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## Step 4: Is there a way to have Power to Live a Christian Life?

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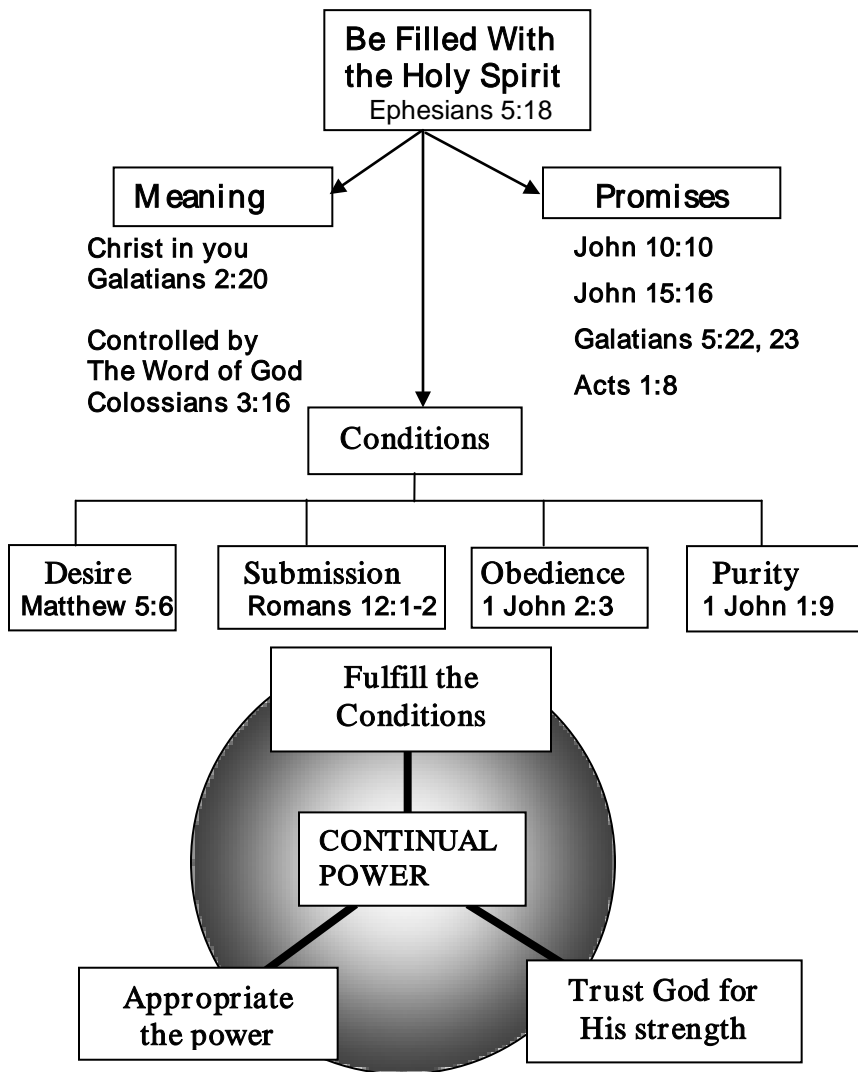
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# Power For Living



## Power for Living

Each day can be an adventure, for the believer who knows the reality of being filled with the Spirit, and the joy of living under His loving control. Unfortunately, not all believers experience this joy.

Which of the following declarations has been your experience?

|   | Rare | Sometimes | Usually |
|---|------|-----------|---------|
| 1. I feel discouraged because I am not growing quickly.           |      |           |         |
| 2. I am disappointed at my lack of self-discipline.               |      |           |         |
| 3. I am embarrassed because some old habits have not disappeared. |      |           |         |
| 4. I am afraid of not pleasing God.                               |      |           |         |
| 5. I would be embarrassed if others knew my doubts and thoughts.  |      |           |         |
| 6. I feel guilty because I do not tell others about Christ.       |      |           |         |
| 7. I feel useless when I compare myself to other Christians.      |      |           |         |
| 8. I feel trapped by my failures of the past.                     |      |           |         |

These are only some of the reasons why a young Christian should know the source of his strength and how to appropriate to power to be victorious. Most Christians do not understand the work of the Holy Spirit, and therefore, tend to get discouraged, weak and without fruit in their Christian lives.

What kind of life does Jesus want to give us in John 10:10?

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Jesus does not want us to be weak or miserable, but He wants us to experience the “abundant” life [which means *superior, extraordinary, uncommon, remarkable*].

Let’s begin with the principle. In 2 Peter 1:3-4, what do the promises of the Scriptures permit us to participate in? \_\_\_\_\_

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The knowledge that we now have within us” the divine nature” is a most wondrous and awesome concept. It is more than a feeling: it is God Himself! In three verses Paul describes this “divine nature”. Write his descriptions beside the three references.

Ephesians 3:16 \_\_\_\_\_

Ephesians 3:17 \_\_\_\_\_

Ephesians 3:18-19 \_\_\_\_\_

When we understand the differences in these passages, we will know that all of the Trinity lives in us and fills each of us.. This is power!

The “abundant life” is only possible because God Himself resides in our bodies giving us power to live victorious over sin and circumstances.

There are two areas affected by the powerful indwelling of God in our lives:

### 1. OUR PERSONAL LIFE

The changes in a Christian life are often referred to as “fruit.” A real fruit is the result of a seed being planted in fertile ground, germinating and growing into a plant which always produces the fruit. This reality becomes a metaphor to illustrate the Christian life.

Paul wrote that “the fruit of the Spirit” will be evident in the life of a Christian. If the seed of the Spirit has been planted in the believer’s life (this occurs in salvation), the Spirit will reproduce His own character in the believer.

Write the new aspects of the “fruit of the Spirit”, en Galatians 5:22-23.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### 2. OUR SERVICE

The Christian life is not a selfish experience, but a life that God can use to reach others. This requires a power greater than ourselves, and Jesus has promised to give us the power to accomplish His purpose for our lives.

In Acts 1:8 when is this power available to us?

When do we receive the Spirit? (See Galatians 3:2; Romans 8:9)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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When we, by faith, receive Christ as our Savior, at the same time we receive the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Each believer, therefore, now has the power of the Spirit within him. Now we must learn to allow Him to control us and manifest His power.

**THE SECRET OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS TO BE CONTINUALLY FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**

In Ephesians 5:18 Paul made a great contrast. What are the two opposite positions? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In our study of the “fruit of the Spirit”, what was the last aspect?

\_\_\_\_\_

Temperance is *self-control*. The believer who is filled with the Spirit and who therefore, manifests the fruit of the Spirit is constantly in control of himself. Write with your own words the result of being filled with the spirit found in Ephesians 5:19 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Compare this result with the result of the abundant indwelling of the Word in our lives found in Colossians 3:16. What is the similarity?

\_\_\_\_\_

What produced these results in Colossians 3:16? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

When the Word lives in abundance in us, we manifest two ministries to each other. What are they? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

It is interesting that two things can have the same result, that is: (1) the filling of the Spirit and (2) the abundant indwelling of the Word in our lives. When we respond in obedience to the wisdom and correction of the Word, the power of the Spirit is manifested in our lives enabling us to be obedient.

Therefore, the commandment “*be filled*. . .” is a continual or habitual activity. It is not a one time experience. Jesus fills us with His Spirit when we seek to live in obedience to His Word.

There are three more commandments with respect to the Holy Spirit in the New Testament. Write the ones you find in each of the following verses:

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1. Ephesians 4:30 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

When we disobey the commands of God in His we offend and sadden Him.

2. 1 Thessalonians 5:19 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

This is stronger. When we refuse to do something that we know God wants we *quench*, *extinguish* or *suppress* His communication with our spirit.

3. Galatians 5:16 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

We must obey everything the Spirit tells us to do in the Word; this is “walking in the Spirit.” How is this related to Col. 3:16? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The principle of having power for victory in the Christian life is to obey the Word of God in all aspects of our lives. In a sense, the more obedient we are, the more filled with the Spirit we will be. Any step we take toward obedience is strengthened by the power of the Spirit. When we have disobeyed, what should we do?

- See 1 John 1:9 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

As we confess our sins and repent of them, He cleanses us and maintains communication with us so that we may follow Him in obedience and victory.

### How can we continually be filled with the Spirit?

The filling of the Spirit is not to be asked for in prayer, but it is the result of certain conditions. What are they?

#### Condition #1: DESIRE

A person must desire that God control his life. According to Matt 5:6, What is the condition for being “filled”? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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God does not disappoint those who “have hunger and thirst” for righteousness or obedience by granting them the filling of His Spirit.

#### Condition #2: YIELD THE CONTROL OF YOUR LIFE

Each believer must make the basic decision to **yield the right of final control for his life** to Christ. He must consciously permit that Christ control his life in order to experience the filling of the Spirit.

It is like newlyweds: At the wedding, they vow commitment one to the other., but this is not sufficient for the rest of their lives. Each day they must submit to the needs of the other and must be determined to give up some of their own rights or what they think they deserve in order to have a healthy relationship. It is the same with Christ.

According to what Jesus said in Matt. 6:33 what should be the priority in our lives? \_\_\_\_\_

The things of God’s kingdom should be priority in the life of the Christian. Because we have received the rich mercies of God in salvation, how should we conduct our lives?  
Romans 12:1 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

A child of God should pray daily, “Lord, today I give you my life to be what you want me to be, to go where you guide me, and to say what you tell me to say.”

#### Condition #3: LIVE IN OBEDIENCE

The key is, To whom do you *yield* your body? The word “yield” means to be willing to follow the direction of God as it is revealed in His Word. Paul wrote, “Do not yield your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God” (Rom 6:13)

When we drive a car, we do not have to make the decision of whether to stop at a red light; we automatically stop. We know that running a red light is dangerous and against the law. Stopping at a red light becomes an attitude of life. Obedience to the Word of God is very similar — it should be an attitude of life. When temptation comes, we should not debate in our minds whether or not to get drunk, to commit robbery, to tell a lie, or to commit adultery, etc. We must learn automatically to obey the Word of God.

From the following verses, write what PROVES obedience:

Deuteronomy 8:2-3 \_\_\_\_\_

1 John 2:3 \_\_\_\_\_

John 15:14 \_\_\_\_\_

**Condition #4: PURITY**

The disobedient believer grieves and quenches the Holy Spirit, and causes his Christian life to fail, becomes discouraged and even bored. Even the Holy Spirit has no authority to change a disobedient person. When a believer sins, he must react immediately or he will form destructive habits. From these verses write how he should respond.

Rom 6:19 \_\_\_\_\_

1 John 1:9 \_\_\_\_\_

The word “confess” comes from a Greek word that means “to say the same thing.” God wants us to confess to Him according to what He says about our sin. He wants us to be in agreement with Him; however, this is not a quick escape for our conscience. We must see just how horrible our sin is to God, understand what Christ paid for those sins, and feel the same hate toward them that God feels.

The word “repentance” means “a change of mind about our actions in order to be in agreement with God. Confession is the expression to God of that change of mind. If we had to choose between our favorite sin and God, who would win? \_\_\_\_\_

That is a change of mind or repentance. What are the two things that God is does once and for all when we “habitually confessing our sins”?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

God gives us forgiveness for our sins (those that we are conscious of and confess) as well as cleansing from all the other sins (those we are not yet conscious of) to maintain perfect communion with God. What grace!

These are the conditions for the filling of the Holy Spirit and the way to activate the power of the Spirit in our lives.

**REVIEW #4: POWER TO LIVE**

1. What is the secret for success in the Christian life? \_\_\_\_\_

2. In John 10:10, what kind of life does Jesus want to give us? \_\_\_\_\_

3. When do we receive the Holy Spirit? (Galatians 3:2; Romans 8:9) \_\_\_\_\_

4. How many members of the Trinity live within us?

- 1 (just the Spirit)
- 2 (both the Spirit and Jesus)
- 3 (The entire Trinity)

5. Write the nine aspects of the “fruit of the Spirit” in Galatians 5:22-23.

6. There are three more commands with respect to the Holy Spirit in the New Testament. Write in your own words these commands without looking them up in the Bible.

Ephesians 4:30 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Thessalonians 5:19 \_\_\_\_\_

Galatians 5:16 \_\_\_\_\_

7. Write the four conditions for being filled with the Spirit. Each letter begins a word.

- D \_\_\_\_\_
- Y \_\_\_\_\_ the C \_\_\_\_\_ of your L \_\_\_\_\_
- L \_\_\_\_\_ in O \_\_\_\_\_
- P \_\_\_\_\_