

THE SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE

SCRIPTURE ASSISTANCE

Ephesians 1:13-14 and **Ephesians 5:15-20**

The Greek word for being filled is *pimplamai*. It means to be filled or become generously supplied with, and it's the word Paul uses in **Ephesians 5** when he tells us to be filled with the Spirit.

Being filled is different than receiving or being sealed by the Spirit, which is described in **Ephesians 1** (and other places). When we trust in Christ, He makes a residence within us and seals us for salvation. Salvation is based on His work through Jesus at the cross—it isn't dependent upon our works. The Bible tells us that when we place our trust in Jesus, we become a new creation (**2 Corinthians 5:17**) and a temple of the Holy Spirit (**1 Corinthians 6:19-20**). This happens one time. Our salvation is secure and the Spirit is inside us, transforming us with His redemptive power.

Being filled with the Spirit happens many times. Over and over again in the Bible we see people filled with the Spirit in different ways. Moses, Elijah, Elisha, Samson, Zechariah, and Elizabeth were filled with the Spirit. In **Acts 4:8**, we read how Peter was filled with the Spirit in a particularly powerful way that caused the place that they were meeting at to shake.

Pimplamai is a passive command, which means our job isn't to fill ourselves up in our own strength. Rather, our job is to yield over control of our lives to God's power. He is the one who fills us; we are the ones who let go of control. To illustrate this, Paul connects being filled with the Spirit to being drunk. He instructs Christ-followers to not get drunk—we shouldn't yield control of our lives to a substance. When someone is drunk, it impacts their motor skills, thought patterns, and behavior. Drinking isn't a sin, but getting drunk is. Instead, Paul tells us to be filled by the Spirit. The Spirit's power will impact our thought patterns, behavior, and where we are led to go if we'll let Him. God is patient and won't force Himself on us. We need to choose to give Him control.