

Self-Control. When I was in grade school, you used to get a grade on how well-behaved you were in the class room. I now have the perfect line that I could have used with my parents back then... "My self-control is unsatisfactory because I'm not actually in control; God is!" If only I had been saved at that time and been indwelt by the Holy Spirit! Fortunately my parents knew better.

In an age where we are seeing the dawn of self-driven cars and things delivered right to our door with simple click of a mouse, why is it so hard to give God control of our lives? What are you 'filling' your soul with?

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### Getting To Know You

1. When you first started to drive a car, remember the two sets to steering wheels. Were you feeling that you were in control or someone else was steering the car? Give other examples from your childhood when you felt that someone else was in control?

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2. When have you ever said, "you're not the boss of me"? How did that work out for you?

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### Into the Bible

1. In Ephesians 5:17-21, what are the options for how we are to be filled? What are some other options in the Bible? How do we fill ourselves? Can there be a healthy mix? What does this look like to God?

*"So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father; and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ."*

2. What is the attraction of being "out of control?" Why do you think so many people get that way?

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3. As vessels of God, what are the things that God intentionally fills us with in His Holy Spirit? What is the nature of His fruit?

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4. What is the effect of a Spirit-controlled life? How does it honor God?

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## Taking It Home

1. How can we daily “fill” ourselves with Him? How do we fool ourselves with a “mix of substances?” How do we dilute the Spirit of God in our lives?

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2. Name four areas of your life that that you want God to take control of. Make a list of things to do that will make that request a reality.

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## “Who is in Control?”

*“Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.” [Ephesians 5:17-18]*

Being “Spirit-filled” means being Spirit-C\_\_\_\_\_.

<u>Before Salvation</u>	<u>Moment of Salvation</u>	<u>After Salvation</u>
Promotes	Regeneration	Filling, Fruit
Conviction	Indwelling	Gifts, Prayer
	Baptism	Guidance
	Sealing	Teaching, etc.

### 1 Corinthians 2:12- 3:3 Pictures Three Kinds of People:

1. The S\_\_\_\_\_ Person.  
*“We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us...” [1 Corinthians 2:12-13]*
2. The N\_\_\_\_\_ Person.  
*“The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.” [1 Corinthians 2:14]*
3. The W\_\_\_\_\_ Person.  
*“Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly--mere infants in Christ....” [1 Corinthians 3:1-3]*

### What are the conditions for being Spirit filled?

1. A D\_\_\_\_\_ Life. [Romans 12:1-2]
2. A D\_\_\_\_\_ Life. [Eph. 4:30; 1 Thes. 5:19]
  - *“Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God...”*
  - *“Do not put out the Spirit's fire.”*
3. A D\_\_\_\_\_ Life. [Galatians 5:16-23]

### What are the results [signs] of being Spirit-filled?

1. A Life of “S\_\_\_\_\_”. [Eph. 5:19]
2. A Life of S\_\_\_\_\_. [Eph. 5:20]
3. A Life of S\_\_\_\_\_. [Romans 12:1-2]
4. A C\_\_\_\_\_ Life. [Galatians 5:16-23]