

The Inscrutable Question: How the Filling of the Holy Spirit is Lost & Regained: Spirituality & Carnality Compared with Light & Darkness

12) From these principles a few questions arise:

1. If the filling of the Holy Spirit occurs at salvation then how is it lost? Answer: postsalvation sins.
2. How is it regained? Answer: rebound. This is the problem-solving device for both Old and New Testament saints. For example, Solomon had the *enduement* of the Holy Spirit and was able to recover it with rebound:

Proverbs 1:23 - “Turn to My reproof [mandates that offer corrective advise and inspires recovery through rebound], behold I will pour out My Spirit on you [enduement: the selective Old Testament ministry of the Holy Spirit]; I will make My words known to you [spiritual growth].

In the New Testament, rebound results in the *filling* of the Holy Spirit which is one of the mystery doctrines of the Church Age.

1 John 1:9 - If we acknowledge our sins, He is faithful and righteous, with the result that He forgives us our postsalvation sins and purifies us from all wrongdoing.

3. How do we know that rebound results in the filling of the Holy Spirit? Answer: First of all we are commanded by Ephesians 5:18b to be filled with the Spirit. This indicates that the filling can be lost and there is a recovery process.

Secondly, the reason it is lost is because of personal sin that switches the believer from status quo spirituality to status quo carnality:

1 Corinthians 3:1 - Fellow believers, I could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh [under the control of the sinful nature in status quo carnality], as to babes in Christ.

1 Corinthians 3:2 - I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able to receive it. Indeed, even now you are not yet able,

v. 3 - ... for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men?”

Finally, the contrast between spirituality and carnality is characterized by the Apostle John with the metaphor of light and darkness:

1 John 1:6 - If we [believers who think they are spiritual when they are merely involved in asceticism, legalism, or some form of human good motivated by moral degeneracy] contend that we have fellowship with Him [that we are in status quo spirituality] and yet walk in darkness [status quo carnality], we are living a lie [walking like an unbeliever, producing human good which comes from the sinful nature's area of strength] and do not execute doctrine.

v. 7 - But if we walk in the light [the filling of the Holy Spirit in status quo spirituality], as He is in the light [our Lord's execution of the prototype spiritual life], we have fellowship one with another [no mental attitude sins directed toward fellow believers], and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin [the judgment of pre and postsalvation sins in Christ on the cross].

13) Through the filling of the Holy Spirit, the believer is able to produce and imitate the character of the incarnate Christ. So long as he does not through sin step into the darkness of status quo carnality, he is walking in the light of status quo spirituality.

- 14) This is the only environment in which there can be the harmony of the body of Christ, which is what Christian fellowship is all about.
- 15) And this harmony begins with one's restored fellowship with God through rebound.
- 16) Rebound is based on grace alone and not on our works. When we confess our sins the Holy Spirit is no longer quenched or grieved, we are once again restored to fellowship with God, and our thinking is controlled by the Holy Spirit. This is true spirituality.