

# HOW TO EXPERIENCE GOD'S PRESENCE THROUGH THE FILLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



## The Art of Living In The Presence of God

*"We cannot for one moment separate ourselves from Christ with safety. We may have His presence to attend us at every step but only by observing the conditions, which He Himself has laid down." -E. G. White, SL, p. 93*

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*The whole gospel, to the whole world, by the whole church*

## EXPERIENCING GOD'S PRESENCE THROUGH THROUGH THE FILLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

You maintain constant communication with God the Father, and God the Son, through God the Holy Spirit. Thus, it is imperative that you be filled with the Spirit. A common misunderstanding about the filling of the Holy is that it refers to the coming of the Holy Spirit in your life. In John 7:38, 39, Jesus said that the Holy Spirit would be sent to those who believe in Him. The Holy Spirit comes into your life when you become a Christian. As you place your faith in Jesus, the Holy Spirit comes to dwell in you. According to Jesus, the indwelling is permanent (John 14:16).

The filling of the Holy Spirit refers not to the Spirit's coming into your life but to the Spirit empowering you to live for Christ. As you are filled with the Holy Spirit, you begin to enjoy the Spirit's presence as you become increasingly aware of the Spirit's identity and character and strength. You grow to realize that you are never alone. God's presence is real. You can know it and feel it with you wherever you go.

In Ephesians 5:18 Christians are commanded to, "be filled with the Spirit." The Greek language reveals some important truths about this commandment. The verb is plural in form, indicating that the commandment is for all Christians. It is also an imperative verb; the filling of the Spirit must be something God does for you. You cannot fill yourself. The command is also in the present tense. In the Greek language this indicates continuous action: "keep on being filled." Unlike salvation, the filling of the Spirit is not a one-time experience. Each day during your daily devotional quiet time you should seek to be filled with Holy Spirit.

How can you be filled with the Spirit? Filling begins with **seeking**. In Luke 11:9, 13 Jesus says: "*And I say unto you, ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your Heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him?*" The Lord delights in giving to those who want to receive.

The next step is **cleansing** your heart of known sin. The Holy Spirit will not honor or bless a sinful life. The Bible tells you what to do about sin in 1 John 1:9. "*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*" Note the word "if". The forgiveness of sin is not automatic, it is conditional. Confession of sin alone is not all God requires of you. He asks that you repent by turning away from your sinful activities and living in obedience to His Word, God forgives you and you are called to forgive others. Sin interferes with your ability to perceive God's presence and grow close to Him. When your sin is forgiven, forsaken and cleansed you are ready to be filled.

The final step is **yielding** control of your life to the Holy Spirit. When you accept His control, God speaks to you through the direct promptings of the Holy Spirit. According to Scripture the Third Person of the Godhead communicates with you. He leads, rebukes, affirms, comforts and assures you. Thus, listening to God speak to you through the Holy Spirit is essential. As you listen and obey you “live by the Spirit,” are “led by the Spirit,” and “walk in step with the Spirit” as you practice the presence of the Spirit on an ever-increasing basis.

Follow the process of *seeking*, *cleansing*, and *yielding* as you prepare to be filled. Describe how each step helps you to experience the filling of the Holy Spirit.

**Seeking:**

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**Cleaning:**

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**Yielding:**

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After being filled, the indwelling Spirit begins to broadcast to you signals proclaiming God’s presence in your life. You practice God’s presence as you pick up those signals all through the day. At work, at home, in your car, wherever you are, you can dialogue with God. The essence of Christianity is a personal relationship between you and God. A relationship cannot be built on one-way speeches. Frequent, intimate contact is needed between two persons both of whom speak and both of whom listen. You can share your heart with Him and know He is listening. It has nothing to do with being in a church building or on your knees, but with God’s presence in you. It is “Christ in you.” Colossians 1:27 says, “the hope of glory”.

## **SPIRITUAL GROWTH COVENANT**

As you pray for the filling of the Holy Spirit, personally evaluate your life at present and ask the Holy Spirit to lead you in making and keeping a covenant with God to grow in these areas of spiritual development that remove obstructions in your life so you can experience God to the fullest. I would like to:

1. Overcome the following sins:
  
2. Discard the following bad habits:
  
3. Strengthen the following weaknesses:
  
4. Cultivate the following good habits:
  
5. Right the following wrongs:
  
6. Repair the following relationship(s):
  
7. Improve the following aspects of my personality:
  
8. Re-consecrate the following senses to God:
  
9. Commence obedience to the following commands of God:
  
10. Advance the growth of God's kingdom by witnessing through the following means:

## **MY COVENANT**

In solemn covenant and agreement with God, ever trusting in His grace, I pledge to seek the filling of the Holy Spirit that I might daily practice the presence of God and experience God to the fullest.

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*Signature*