

THE LIFE OF PRAYER
Class #7 – March 19, 2006 AM1

Ensure fellowship with God through 1 John 1:9

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Review of Houston Conference on the Life of Prayer –

- I. Part One
 - Abraham's prayer life
 - Moses prayer life
 - II. Part two
 - How and why the Church age believer can accomplish greater works than the Lord did.
John 14:12 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do..."
 - III. Part three
 - The role of the Holy Spirit to the believer in relation to prayer.
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The Christian way of life is a supernatural way of life with a supernatural means of execution.

That supernatural means is provided by the Mentorship of God the Holy Spirit – everything He has taken up permanent residence in the believer to enable the believer to live his life for the glory of God.

The Christian way of life is a process of learning the Holy Spirit's ways with you as a believer.

This process is intrinsic and subjective.

(The only objective evaluator the believer has available to him to evaluate the Spirit's ways with him is metabolized Bible Doctrine circulating in the stream of consciousness)

The mature believer can evaluate the Holy Spirit's ways with him with the Bible doctrine in his soul because the Spirit never acts contrary to the Word of God.

Christian maturity is not about how much Bible doctrine you know, otherwise all believers would need to go to seminary –and the local church should become a theological classroom to produce pocket theologians and apologists from the pew.

This results in arrogant believers running around doing karate with people in the Word of God!

The pastor's job is to feed the flock with the Word of God.

When a pastor becomes professorial from the pulpit by communicating as a seminary professor would on an academic level– the pew is stimulated intellectually with many biblical facts and theoretical truths but they slowly starve unaware of the spiritual food they so desperately require.

They learn all of the views on a subject and why they are wrong -
What exactly does that do for you as a believer?

You assimilate a perspective of learning what everyone else is doing wrong and
you are too arrogant to see that you are wrong.

The pastor is designed to teach the Word of God – to pour into the original languages (the languages that the Bible was written in) with the gift of pastor-teacher under the filling of the Spirit. He is to be taught by

the Spirit of God. To have revealed to him by the Spirit truth from the Text. THAT IS WHERE THE PASTOR-TEACHER GETS HIS BIBLE DOCTRINE. Then he is to serve it to the flock.

Then the pastor serves that food to the sheep in the flock. All of his work in the Word of God is a demonstration of his love for the flock and that love is motivated by his personal love for his Savior and what he is learning – he understands it is by grace. He does nothing to earn or deserve that illumination. And so he depends on the Spirit to be taught – in the Word of God. Then he puts that on the table for the flock!

What happens when others take that food and put it in a blender and rearrange it? It becomes processed food and if you wish to eat processed food (*fast food*) all the time, go right ahead. There are a host of people out there who are sick because all they eat is processed food! A sad trend today.

The pig is an unclean animal (according to the Law). He enjoys his muddy pig-pen. He loves to find someone who will wrestle with him in his pig-pen. The problem is that if you are going to wrestle with him you are going to get dirty and the pig is the only one who likes getting dirty. So if you argue with a pig you are going to get dirty and while you do not enjoy getting dirty the pig truly enjoys it. He loves it!

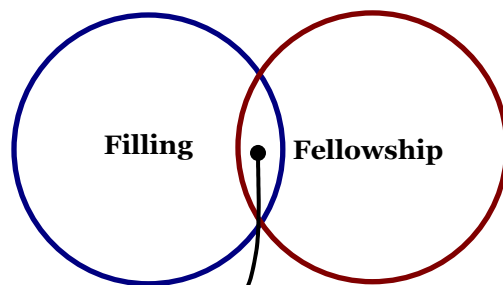
While you are arguing with him he will never understand the value of what you are saying – he'll trample the value of what you say which is why you do not cast your pearls before swine. A pig has no discernment for the value of pearls. The pearls are trampled in the mud by the pig, an unclean animal.

Moral of the story – don't argue with a pig because you just get muddy!

"Pastor Hastings, where does the pastor-teacher get his Bible doctrine?" Justin Ford.

The answer is that the pastor-teacher gets his Bible doctrine as he is taught by the Spirit of God with the spiritual gift of pastor-teacher as he exegetes the Word of God. That is how the man with the gift is designed to be fed. So, if he does not study what happens? He does not get fed himself and he cannot feed the sheep.

The 'filling of the Spirit' and 'fellowship with God' need to be distinguished.



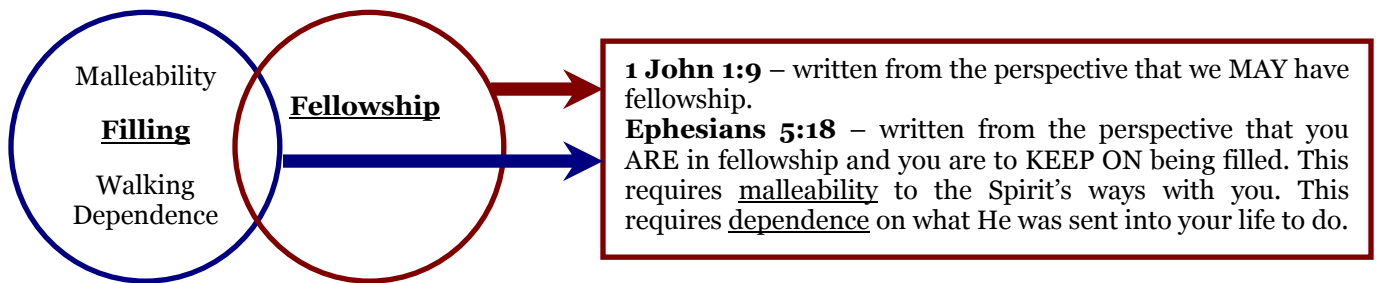
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If you are out of fellowship the only way to get back in fellowship is to **confess** your sins.

Fellowship = Absolute state

Filling of the Holy Spirit = Not an absolute!
(God fulfilling all that He was sent to fulfill in your life)

Eph 5:18

1 Jn 1:9



- Trying to understand this on your own = the problem = dependence on self.
- Letting the Holy Spirit reveal this to you = dependence on the Spirit = “walking by the Spirit”.

Venn diagram = compares two independent concepts and finds what is similar.

- Filling
- Fellowship

1 John 1:3-4, 9

(3) What we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too **may have fellowship** (a potential) with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.

(4) These things we write, so that our joy may be made complete. That we MAY have fellowship!

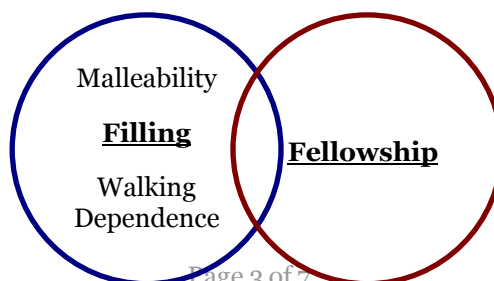
(9) If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us (or purify us) from all unrighteousness. After which you are restored to fellowship!

Ephesians 5:18

(18) And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, **but be filled with the Spirit** (present active imperative “keep on being filled”),

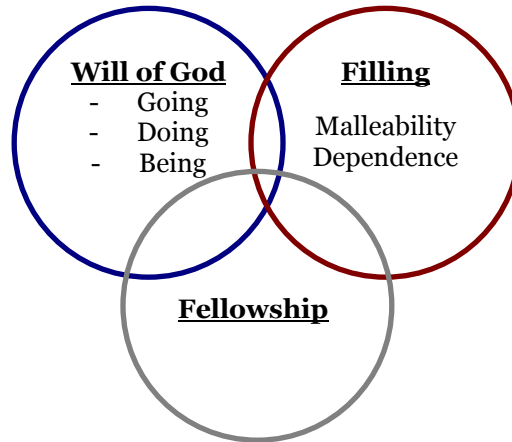
- The Spirit is NOT using something to fill you – like Bible doctrine.
- The Spirit is the One performing the verbal action Himself. Personal agency!
- You are commanded to fulfill the verbal action but you cannot - the Holy Spirit is the only One who can do it.
- A focus on your volition – malleability is a requirement – dependency is a requirement.
- Anything **you** can do is human effort – patience; kindness; gentleness etc. - pseudo fruit.
- Only God can produce His fruit (Gal 5:22-23).

Chafer, Systematic Theology Vol. 6 page 124



God will give you the divine ability to do what He needs you to do at the exact right place and right time to do it. Your responsibility is to be “in-fellowship” and walk in dependence on that ability.

- Filling may be characterized as partial, variable or complete. No imperfect filling with the Holy Spirit is satisfactory to God. God is not satisfied with having part of you.
- He wants all of you – and who can provide that? You.
- God commands all Christians, without any allowances, to be “filled with the Spirit”.



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- These concepts must be distinguished.
 - An over comparison of 1 Jn 1:9 (rebound) and Eph 5:18 (fellowship) automatically turns you into a “rebound robot”.
 - You confess and take in the Word of God. Confess – Word – Confess –Word...
 - You need the Word of God but (John 4:24) says you are to worship by “means of Spirit & Truth”.
 - You cannot limit “Spirit” to fellowship.
 - You cannot say “filling of the Holy Spirit” and then define that “filling” as “fellowship” – NO!

Filling of the Spirit – All that God the Holy Spirit was sent to do in your life as a born-again believer.

Truth – Is the only way to know what He was sent to do. You must know in order to start evaluating.

It is essential to learn the Spirit’s ways with you – from within.

- Without Bible doctrine to evaluate, you end up with Pentecostalism or Keswick (spirituality by emotional ecstasies or an act of the will).
- What is required to be led by the Spirit? Bible doctrine in your soul AND knowing the Spirit's ways with you (from within).
- **A frustration of teaching this doctrine results in teaching that only one circle exists – combining filling and fellowship when in fact they must be distinguished.**

The believer who is able to discern the leading of the Spirit is one that has entered maturity. The discernment comes from the doctrine in the soul that the Holy Spirit has put into a framework, not man with a system of apologetics. The Holy Spirit is the One who organizes the doctrine in your soul. The One who occupies it – your soul is His temple. Discerning the Spirit's ways is the ultimate system of thinking and that is why the spiritual life is a system of thinking. Thinking with a framework that the Spirit builds when the Word of God is being communicated.

John 14:12-16

(12) "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and **greater works than these he will do...**

...**because** - ὅτι

HOTI – *because...*

...**I go** – πορεύομαι

POREUOMAI – *to go on a trip by Himself*

...**to the Father.**

Corrected to read – “...**because I am going on a journey, Myself...**”

- Where was He going by Himself? To the Father – in heaven.
- Where will He sit down when He arrives? On the right hand of God (Heb 10:12) – a position of authority and honor.
- Why was He honored and told to sit down? Because He accomplished all that God wanted Him to accomplish with the time that God had given Him.
- Does He ask any less of you?
- POINT – We are directed to follow the example of Christ throughout your life in fulfilling the will of the Father.
- What does that require?
 - Going. Doing. Being.
 - Requires filling.
 - Malleability
 - Dependence
 - Requires fellowship.

POD – The believer who executes the protocol plan of God will be honored by God.

**How do you evaluate all that the Holy Spirit was sent into your life to do as your Mentor?
By the Word of God.**

- Doctrine does not produce spiritual fruit. God the Holy Spirit does – it's His fruit.
- Gal 5:22-23 “But the fruit (singular) of the Spirit...”
- Fruit of the Spirit is collectively manifested in the life of the believer and then believer has the character of Christ manifested within him.
- Living this life to the glory of God requires divine enablement and that is what the filling of the Spirit provides.
- And when you learn to walk in dependence on that you will know and you will manifest that character – it's not fake either. It's real. You are not producing it – you are walking in dependence on One to produce it.

And once He sits down in the position of authority and honor He is going to do something -
 (16) **"I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper...**

“Helper” – παρακλητος

PARAKLETOS – One who is sent to your side to enable you to do what you could not do – the will of God!

...that He may be with you forever;

1. Jesus Christ promised that the believer would accomplish “greater works than He”.
2. The fulfillment of the intercessory prayer request of Jesus Christ – *“I will ask the Father and He will give you another helper”* – will provide the potential for the believer to do greater works.
3. The Holy Spirit provides the divine enablement for the believer to accomplish greater things **from within**.

Subjective – Learning the Holy Spirit's ways with you.
Objective – Using metabolized Bible doctrine to evaluate the things learned.

John 14:12-13

(12) **"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father.**

- What is the context here? **Prayer!**

(13) **"Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.**

- In prayer you set in motion Jesus Christ who is in a position of honor and authority. Only half of the equation.
- The other half being the work on the Holy Spirit in prayer...

POD – The believer's position in Christ coupled with Christ's position of honor and authority at the right hand of the Father is the reason why the believer can accomplish greater works than the humanity of Christ during His earthly ministry.

Ask not – receive not!

All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard unless otherwise noted.