

**josiahventure**

## **Walk by the Spirit**

*"The doctrine of the Holy Spirit has been too much overlooked, as though it were not practical, and the result is lack of power in testimony and work."*

*DL Moody*

*"We in our century are certainly no less needy than our Lord or those first disciples. For us to attempt any church work, any ministry or witnessing solely through man's devices, talents, and organizational machinery alone is as effective as trying to drive our car with water in the gas tank."*

*Catherine Marshall*

## Walk by the Spirit

### ***When the Holy Spirit is at work there is:***

Acts 1:8 – Power for witnessing


Gal 5:22 – Love joy and peace

Gal 5:16 – The ability to resist sin

Rom 8:2 – Power to live a Godly life

Eph 6:18 – Effective prayer

1 Cor 12:7-11 – Supernatural gifts for ministry



## Walk by the Spirit


### ***Where he is not free to work there is:***

Gal 3:3 - Only human effort

Rom 8:6 – Death

Rom 8:8 – Inability to please God

Gal 5:17, 19-20 – Slavery to sinful habits



## What did Jesus teach about the Holy Spirit?

John 14:15-17, 25-27, John 15:6-15, Acts 1:4-8

Context:

In the upper room  
At the last supper

John 13:33-36 – Jesus is leaving

What kind of questions did his disciples have?

## What did Jesus teach about the Holy Spirit?

The promise – another counselor 14:16

Counselor = "parakletos" in the Greek

para = alongside


kletos = the one who calls

The one who comes near me and speaks to me in a way that enables me to move forward

## What did Jesus teach about the Holy Spirit?


1. He will be with you forever (v 16)  
Psalms 51:1
2. The world neither sees him nor knows him (v 17)
3. He will be in you and in each of you (v 17)

Isaiah 44:3  
Eph 1:14, Rom 8:8, I Cor 12:13



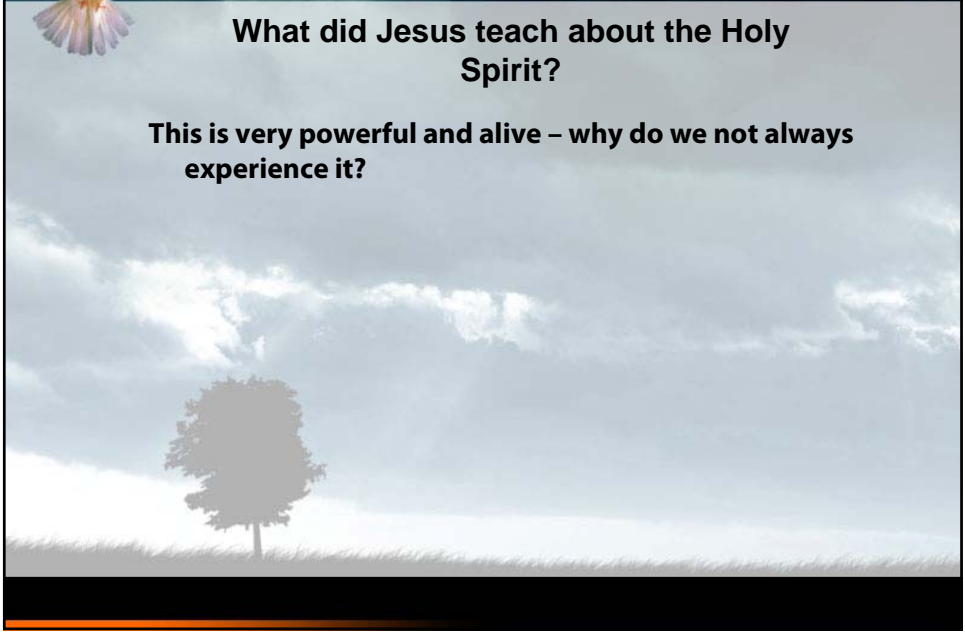
## What did Jesus teach about the Holy Spirit?

### What does he do?

1. Teaches and reminds – John 14:26
  2. Convicts of sin – John 16:8
  3. Guides you, speaks to you, and makes known to you things from Jesus. John 16:13-15
  4. Empowers – Acts 1:8
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## What did Jesus teach about the Holy Spirit?

This is very powerful and alive – why do we not always experience it?



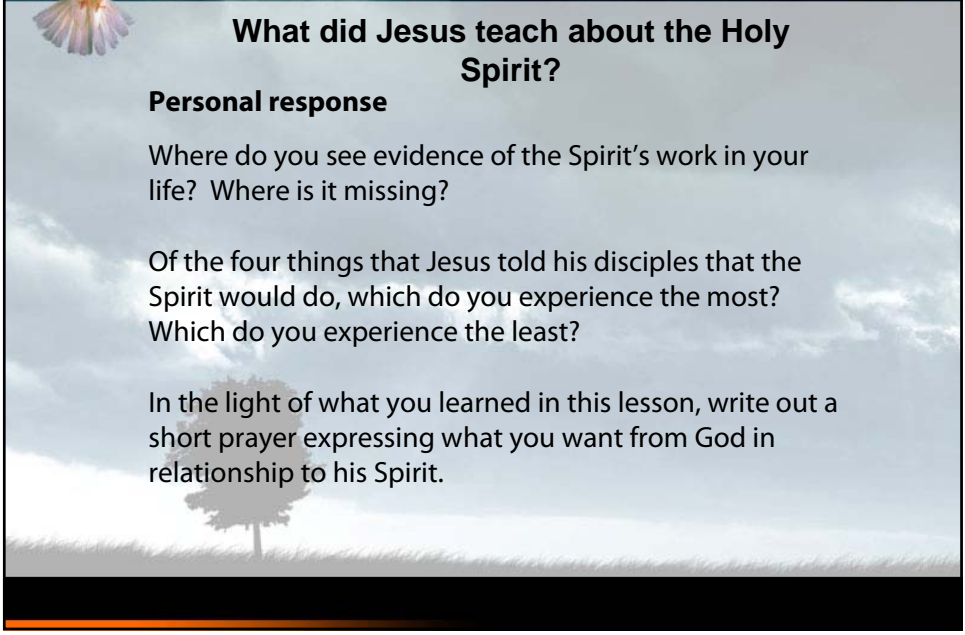
## What did Jesus teach about the Holy Spirit?

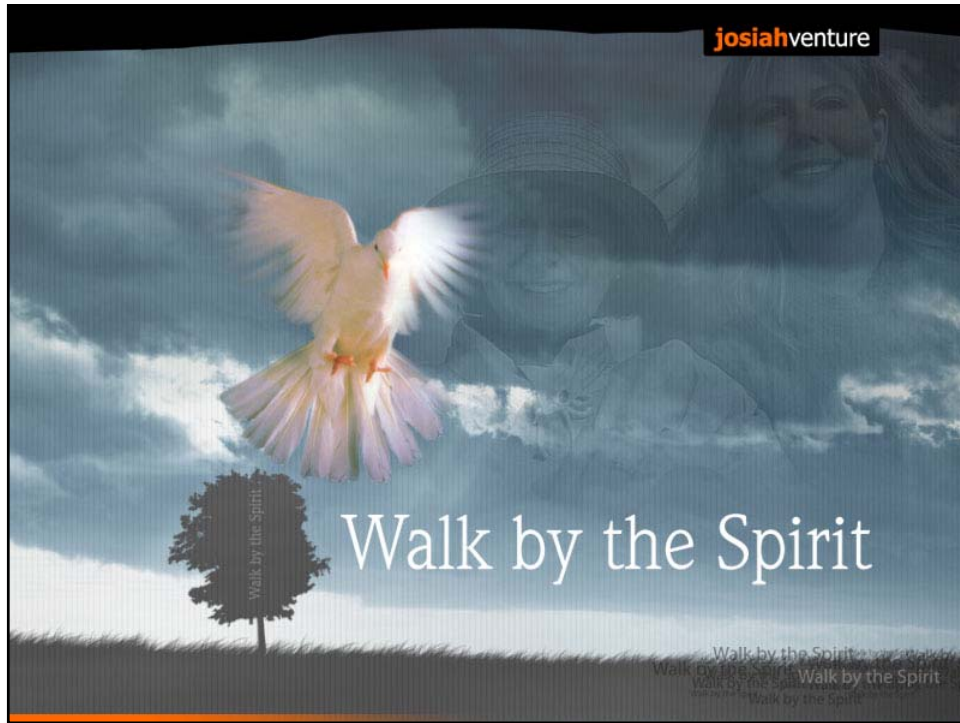
### Personal response

Where do you see evidence of the Spirit's work in your life? Where is it missing?

Of the four things that Jesus told his disciples that the Spirit would do, which do you experience the most? Which do you experience the least?

In the light of what you learned in this lesson, write out a short prayer expressing what you want from God in relationship to his Spirit.





## What did the Apostles teach about the Holy Spirit?

Two pieces of advice as we continue:

The Holy Spirit is a person – we can't reduce his work to some formula, and will never fully understand it. John 3:8

We mustn't seek his power for our sake, but rather so we can more effectively love and serve God. Acts 8:18-24



## How does the Holy Spirit relate to my mind? – Rom 7-8 Who is Sarx?

Greek "sarx" = the "flesh" or my "old nature"

His power is broken – Rom 6:6

But he still stays with me – Rom 7:18

He has strong opinions and tries to influence me – Rom 7:17





**How does the Holy Spirit relate to my mind? –  
Rom 7-8  
Who is Sarx?**

Greek "sarx" = the "flesh" or my "old nature"

He wants my mind to be his prisoner –  
Rom 7:24

When I let him control my thoughts I lose  
the power of the Spirit. I cannot please  
God – Rom 8:8



**How does the Holy Spirit relate to my mind? –  
Rom 7-8  
A closer look at the Battle**

Rom 8:1 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, 8:2 because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. 8:3 For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering.

And so he condemned sin in sinful man 8:4 in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.



## How does the Holy Spirit relate to my mind? –

### Rom 7-8 A closer look at the Battle

8:5 Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.

The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; 8:7 the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. 8:8 Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.



## How does the Holy Spirit relate to my mind? –

### Rom 7-8 A closer look at the Battle

8:9 You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. 8:10 But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness.

8:11 And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.

**How does the Holy Spirit relate to my mind? –**

**Rom 7-8**  
**Who are the key players in this conflict?**

Sarx (my old nature) and the Spirit

**What is a key battleground?**

My mind

**What does the Spirit want to do?**

Give me freedom from the law of sin

Give me life and peace

**What do I need to do?**

Set my mind on what the Spirit desires

Let my thoughts be controlled by the Spirit

**How does the Holy Spirit relate to my mind? –**

**Rom 7-8**  
Do not underestimate the importance of the mind in the work of the Holy Spirit. Whatever controls our mind will also control our attitudes and behavior.

If we want the life and peace the Holy Spirit promises we must take responsibility for submitting our thoughts to him.

*How does the Holy Spirit relate to my mind? –*

**Rom 7-8**  
**Practical Implications**

1. The Holy Spirit will not take control of my thoughts if I am focused on what my old nature desires. He will not share a room with his enemy.
2. Without his help my old nature sarx will put me in bondage – even if I try to resist him.
3. I must realize that I am responsible for what goes on in my mind.
4. When I see the fruit of the sinful nature I need to purposefully place my mind on what the Spirit desires and let him control my thoughts.

*How does the Holy Spirit relate to my mind? –*

**Rom 7-8**  
**Application**

- My mind and the teaching of the Spirit
- My mind and the convicting of the Spirit
- My mind and the leading of the Spirit
- My mind and the empowering of the Spirit



## How does the Holy Spirit relate to my mind? –

### Rom 7:8 Personal Response

Take a moment and listen to Sarx. What are some of the phrases that you hear often in your head from your sinful nature?

How does it impact you when you listen to his voice?

Have you ever tried to reason with Sarx? What is the outcome?

Now look at the things that Sarx said and turn your head. Ask God to speak to you through his Spirit in response to these statements. Write down what he says.

What is the nature of the Spirit's voice? How does it impact you when you set your mind on what he is saying?



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## How does the Holy Spirit relate to my will? Gal 5:16-26

To catch the full impact of what he is saying we need to understand two more Greek words.

1. περιπατετε = peripateite = walk or live

Galatians 5:16 "So I say, *live (walk)* by the Spirit and you will not gratify the desires of your sinful nature."

2. στοιχω = stoicheo = keep step

Galatians 5:25 "Since we live by the Spirit, let us *keep in step* with the Spirit..."



## How does the Holy Spirit relate to my will? Gal 5:16-26

Galatians 5:16-18

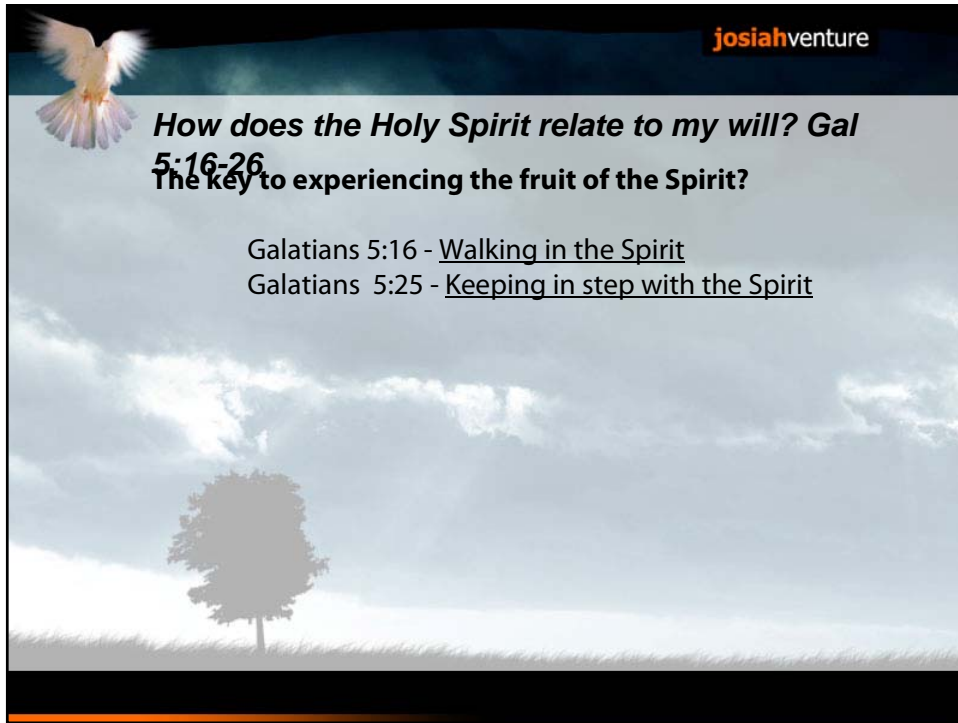
*So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of your sinful nature.*

*For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law.*

***How does the Holy Spirit relate to my will? Gal 5:16-26***  
**The key to experiencing the fruit of the Spirit?**

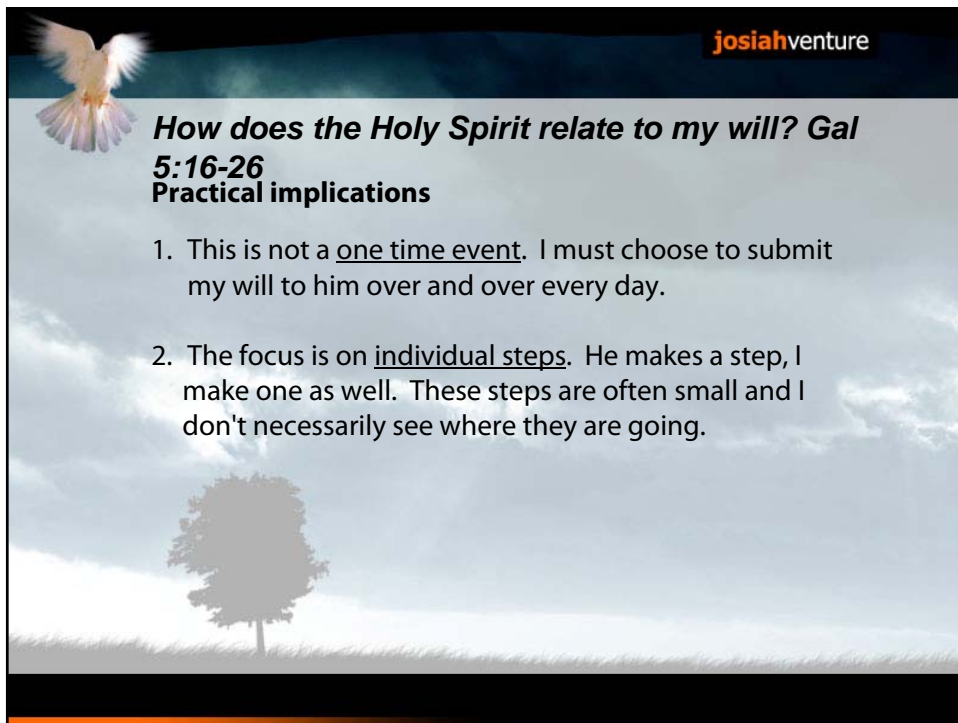
Galatians 5:16 - Walking in the Spirit

Galatians 5:25 - Keeping in step with the Spirit



***How does the Holy Spirit relate to my will? Gal 5:16-26***  
**Practical implications**

1. This is not a one time event. I must choose to submit my will to him over and over every day.
2. The focus is on individual steps. He makes a step, I make one as well. These steps are often small and I don't necessarily see where they are going.





***How does the Holy Spirit relate to my will? Gal 5:16-26***  
**Practical implications**

3. Walking in the spirit is not complicated and brings much freedom. Our responsibility is just to keep in step with him – his responsibility is to change us and take us in the right direction.
4. The fruit of the Spirit is a natural outgrowth of this way of living. If we don't see the fruit it is an indication that we are not walking in the Spirit. We need to solve the problem by addressing the cause, not just trying to change the symptoms.



***How does the Holy Spirit relate to my will? Gal 5:16-26***  
**Application of walking in the Spirit**

- My will and the teaching of the Spirit
- My will and the convicting of the Spirit
- My will and the leading of the Spirit
- My will and the empowering of the Spirit



***How does the Holy Spirit relate to my will? Gal 5:16-26***  
**Personal Response**

In prayer turn your attention to the will of the Spirit and listen to his voice. What steps of obedience does he want you to take in the next week? Write these down.

Are these steps attainable and possible for you to do?

What will be the result if you act on these instructions?

What will keep you from doing them?



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### ***How is a person filled with the Holy Spirit? Eph 5:18-20***

#### **Observations about the filling of the Spirit**

1. God worked powerfully through people who were filled with the Holy Spirit – Acts 4:31
2. Though there can be specific experiences of particular filling, the filling of the Spirit is not a one time event. Acts 13:9,52
3. We are all commanded to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Eph 5:18



### ***How is a person filled with the Holy Spirit? Eph 5:18-20***

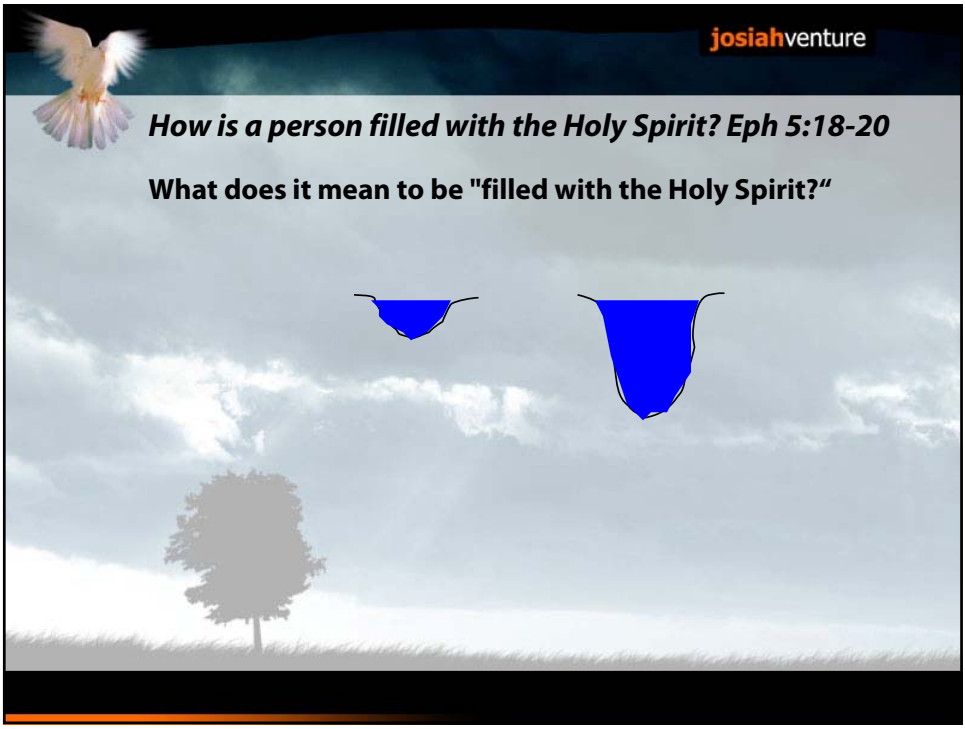
#### **Observations about the filling of the Spirit**

4. This command is in a continuous form – "keep on being filled" with the Spirit. Eph 5:18
5. Where people are filled with the Holy Spirit there is music, praise, and a thankful spirit. Eph 5:19-20
6. In the New Testament the characteristic of being "filled with the Spirit" was an essential prerequisite for leadership. Acts 6:3



### How is a person filled with the Holy Spirit? Eph 5:18-20

What does it mean to be "filled with the Holy Spirit?"



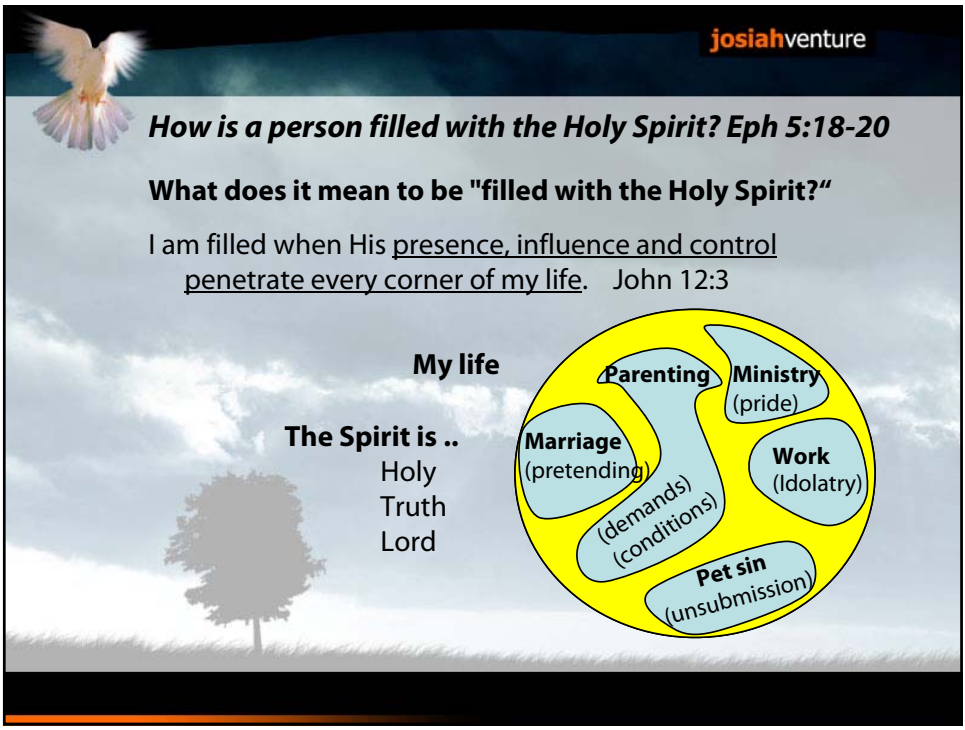
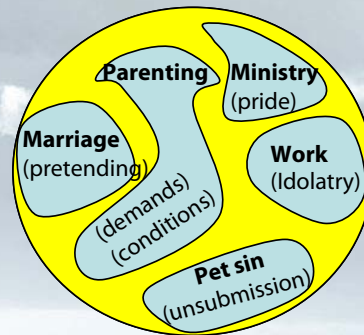
### How is a person filled with the Holy Spirit? Eph 5:18-20

What does it mean to be "filled with the Holy Spirit?"

I am filled when His presence, influence and control penetrate every corner of my life. John 12:3


**The Spirit is ..**  
Holy  
Truth  
Lord

**My life**




***How is a person filled with the Holy Spirit? Eph 5:18-20***

**How can I be more filled with the Holy Spirit?**

1. Ask him to show you any areas of your life not yet yielded to him. Then give these to him.
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***How is a person filled with the Holy Spirit? Eph 5:18-20***

**How can I be more filled with the Holy Spirit?**

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**How is a person filled with the Holy Spirit? Eph 5:18-20**

**How can I be more filled with the Holy Spirit?**

2. Seek his filling in prayer and dependence. Accept his filling in faith.  
John 7:37-39, Acts 1:14

*"Let us constantly seek to be filled with the Spirit, to be led by the Spirit, to walk in the Spirit. We can agree that the main condition of being filled is to be hungry. The Scripture tells us that God fills the hungry with good things and sends the rich away empty (Ps. 81:10)"*

John Stott



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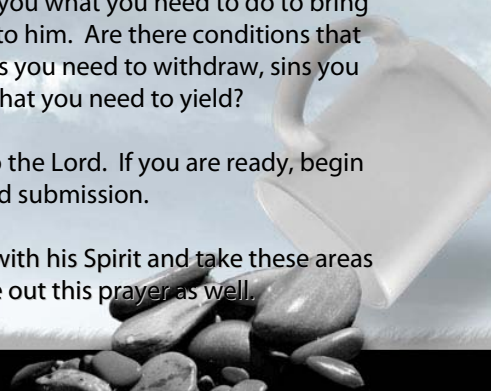
**Personal response**


Draw a circle that represents your life. Then ask God to show you through his Spirit the areas that are not fully under his control. Draw these in your circle and name them.

Now ask the Father to show you what you need to do to bring these areas into submission to him. Are there conditions that you need to cancel, demands you need to withdraw, sins you need to confess or lordship that you need to yield?

Write a prayer of response to the Lord. If you are ready, begin the process of confession and submission.

Now ask the Lord to fill you with his Spirit and take these areas fully under his control. Write out this prayer as well.





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## *Walk by the Spirit*

**Practical questions**

How can I know that the Holy Spirit is speaking and not just my thoughts?

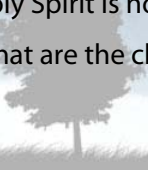
How do I recognize his voice?

What does it mean to "test the spirits" (1 John 4:1)

Does his work always look the same?

What about times when it seems that God is silent and the Holy Spirit is not working?

What are the clearest signs of his presence?



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