

Temptations And Trials

Temptations and Trial ---- How to Resist

How is living for God achieved? Christians cannot live for Him in their own strength. "For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary (against) to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish" (Gal. 5:17) See also Romans 7: 15-25. "Therefore the Bible exhorts Christians "Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh" (Gal. 5:16). The Holy Spirit indwells each believer (Eph. 1:13; Rom.8:9), and gives power to live for God. We *all* have the Spirit. Does He have *all* of us?

The "how" is graphically revealed in Ephesians 5:18 by means of a contrast. There is a contrast between drunkenness and being filled with the Spirit. We are not to be as the unrestrained, debauched, uncontrolled alcoholic, but are to be under the control and restraint of the Spirit of God. As Christians absorb the Word (2 Tim. 2:15; 3:15-17; Ps. 119:11) seek help in prayer (Ps. 138:3; Heb. 4:16), confess sins (Pro. 28:13; 1 Jn. 1:9), there is strengthening with might through His Spirit in the inner man (Eph. 3:16). The believer is being filled with the Spirit and enabled to walk *in the Spirit*. As temptation assails "the way to escape" is found, that enables the believer " to bear it" See 1 Corinthians 10:13. The Spirit filled man remembers the admonitions of Scripture stored in the heart, that he might not sin against God (Ps. 119:11). Without such support the believer would surely fail, but God "has given us all things that pertain to life and godliness" (2 Pet. 1:3).

Every believer is born of the Spirit (Jn. 3:3-6; 1 Jn. 5:1), indwelt by the Spirit, whose presence makes the believer's body a temple (1 Cor. 6:19), baptized by the Spirit (1 Cor. 12:12, 13; 1 Jn. 2:20, 27), therefore sealing him for God (Eph. 1:13; 4:30). Having the Spirit is true of all believers— being filled with the Spirit is the Christian's privilege and duty. Compare Acts 2:4 with Acts 4:29-31: also Eph. 1:13, 14 with Eph. 5:18. There is one baptism of the Spirit (which accompanies salvation), but the possibility of many fillings of the Spirit. Read about the fruit of the Spirit in Gal. 5:22. The believer is not to grieve the Holy Spirit of God by sin in his life (Eph.4:17-32) When sin is present it is to be confessed for forgiveness and cleansing (Prov. 28:13; 1 Jn. 1:9). Nor is the Spirit to be quenched through failure to obey His leading (1 Thes. 5:19; Jas. 4:17). Rather a believer is to be filled by the Holy Spirit as indicated in the illustration of Ephesians 5:18. The Emmaus course entitled "The Holy Spirit at Work" is interesting and informative.