

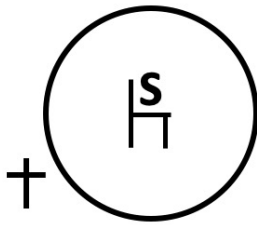
## Living Out the Resurrection Life Part 2

### How Do We Relate to the Holy Spirit?

In Part 1 we looked at who the Holy Spirit is and how he relates to us. Today we will look at how we relate to the Holy Spirit.

#### 1. God's Word says there are three kinds of lifestyles according to 1 Corinthians 2:14-3:3. They each relate to God and his kingdom and reign differently.

##### A. The Self-Directed Person (one who has not received Christ)



##### The Self-directed Person

1 Corinthians 2:14

Self is on the throne

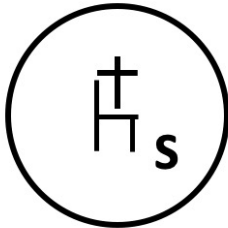
Christ is outside the life

Interests are directed by self, resulting in frustration and disharmony

"The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit."

1 Corinthians 2:14

##### B. The Holy Spirit / Christ Directed Person (One who is directed and empowered by the Holy Spirit)



##### The Spirit-Directed Person

1 Corinthians: 2:15, 16

Christ is on the throne

Growing in love for God

Yields to the Holy Spirit consistently

Shares their faith story

Enjoys talking with God

Desires God's Word

Love & Joy

Peace & Patience

Kindness & Goodness

Faithfulness

Gentleness

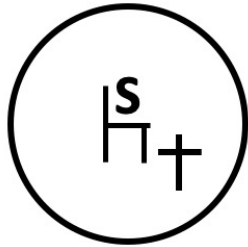
Self-Control

"The person with the Spirit makes judgments about all things, but such a person is not subject to merely human judgements, for, "Who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ."

1 Corinthians 2:15, 16

### C. The Worldly / Self Directed Person

(One who has received Christ, but who lives in defeat because he is trying to live the Christian life in his own strength)



#### The Self-Directed Person

Self is on the throne  
Ignorance of the Spirit's working  
Little love for God and others  
Little desire for God's Word  
Struggles with prayer  
Unbelief marks their life

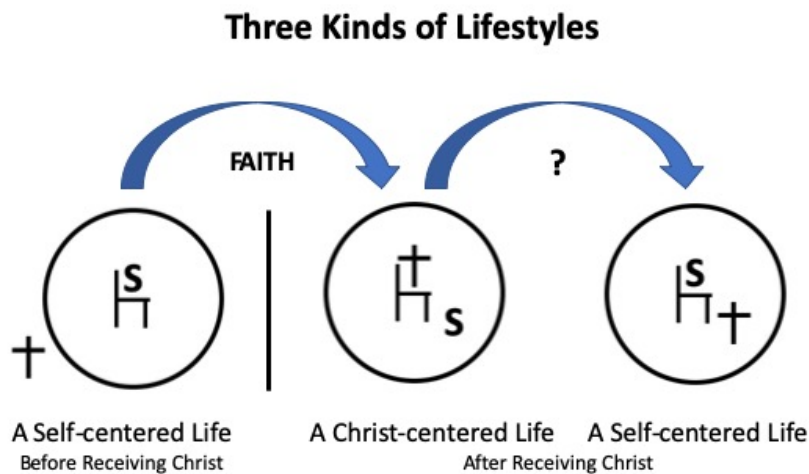
#### 1 Corinthians 3:1-3

Legalistic  
Worry  
Guilt  
Jealousy  
Fear, Anger  
Frustration

"Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly – mere infants in Christ. I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere humans?"

#### 1 Corinthians 3:1-3

**What is the difference between the self-directed non-believer and the self-directed believer?**



One becomes a Christian through the ministry of the Holy Spirit, according to John 3:1-8. From the moment of spiritual birth, the Christian is indwelt by the Holy Spirit at all times (John 1:12; Colossians 2:9, 10; John 14:16, 17). **Though all Christians are indwelt by the Holy Spirit, not all Christians are filled (directed and empowered) by the Holy Spirit.**

**Which Life is most like yours?    Who is on the throne of your life?**

## **2. What does it mean to be filled with the Spirit?**

A. We are commanded to be filled (continuously controlled and empowered) by the Holy Spirit in Eph 5:18.

B. There is a battle between the Holy Spirit and our flesh (self-centered living apart from God). Gal. 5:16-18

C. Jesus described it as denying self-daily ("self" is *having to have your own way*) and following Christ. That is how we find our real life in Christ. Lk 9: 23-25

D. Jesus called being filled with the Spirit the overflowing life from within us. Jn 7:37-39

E. Jesus referred to it as the abiding life and the only way to fruitfulness. Jn 15: 4,5

F. John referred to it as walking in the light. 1Jn 1:5-7

## **3. Why are many Christians not filled with the Holy Spirit?**

A. A lack of knowledge or understanding of who the Holy Spirit is and what he does. You can't live what you don't know?

B. A lack of faith and obedience. Faith is obedience! Many Christians choose not to surrender their life to God's control through the Holy Spirit. Some Christians are practical atheists, they live their lives as if God does not exist.

C. Ways we hinder the Holy Spirit's working in our life.

1. Resisting the Holy Spirit through pride and self-reliance. Acts 7:51
2. Grieving the Holy Spirit through unwholesome talk, bitterness, rage, anger, fighting, slander and doing wrong things. Eph 4:30
3. Quenching the Spirit- putting out the Spirit's fire. Fire provides light, purity, power and warmth. All these are the results of the Spirit's working. Be careful when he is working in you or others in these ways. 1Th 5:19
4. Worldliness, loving the world more than God. 1Jn2:15-17
5. Living with unconfessed sin. Ps 32:1-5
6. Not living by faith-trusting God and his Word. Gal 3:11; Heb 11:6

## **4. How are we filled with the Holy Spirit?**

A. You must desire, thirst to be controlled and empowered by God's Spirit. Is there anything else you desire or want more than this? Jn 7:37-39

Consider what A.W. Tozer wrote about how important this is:

“After a man is convinced that he can be filled with the Spirit he must *desire to be*. To the interested inquirer I ask these questions: Are you sure that you want to be possessed by a Spirit Who, while He is pure and gentle and wise and loving, will yet insist upon being Lord of your life? Are you sure you want your personality to be taken over by One Who will require obedience to the written Word? Who will not tolerate any of the self-sins in your life: self-love, self-indulgence? Who will not permit you to strut or boast or show off? Who will take the direction of your life away from you and will reserve the sovereign right to test you and disciple you? Who will strip away from you many loved objects which secretly harm your soul?

Unless you can answer an eager “Yes” to these questions you do not want to be filled.”

“You may want the thrill or the victory or the power, but you do not really want to be filled with Spirit. Your desire is little more than a feeble wish and is not pure enough to please God, Who demands all or nothing.

Again I ask: Are you sure you desire to be filled with the Spirit?”

From A. W. Tozer, Keys to the Deeper Life

B. Confess all known sin to God and thank him for his forgiveness according to 1Jn1:9. As a follower of Christ, sin does not break our relationship with God, but it does hinder our fellowship with him. Confessing which agreeing with God about our sin, restores our fellowship with God and allows him to keep working in our lives through the Holy Spirit.

The following is an activity that helps make practical the principles we have just discussed.

Take a piece of paper and:

1. Be quiet before God and prayerfully ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any sin/sins present in your life right now that you have not confessed.
2. Write down the sin/sins that the Holy Spirit brings to mind.
3. Write God’s promise of cleansing found in 1 John 1:9 across the paper.
4. Destroy the list and thank God that He has forgiven your sin/sins past, present and future.
5. After confessing the sin/sins, the Lord may direct you to make restitution with someone you may have hurt or wronged. Be obedient!

This is a wonderful way to keep a “short account” with God. As you grow in this area of being sensitive to the Holy Spirit’s nudging concerning sin in your life, you won’t need pencil and paper as often. You will be aware of sin and deal with it right away.

C. Surrender control of every area of your life to God. *For most Christians, this is the major obstacle in their life.* There is a saying, “The Holy Spirit can be resident, but not president in our life.” Please don’t let this be true of you. This requires an intentional act of your will. Have you ever done this? If not make these Scriptures your prayer of surrender to God.

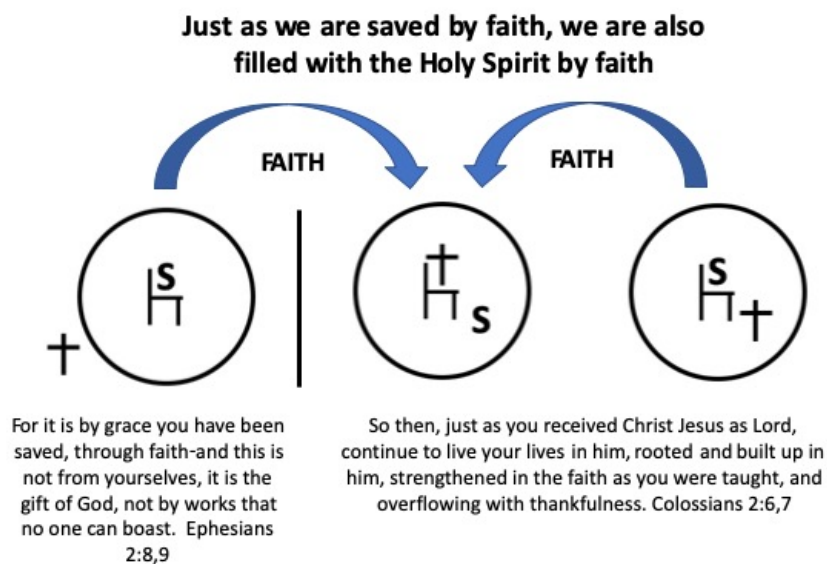
1. Romans 12:1-2

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God-this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-his good, pleasing and perfect will."

2. Luke 9:23-25

"Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses it for my sake will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world and yet lose or forfeit their very self?"

D. Ask God to fill you with the Holy Spirit **by faith**.



1. If the above points are true of you, **by faith** claim what is already yours according to:

**God's Command** in Ephesians 5:18

"Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit..."

**God's Promise** in 1John 5:14-15

"This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know he hears us-whatever we ask-we know that we have what we have asked of him."

2. We are filled with the Holy Spirit by faith alone. Sincere prayer from your heart is one way of expressing your desire to be filled with the Spirit. Following is a suggested prayer.

*Dear Father, I need You. I acknowledge that I have sinned against You by directing my own life. I thank You that You have forgiven my sins through Christ's death on the cross for me. I now invite Christ to again take His place on the throne of my life. Fill me with the Holy Spirit as you commanded me to be filled, and as you promised in Your Word that You would do if I asked in faith. I pray this in the name of Jesus. I now thank You for filling me with the Holy Spirit and directing my life.*

If this prayer expresses the desire of your heart you can pray it right now and trust God to fill you with his Holy Spirit.

3. How to know you are filled (empowered) by the Holy Spirit.

- Did you ask God to fill you with the Holy Spirit?
- Do you know that you are now filled with the Holy Spirit?
- On what authority? (On the trustworthiness of God himself and his Word: Hebrews 11:6; Romans 14:22-23)

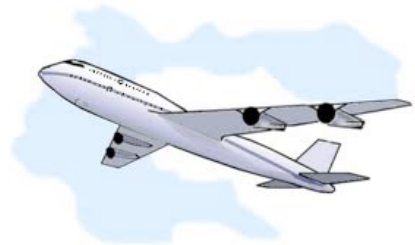
As you continue to depend on God's Spirit moment by moment you will experience and enjoy a growing intimacy with God and all he has for you-a full and satisfying life. It is important to remember:

### **Being Empowered by the Spirit Does Not Depend on Feelings**

The promise of God's Word, the Bible is our authority-not our feelings. As a follower of Christ, we live by faith (trust) in the trustworthiness of God himself and his Word. Flying in an airplane can illustrate the relationship between **fact** (God and his Word), **faith** (our trust in God and his Word) and **feeling** (the result of our faith and obedience. (John 14:21)

To be transported by an airplane, we must place our faith in the trustworthiness of the aircraft and the pilot who flies it. Our feelings of confidence or fear do not affect the ability of the airplane to transport us, though they do affect how much you enjoy the trip.

In the same way we as followers of Christ do not depend on feelings or emotions, but we place our faith (trust) in the trustworthiness of God and the promises of his Word as we follow him.



### **Next Week We Look at: How to Walk with the Holy Spirit in Daily Life**

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