



How Can I Be Led by the Holy Spirit?

John 7:37-39; Galatians 5:16-17; Ephesians 5:15-21
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Why is it so hard to be led by the Holy Spirit?

Galatians 5:17 For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. (NIV)

My sinful nature is in constant opposition with the Holy Spirit in my life.

What does it mean to be led by the Holy Spirit?

Biblical Images of our Relationship with the Holy Spirit

■ Drinking: How's my Passion?

John 7:37 On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. 38 Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." 39 By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified. (NIV)

■ Walking: How's my Following?

Galatians 5:16 So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. (NIV)

■ Filling: How's my Submission?

Ephesians 5:15 Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. 18 Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. (NIV)

It is God's will for me to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

To be filled with the Holy Spirit means to be directed and controlled by the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 1:22 [God]...put his Spirit in our hearts... (NIV)

Ephesians 5:18 ...be filled with the Spirit. (NIV)

1 Corinthians 12:13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body... (NAS)

	<i>Indwelling of the Spirit Baptism of the Spirit</i>	<i>Filling of the Spirit</i>
<i>Cause</i>	Conversion Spirit Initiates	Submission We initiate
<i>Occurrence</i>	Once Automatic	Repeated Not Automatic
<i>Commanded</i>	No	Yes
<i>Effect</i>	Positional Becoming a Christian	Practical Growing as a Christian
<i>Who</i>	All Christians	Some Christians
<i>The Spirit & Me</i>	I have the Spirit	The Spirit has me

Being filled with the Spirit:

- ❑ Is a command I must obey.
- ❑ Is for all believers, which includes me.
- ❑ Is something I must do continually.
- ❑ Is something that requires me to yield to God and Scripture.
- ❑ Is an action that influences every area of my life.

Ephesians 5:18 Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, 19 speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, 20 always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. 21 Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. (NIV)

- ❑ Is allowing the Spirit to permeate and control my life.

How can I be led by the Holy Spirit?

Spiritual Breathing

Throughout each day, I:

- ❑ **Exhale: Confession: I confess all my sin to God and give up all control.** (Negative Side)
- ❑ **Inhale: Control: I commit all my life to God and give God full control.** (Positive Side)

This is how to Observe and Obey the Spirit.