohol,
  - c) So a person who is living under the influence of Holy Spirit does not act like they normally would without Him but their attitudes and actions are influenced by the Holy Spirit. A life of a singing, grateful and submissive heart, and a heart filled with the character of the Spirit of Jesus.

C. So to be filled with the Spirit is where the Holy Spirit's presence occupies and His power controls the heart of the believer to such a degree that their entire life is under the influence of the Holy Spirit.

D. And this verse tells us it is a command to be filled with the Spirit and it is in the present tense – which means that we are at all times to be living under the influence of the Holy Spirit.

- In closing I want to share with you four practical things I do to allow the Spirit to fill and control me!

### IV. How to be filled with the Spirit

A. Traffic in the things that the Spirit is seeking to produce within and through you. As we walk in the paths where He is going and living we will run into each other!

1. Singing, worshipping heart

a) Join in worship with one another on Sunday mornings and do not just stand and watch others worship. Engage ..

b) Listen to Christian music during the week (style of your choice on Pandora) and let the words and songs fill your heart so that your heart will be singing to the Lord

2. Grateful heart –

a) Practice gratitude – start a journal, list 5-10 things a day on a piece of paper you are grateful for.

b) Then go in prayer to God daily and thank Him for those things you listed

3. Submissive heart –

a) Be intentional to listen to and follow the advice that you get from other believers

b) Wives practice submitting to your husbands and husbands laying down your life for your wife. Children obeying your parents and fathers not provoking your children. Employees give whole hearted respectful obedience to your bosses and bosses treat them the same and give them grace!

B. Fill yourself with the Word of God – turn to Col 3 (Eph – Phil - Col)

1. Now as we turn from Eph 5 here remember that the results of being filled with the Spirit are a singing, grateful and submissive heart.

2. Note here are the results of a heart that is filled with the Word of God.

a) Read 3:16-17

b) Note – 18-19 (wives submit, husbands love, 20-21 children obey, fathers do not provoke, 22- servants – whole hearted respectful service)

3. The exact same results happen when we are filled with the Spirit as when we are filled with the Word of God

a) Remember what Jesus said – “my words are spirit and life.”

b) When I digest this book deep within my heart, to the point where God’s Word is at home within my heart, God’s Word and my heart are so one that it fills my heart with the Spirit and life of God.

4. So I prayerfully and devotionally and obediently and submissively come to the Word of God and soak myself in it, and when I leave, I leave filled with the Holy Spirit and a singing, grateful and submissive heart,

C. Prayer

1. Luke 11:13 – here Jesus says that God gives good gifts to those who persist in prayer to him – those who keep on asking, those who keep on seeking and those who keep on knocking.
  - a) Then in closing He is basically saying the essence of all good gifts and the greatest of good gifts is the Holy Spirit
  - b) And those who ask He will give to them the ministry of the Holy Spirit.
  - c) Now, no place in Scripture are we told to ask god to give us the Holy Spirit to live inside of us that is the gift God gives us when we believe on Jesus.
  - d) I believe he is talking about the various ministries of the Holy Spirit that we receive when we ask for Him to work in prayer
2. Let me say further there is a pattern in Scripture that connects the ministry of the Holy Spirit with prayer:
  - a) Jesus' baptism when Holy Spirit came down and anointed Him. read Luke 3:21-22
  - b) Pentecost when the church received the Holy Spirit for the first time they were not in a planning meeting to organize the ministry Jesus gave them but they were in a prayer meeting Acts 1:14
  - c) Early church leaders were in a prayer meeting about the ministry God gave them in Acts 4 and listen to what happened. Read Acts 4:31
3. Even John teaches us in 1 Jn 5:14-15 that if we ask anything according to God's will (Remember it is God's will that we be filled with the Spirit) that we know He has heard us and we will get what we asked.
4. How I pray daily regarding the filling of Spirit
  - a) Start with thanking God that I am indwelt by the Holy Spirit already
  - b) Ask that the Holy Spirit would occupy my interior life and if there are any areas of my interior life that are resistant to His presence and control that He would break down the doors of that area, invade it and fill that room of my life with His presence
  - c) Then I ask that the Holy Spirit would exercise His control and influence over every one of those areas He is occupying.
    - (1) So control me that what would fill me and come out of me are His love, His joy, His peace, His patience, His ...

(2) Also, I ask that he would use his power to restrain anything of the world, the devil and my flesh that would want to influence my life

- d) Then I ask the Spirit of God to lead me and create in me a carefulness and forethought regarding every thought, word, decision and bite (my special need) in my life
- e) Then I ask the Spirit to also anoint and empower me for whatever I need for life and ministry. Read Heb 13:20-21
- f) Then I walk away from that time expecting God to do as I asked! As Jesus said – “all things you ask for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they will be granted you!”

D. The fourth area is dependence upon Spirit to supernaturally control you

- 1. One other area I pray about is declaring that my trust, my love, my wisdom, my strength, my fill in the blank is not in myself but in another person, the Spirit of God. I clarify before God and myself that my trust is not in me but in the Spirit
- 2. Then I walk away from that time, and walk all day like this and especially in times of special testing relying fully on the Spirit (remember last week and the wall) relying upon the Holy Spirit to so fill me and control me that He does the miracle of living His life out through me so that it is not I but Christ who lives in me!