

# HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD!

## What Does Being “Filled with the Spirit” Mean?

*Ephesians 5:15–21*



### LET’S BEGIN HERE

The Christian life is like a car. One needs at least two important things to drive it: a key and fuel. When an individual comes to faith in Christ, he or she is given the key: salvation. But the car of the Christian life doesn’t get very far without fuel — the divine enablement of the Holy Spirit, what the Bible calls being “filled with the Spirit” (Ephesians 5:18). Once we realize that we need to keep our spiritual tanks full every day, we’ll live lives of true authenticity.



### LET’S DIG DEEPER

#### 1. A Quick Review of Where We’ve Been (John 14:16–17; Acts 1:8)

Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit as our helper. The Holy Spirit permanently indwells Christians. Now, we have God’s divine enablement.

#### 2. A Necessary Reminder of What We Are . . . and Why (1 Corinthians 6:19–20; Ephesians 5:15–17)

The bodies of Christians are temples of the Holy Spirit. As such, we are to glorify God in our bodies — being careful how we conduct ourselves because the days are evil.

#### 3. An Essential Understanding of How We’re to Live (Ephesians 5:18–21)

Paul gave us two commands: don’t “get drunk with wine . . . but be filled with the Spirit” of power.

These commands consist of four factors: *they are imperative, plural, passive, and present*. These commands lead to four results: *they affect our speaking, they give us melodious hearts, they make us grateful, and they encourage mutual submission*.



### Quotable

*When we operate from our sinful nature, the engine of faith shuts down. The goal is to operate in the Spirit.*

— Charles R. Swindoll



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Two important truths emerge regarding the filling of the Spirit.

- The world isn't looking for the amazing; it's looking for the authentic.
- The church doesn't need monthly miracles; it needs daily enablement.



### LET'S LIVE IT

Brennan Manning, a self-described fool for Christ, wrote,

The late Romano Guardini once stated that Francis of Assisi “allowed Jesus Christ to become transparent in his personality.” If this is what it means to live as a Christian, why are the personalities of so many pious, proper, and correct Christians so opaque?<sup>1</sup>

It is past time that we allow the Spirit to fill our souls and clean the windows of our lives. This is the only way we'll ever live an authentic Christian life; it is the only way a watching world will see Christ for who He is.

**Living authentically before others is what the world wants and needs from us. How can we achieve authenticity, according to 1 Peter 3:15?**

#### ENDNOTE

1. Brennan Manning, *The Importance of Being Foolish: How to Think Like Jesus* (San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 2005), 37.



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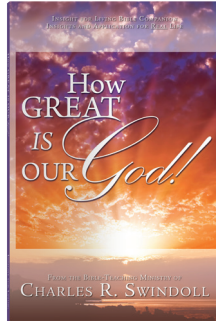
## Tools for Digging Deeper



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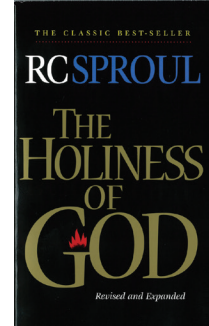
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