

“filled with the Spirit”?

Lk 1:15 (before birth!),**41,67**; **Ac 2:4** (apostles); **4:8,31**; **6:3,5**; **7:55**; **9:17**; **11:24**; **13:9,52** (“disciples” - not apostles, but those who believed the gospel Paul had preached); **Eph 5:19** (Christians in the church in Ephesus)

Imagery - *Spirit a person, an intelligent being*

Figurative Expressions (not lit. true of a person):

- “filled with” - above
- “poured forth of” or “poured out” - **Ac 2:17**; **10:45**
- “fall upon” - **Ac 10:44**; **11:15**
- “dwell in” - **2 Tim 1:14**
- “baptized with”- **Ac 1:5**

Incongruity of lit. points to fig.

These very expressions lead one to view them as figurative. One cannot be *literally* “filled with” the Spirit while it is *literally* “dwelling in” you. Likewise *literally* “poured out” ≠ “baptized” (immersion).

Phrase, “filled with”

➤ **Thayer**

4130, *pimplEmi* - “pimplhmi ... **what wholly takes possession of the mind is said to fill it**: passive ... Luke 5:26... Acts 3:10 ... Luke 6:11...Acts 5:17...13:45...Luke 4:28; Acts 3:10... Luke 1:15,41,67; Acts 2:4; 4:8,31; 9:17; 13:9.” TH

➤ **Lk 2:40 - wisdom**

“And the Child continued to grow and become strong, **increasing** [4137 plhrow plEroO; KJV, NKJV, “filled with”]in **wisdom**;”

➤ **Lk 4:28 - rage**

(also 6:11; 19:28)

➤ **Lk 5:26 - fear**

➤ **Jn 16:6 - sorrow**

➤ **Ac 3:10 - wonder**

➤ **Ac 5:3 - SATAN**

➤ **Ac 5:17 - jealousy**

➤ **Ac 19:29 - confusion**

➤ **Rom 1:29 - unrighteousness, envy, murder...**

➤ **Col 1:9 - knowledge**

➤ **2 Tim 1:4 - joy**

➤ **Ex 35:31...35 - “Spirit of God”...“skill”**

“31...filled him with the Spirit of God

“35...filled them with skill

Ex 31:3...6 (same men as above)

“3...filled him with the Spirit of God

“6...in the hearts of all who are skillful I have put skill

“filled with the Holy Spirit”

NOT equivalent of “baptized in”

(if ever refers to same thing, must be determined by context and harmony - *it is not inherent in the phrase. Cannot assume HS bap. when see the phrase.*)

➤ **HS Bap. Follows Pentecost, Ac 1:4-5**

“you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now”

➤ **“Filled with” HS before Pentecost, Lk 1:15,41,67**

May refer to TEMPORARY power granted to the indiv.

➤ **Compare “filled with” phrases above (rage, joy, etc.)**

➤ **Compare Jud. 14:6,19; Num 11:25**

(Not “filled with,” but “came upon” - same idea of a Divine influence, or power exercised upon the individual. Samson’s is not “possession of the mind,” but possession of his body, giving him extraordinary strength)

Judges 14:5,6, NASB “5..a young lion came roaring toward him. 6 And **the Spirit of the LORD came upon him mightily, SO THAT** he tore him as one tears a kid ...”

Numbers 11:25, NASB “25 Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to him; and He **took of the Spirit who was upon him and placed Him upon** the seventy elders. And it came about that **when the Spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do it again.**” (NKJV, ASV, NRSV, NIV as

NASB. KJV, “and did not cease” - so Targum and Vulgate.)

➤ **Lk 1:41,67; Ac 7:55; 13:9**

Lk 1:41,67 - being “filled with the H.S.” enabled Eliz. And Zach. To prophesy *this one time*. Whether they ever did so again is not indicated. Result pointed to in the text is *this one occurrence*.

Ac. 7:55 - being “filled with the HS” enabled Stephen to “gaze intently into heaven...” - a *temporary* power

Ac 13:9 - being “filled with HS” Paul inflicted blindness on Elymas. No other such event in Paul’s life recorded, though he had the HS the rest of his life. Silence does not prove he did not do anything like this again, but the text justifies only the conclusion that being filled with the HS on this occasion refers to the power he exercised at that moment in inflicting blindness on Elymas.

Does not necessarily refer to miraculous power

➤ **Compare “Satan filled your heart to lie...”Ac 5:3**

Satan a powerful angel and capable of supernatural powers, but the effect here stated of Satan “filling one’s heart” is a very natural one.

➤ **Eph 5:18,19 compared with Col 3:16**

Eph. 5:18,19, NASB “18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but **be filled with the Spirit**, 19 speaking to one another in psalms ...

Col. 3:16, NASB “16 **Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you**, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms ...

Same author, same topic, written near same time

NOTE: Points 1,2,3 above must be considered in the interpretation of any passage where “filled with the Spirit” occurs. E.g....

Ac 2:4 apostles

While the apostles were baptized with the HS on this day (**1:4,5; 11:15**), it is not proven *by this phrase*, nor does this phrase necessarily refer to the fulfillment of that promise. Simply, the text says the HS “took possession of” (“filled”) their minds and tongues and enabled them to speak in other languages.

Ac 4:8 apostles, but not baptism in HS

The apostles had *already received that* “at the beginning” (not a recurring event) **1:4,5; 11:15**.

Ac 11:24 - (?) Barnabas

Maybe referring to miraculous power, but text not indicate it, and *the phrase itself* does not. Suggestion: “and” explicatory, “full of the HS and [namely] of faith.” The whole phrase serves to explain “a good man” and all together to explain (“for”) why he was motivated and capable to “encourage them all with resolute heart to remain true to the Lord.”

Ac 13:52 - disciples

Suggestion: “and” = explicatory. “filled with joy and [namely] with the Holy Spirit [Spirit put for His Word].” Unless this be the thought, the context leaves us to guess at what it refers to. The context definitely discusses the teaching and belief of “the word of the Lord” (vv. 46,47,48) and notes that “when the Gentiles heard this [i.e. the “word of the Lord” about salvation to the Gentiles, v. 47], they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord,” v. 48. The “word of the Lord” given by the Holy Spirit is clearly the cause of their joy.

Practical “So What’s”...

- **Because saints today “filled with” does NOT mean we ought to expect to speak in tongues (or have other spiritual gifts)**
- **Glad apostles and prophets “filled with the Spirit” when writing Scripture! 2 Pt. 1:21; Eph. 3:5; 1 Co. 2:11**
- **Let US be “filled with the Spirit”! Eph 5:18-19; Col. 3:16**

WHY?

- **Thanks/praise - vv. 19-20**
- **Involved in “One Another” edification - v. 19**
- **“Voluntary Yielding in Love” (A&G) to one another (“submitting” KJV, NKJV, ASV) v. 21**
- **H/W...P/C....M/S - 5:22-6:9**

CONC: Eph 4:30!

Acts 2:4, NASB “And they were all **filled with the Holy Spirit** and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.”

Acts 4:8, NASB “Then Peter, **filled with the Holy Spirit**, said to them, “Rulers and elders of the people,”

Acts 4:31, NASB “And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all **filled with the Holy Spirit**, and *began* to speak the word of God with boldness.”

Acts 6:3, NASB ““But select from among you, brethren, seven men of good reputation, **full of the Spirit and of wisdom**, whom we may put in charge of this task.”

Acts 6:5, NASB “And the statement found approval with the whole congregation; and they chose Stephen, a man **full of faith and of the Holy Spirit**, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch.”

Acts 7:55, NASB “But being **full of the Holy Spirit**, he gazed intently into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God;”

Acts 9:17, NASB “And Ananias departed and entered the house, and after laying his hands on him said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road by which you were coming, has sent me so that you may regain your sight, and **be filled with the Holy Spirit.**””

Acts 11:24, NASB “for he was a good man, and **full of the Holy Spirit** and of faith. And considerable numbers were brought to the Lord.”

Acts 13:9, NASB “But Saul, who was also *known as* Paul, **filled with the Holy Spirit**, fixed his gaze upon him,”

Acts 13:52, NASB “And the disciples were continually **filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.**”

Ephesians 5:18, NASB “And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but **be filled with the Spirit,**”