

Basic Discipleship

A Course On New Testament Discipleship

Topic #6

IV. Why Are So Many Christians Baby Christians?

Nothing is more exciting than seeing someone come to faith in Christ. Being able to introduce someone to God's forgiveness and to help them to find the abundant life that Christ's promises (John 10:10) is a thrilling privilege that God wants every Christian to know. But just as important is to help new believers to growth in their faith after the second birth. God commands us to "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18 cf. 2 Peter 1:2).

In the physical realm, newborn babies are not left alone and expected to grow on their own, but they are brought into a family who loves them, feeds them, trains them and help them grow. Sadly, many people are attempting to grow spiritually when they have never had the new birth and they wonder why their lives never change. Jesus taught we "must be born again" before we can "see" or understand and be changed by the spiritual truths of God's word (John 3:3). Without the second birth it is impossible to grow spiritually. However, once we have had the new birth God's design in the spiritual realm is parallel to God's design in the physical realm. The second birth makes us members of a new family (John 1:12; 1 John 3:1-2) and that family of brothers and sisters is to be found in the local church. It is in God's local church where we care for one another. Shepherds, also called pastors, are to feed the flock of God (John 21:15-17). The Bible places a premium on spiritual growth in passages like 1 Peter 2:2 where we are told, "like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation."

Just as newborn babies who cannot obtain "pure milk" will not develop into healthy adults. Even so, new Christians need the basic nutrients of spiritual growth before they can advance in their understanding of deeper spiritual truths. In our day of growing biblical illiteracy, most new Christians know very little & are unfamiliar with the basics of Christian growth. So, in this section we will examine why it is that some Christians never mature and languish in spiritual infancy.

A. Some are baby Christians because of a lack of spiritual food.

1. When people come to faith in Christ they are to come into a local church where a 'spiritual shepherd' known as a pastor, feeds them God's _____.
2. While elders today are not Apostles, all Apostles are elders or pastors (1 Peter 5:1), which is why the Apostle Paul modeled to the Ephesian elders a ministry of faithfully "teaching" the _____ (Acts 20:27):

20 "I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you publicly and from house to house . . . 27 "For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God.

3. If a pastor gives his congregation only what he perceives people want to hear, then he will never move God's people past ____ into "solid food."
4. If a student will not graduate past addition into multiplication, and then into long division & geometry & algebra & into trigonometry, and then into calculus — then he will never progress very ____ mathematically.
5. He may not want to go to the next level because he thinks it is too _____.
6. Sadly, a pastor can be guilty of not preaching 'the whole counsel of God' because he reasons it is too _____ or too convicting to hear & so he then leaves new believers — or his entire congregation as "babes in Christ."
7. A pastor is commanded to "shepherd the flock among you" (1 Pe. 5:2) & that involves providing spiritual food to both new & maturing believers, or otherwise—he will have a congregation of "malnourished" _____.
8. With that said, God can still help a believer to grow using other teachers and pastor/teachers in the Body of Christ to _____ them to mature.
9. But God's ideal is for a pastor to feed his people the word of God so that the sheep will be healthy—and healthy sheep will _____ reproduce.
10. This is why when the Lord Jesus asked Peter three times in some form, "Do you love Me?"—in response ____ times Jesus commanded him to, "Feed My lambs," to "Shepherd My sheep," & to "Feed My sheep."
11. However, if a pastor is "ill-prepared" or "distracted" by other ministry activities, then all he will be able to offer his flock is "predigested food" namely "milk" & he is ____ showing a sincere "love" for Jesus Christ.
12. A pastor is to feed Christ's sheep as Christ told Peter—so that God's people might glorify Christ—by a maturing and a reproducing _____.
13. God's plan is to have a pastor who devotes himself to prayer and to the ministry of the word — so that God's people — will leave the the assembly with a nutritious scriptural _____ under their belts.
14. Many studying this lesson, should do everything in their power to _____ the strongest church they can, and if such a church is not available, then find the best church that has the gospel & take "vitamin supplements."
15. A key factor for spiritual growth as we will cover in depth in Section 7, is to be filled with the Spirit & to be filled with the _____ of Scripture.

B. Some are baby Christians because they have not had enough time to grow.

1. Two key components for spiritual growth and maturity are both being filled with the Spirit over the course of _____.
2. A person may be a “**brand-new believer**” and “**filled with the Spirit**” as much as they know — how to be “**filled with the Spirit**” — but enough “**time**” has not yet transpired for them to be “**spiritual**” or _____.
3. This is why the Apostle Paul when he planted the church in Corinth, dealt with the _____ Christians living there as “**babes in Christ.**”
4. “**Time**” is a critical component of spiritual growth though time is certainly _____ a “**guarantee**” of spiritual growth.
5. We studied earlier in this lesson 1 Corinthians 1:1-3:

1 And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to infants in Christ. 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, 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 (1 Corinthians 3:1–3).

6. Having planted the Corinthian church (Acts 18:1-18) — Paul dealt with the Corinthians not as “**spiritual men**” — for they were new Christians being “**infants**” or “**babes in Christ**” able to absorb only simple _____.
7. When in **55 AD** the Apostle Paul writes this letter to the Corinthians who had received Christ on his second missionary journey in **51 AD**, some _____ years had transpired since many of them had been saved.
8. Of course, there is nothing wrong — with “**being**” a baby Christian, but there is something wrong with “**staying**” a _____ Christian.
9. While there is a legitimate babyhood, enough time had gone by where they should have grown up — such that Paul would have been able to have changed their ‘**spiritual diet**’ _____ that of ‘**milk**’ to ‘**solid food.**’
10. Their problem was not one of ‘**conversion**’ but of ‘**growth**’ because from the Spirit’s perspective who inspires Paul to write this letter — enough _____ had passed where they should have been ready for “**solid food.**”
11. There are some — “**baby**” or “**carnal**” Christians — who are _____ in spiritual infancy because they have been stunted in his growth process.

12. Today, “**the average Christian**” — who is “**babyfied**” and “**stunted**” in his spiritual growth is not a “**normal**” Christians because the “**normal**” Christian is to be “**filled with the Spirit**” and growing up in _____.
13. Sadly, if an “**average**” Christian ever becomes “**normal**” he will seem to _____ today to be “**abnormal**” & “**understood by no man**” (1 Cor. 2:15).
14. The Book of Hebrews emphasizes this same truth in Hebrews chapter __:

12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. 13 For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. 14 But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.

15. The writer to the Hebrews—tells them that—“**by this time you ought to be teachers**” where he uses a — “**second person plural pronoun**” meaning “**all of you**” indicating he is speaking to the entire _____.
16. Their excuse was not “**time**” — because enough “**time**” had transpired such that they—should have grown enough—to the point where they could “**be teachers**” in order help others in _____ Christian doctrine.
17. You see, as you mature — you learn to answer basic questions that both **non-Christians** and **new-Christians** have — such that you are able to relate the Bible — to the everyday — occurrences of _____.
18. He had expected these born-again Hebrews to have grown up by now, such that they could be considered “**teachers**” of God’s _____.
19. He was not expecting them to be—serving in “**the office of teaching,**” which God warns ___ to enter that position with caution (James 3:1).
20. Nor was he expecting them to teach like someone having “**the spiritual gift of teaching**”—something they had ___ control over (1 Cor. 12:11).
21. Yet, they should have been showing—a “**level of maturity**” much like an elder who might not have the gifts of teaching or of pastor/teacher & yet is still “**able to teach**” _____ “**sound doctrine**” (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:9).
22. To teach others, is a “**common responsibility**” we all share—just as all believers are all called to serve (Mk. 10:43) & to show mercy (Mt. 5:8), & to share the gospel (Mt. 28:19) even if we do not that particular _____.

23. Teaching others is a mark of growth & you will never start growing more than _____ you start **“giving out”** as is essential for maturity.
24. Some Christians lack the zeal & life & growth that God intends them to have because—they are always taking in—but never giving _____.
25. When we become **“teachers”** we really _____ growing for teaching others are both a **“byproduct”** of growth & a **“means”** to growth.
26. When we are involved in **“teaching”** we are obeying the Lord’s Great Commission—and we grow even more because God does not bless & cannot bless a disobedient _____ (Matthew 18:19-20).
27. So, there is nothing wrong with initially **“being”** a baby Christian for we all are at the moment we are saved—but there is something wrong with **“staying”** a baby Christian when we have had _____ to grow.

C. Some are baby Christians because they have forgotten basic truth.

1. In 2 Peter 1, the Apostle Peter describes a Spirit-filled believer by giving a similar list that Paul gives (Gal. 5:21) in describing the Spirit’s _____.
2. But then in 2 Peter 1:9 he tells us why some are _____ displaying this fruit.

“For he who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins” (2 Peter 1:9).
3. While the unsaved person is **“in the dark”** because Satan has blinded his mind (2 Corinthians 4:3–4) such that he headed for a cliff, getting ready to fall off into an eternal liquid lake of fire—and does _____ even see it.
4. We might even describe the non-Christians as having had his **“spiritual optic nerve”** cut and so he just cannot _____ truth.
5. In the same way, **“the saved person”** who has had his eyes opened such such that he can, **“see the kingdom of God”** (John 3:3), _____ sometimes through forgetfulness has become spiritually myopic or short-sighted.
6. Some believers are like the Christians in the **“Church of Laodicea”** who are _____ in that they are — **“rich and increased with goods, and have need of nothing”** because they measure success improperly (Rev. 3:17).

7. The **Laodiceans**—did not even realize—that they were “**wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked**”— just as many spiritually “**stunted**” believers think everything is good when it really is _____.
8. The Apostle Peter informs us that anyone of us can become spiritually “**nearsighted**” if we reach a point where we have “**forgotten**” the great _____ God paid — for the “**purification**” of our — “**former sins.**”
9. Some believers start well, but before too long they develop this kind of sick, spiritual eyesight by forgetting how _____ provided salvation for us and redeeming us — up out from the pit — of eternal judgment.
10. Some start well, but do not progress out of spiritual infancy in that they get so bogged down in this world, they forget the price of their forgiveness such that _____ become “**blind or short-sighted.**”
11. One of the reasons we celebrate the Lord’s Table is as a reminder that through the blood of Jesus Christ, we have been purged and forgiven, so that we never to forget what He has _____ (1 Cor. 11:24-25).
12. We all need to understand that spiritual growth is analogous to physical growth and that neither is “**instantaneous**” but is a process over _____.
13. And yet, some believers have remained “**infants in Christ**” because they have forgotten the price paid for them to daily die to self — or they are not being fed spiritually—or simply enough time has _____ yet gone by.
14. For this reason, on the one hand — it is possible to “**be filled with the Spirit**” daily, but because enough time has not transpired one cannot say that they have “**a grown up & a growing relationship**” with _____.
15. On the other hand, some believers have logged “**decades**” in the faith as truly converted, but have remained “**babes in Christ**” because over the “**decades**” they have _____ consistently been “**filled with the Spirit.**”

WALKING IN THE SPIRIT + TIME= SPIRITUAL MATURITY + CONTINUED GROWTH

16. If you are a new Christian — just keep learning to walk with God & let Him grow you up strong in the faith—but if you are a ‘**stunted believer**’ you need to repent of your carnality and allow the Spirit to _____ you.
17. And if you are a Spirit-filled “**spiritual man**” keep growing because it does not matter where you are for there is a lot more growth to _____.

18. If you do not love Christ more this year than you did last year, then you are backsliding when ____ wants you to be growing.
19. Thus far, we have learned that if we are not a “**natural man**” — then we are either a “**carnal man**” or a “**spiritual man**” and God wants us to ____ spiritual in that we have a *grown-up & growing* relationship with Jesus.
20. If you are studying this lesson—and you know that you are lost or what God calls “**the natural man**”—then just know growth is impossible and the wisest decision you should make today is to receive Christ as ____.
21. If you are studying this lesson & you know you are a “**carnal**” believer, then just know that your growth is impaired & needs to be corrected, and you will want to pay very close attention to this entire _____.
22. And if you are studying this lesson and you know that you have matured enough such that God would call you a “**spiritual man**”—then just know that with the Spirit’s filling your growth is empowered for ____ growth.

“I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus (Philippians 3:13-14).

23. You ought to be able to say humbly — that while you are not what you ought to be, nor what you are going to be, you still want to grow ____.

V. What Are The Conditions For Being Spirit-Filled?

While every true believer is indwelt or “baptized” by the Spirit, not every Christian is “filled with the Spirit.” For this reason, after Pentecost we are never commanded to be “baptized” with the Spirit because it is assumed that we already have Him (Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 12:12; Ephesians 1:13-15). However, while all Christians are indwelt by the Spirit, not all Christians are filled with the Spirit. For this reason, God through the Apostle Paul commands us in Ephesians 5:18, “And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit.” The comparison is clear in that both the drunk person and the Spirit-filled Christian are controlled people. One is controlled — by the alcohol he has consumed — just as the believer is to be controlled by the Spirit he has received. Just as a person under the influence of alcohol—acts in a way unnatural to God’s design. Even so, someone abiding in Christ or filled by the Spirit is living in a way that is unnatural to his inherited sinful nature. In this section, we will examine from our side what the necessary conditions are so that the Spirit of God is willing to fill us. In addition, we will examine the necessary conditions that help us to live a moment by moment walk in the Spirit.

A. The conditions that prepare us to be filled with the Spirit.

1. There are two primary conditions that we must meet if we are to be spiritually prepared, so that the Spirit who lives in us, can fill ____.
2. First, we are commanded in Ephesians 4:30 not to “**grieve the Spirit.**”

30 Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

3. The word “**grieve**” is a “**love word**” because you can only grieve someone who loves you and indeed the Spirit of God loves ____.
4. While your next-door neighbor’s child who does wrong may bother you, only when your children do wrong — do you typically “**grieve**” for a we only “**grieve**” if we deeply _____ the person who’s doing wrong.
5. If you can be grieved over those whom you love, all the more is the Spirit grieved out of His holiness & love for us when we do _____ (Lk 11:13).
6. Any ‘**known sin**’ that is unconfessed & unrepented of prevents the Spirit from filling us to produce Christ’s character & His minister through ____.
7. The solution to grieving the Spirit of God is to confess any known ____.
“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).
8. We learned in Section 2 of this discipleship course—that this verse is not an invitation to salvation—but an exhortation to fellowship with ____.
9. God wants us to know — in our **experience** — what is already true of us **positionally** & unless we are experiencing God’s forgiveness then we are not “**walking in the light**” as commanded & we are ____ filled (1 Jn 1:7).
10. Positionally, every Christian has forgiveness of ____ their sins, past, present and future (Colossian 1:13, 14)—but practically not every believer is experiencing that forgiveness (Psalm 32; 1 John 1:9).
11. So first, there must be a “**sincere desire**” to be “**filled with the Spirit**” (Matthew 5:6) & so ____ sin that is cherished will prevent His filling.
12. Second, you can know that—you are “**filled with the Spirit,**” if & only if—you are not “**quenching**” His filling your ____.

13. For this reason we are commanded in 1 Thessalonians 5:19, “**Do not quench the Spirit**” or more literally it _____ be translated, “**Quench not the Spirit**” (ASV).
14. We ‘**grieve the Spirit**’ when we do those things—you should not do and we ‘**quench the Spirit**’ when we do not do those things you ought to ____.
15. When the Apostle Paul writes in 1 Thessalonians 5:19, “**Do not quench the Spirit**” he is dealing in “**the positive aspects**” of the Christian _____.
16. The verb for “**quench**” speaks of “**suppressing fire**” which should not surprise us—since the Holy Spirit is likened to a fire dwelling in _____ believer and so—the **ISV** reads, “**Do not put out the Spirit’s fire.**”
17. The Spirit wants to express Himself in our actions & our attitudes—and when we do not do those things that He wants us to do—when we do _____ allow the Spirit to work through us as He wants, then we “**quench**” Him.
18. The solution to quenching Him is to totally _____ to God (**Romans 12:1**).

1 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

19. You must be willing to **go** anywhere He wants you to go, to **say** whatever He wants you to say—to **give** whatever He wants you to give—and to do whatever He _____ you to do as “**a living and holy sacrifice.**”
20. Assuming you are not “**grieving**” or “**quenching**” the Spirit then you can by _____ trust Him to fill you according to His **command** (Eph. 5:18) to be filled & His **promise** to answer pleasing praying (1 John 5:14-15).

14 This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. 15 And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.

21. Knowing that He does not fill a **dirty** or **unyielded** vessel, but knowing it is His will to fill you—then by faith you trust Him—to do what He _____.

B. The conditions that sustain us to keep being filled with the Spirit.

1. **Negatively**, we are commanded not to “**grieve**” or to “**quench**” the Spirit, while **positively** we _____ commanded to “**walk by the Spirit**” (Gal. 5:16).

“But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.”

2. The tense of the verb indicates a continuous moment by moment dependence on the Holy Spirit to live His life in & through ____.
3. In the physical realm, _____ by its very nature is a succession of dependent acts where one foot is on the ground & the other is in the air.
4. When one foot is lifted—it is done so in faith that the foot on the ground is able to support the full weight of your body—with each step trusting that the supporting foot — will allow you — to _____ forward.
5. In the same way, spiritually we must not live our Christian lives in our strength, but in the Spirit's power who is ready to fill us & to assist __.
6. This attitude of dependence upon the Spirit is seen throughout the Bible in the many various commands that God gives His church to carry ____.
7. For instance, in the realm of sin, God _____ us in 1 Corinthians 10:12:

12 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall.

8. In addressing the subject of sin & temptation, the Apostle Paul is reminding us that a '**self-sufficient**' attitude _____ stumbling.
9. The Christian who rests in past victories or current resolve instead of walking in dependence on the Spirit is self-deluded and will _____.
10. God reminds us that others have fallen (1 Corinthians 10:1-11), and so will we if we are confident of our _____ strength (1 Corinthians 10:13).
11. The strongest Christian is one who sees himself as weak and feeble, and he believe that he needs the ____ and the strength of the Spirit.
12. Even our ability to speak the gospel clearly and with power comes only through the help of the Spirit living His life through ____ (1 Cor. 2:4).
13. We started the Christian life by faith, and so *every day* we are to ____ by faith just as the Apostle Paul told the Colossian church (Colossians 2:6):

6 Therefore, as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him,

14. When you came to Christ for salvation, you came in a bankrupt state, admitting your total inability to save yourself, and by faith you placed your full confidence on what _____ did for you (Ephesians 2:8-9).

15. In the same manner, to grow in Christ you admit your total inability to live the Christian life by your own strength, and you choose by faith to “walk by the Spirit” depending on Him as a branch depends on a _____.

5 I am the vine, you are the branches; the one who remains in Me, and I in him bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing (John 15:5).

16. In ourselves, we are powerless, fruitless and as helpless as a branch cut off from a vine — we are unable to produce any fruit that pleases _____.

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control (Galatians 5:22–23) . . .”

17. The responsibility to produce these qualities or even the “fruit” of seeing others won to Christ (John 15:16), belongs to the Holy Spirit who works in and through us—as we depend upon Him to help us to _____ for Jesus.

16. Walking in the Spirit means you are living a life of faith based on the truths that God reveals in His _____ (John 15:7):

7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

17. As we walk in the Spirit we live according to God’s word, trusting in the reliability of God Himself — made known through the _____.
18. The conditions that sustain us to keep being filled with the Spirit is first to “walk by the Spirit” depending on Him — but second, we are also sustained to “walk” by the _____ found in God’s infallible word.
19. And so, beyond the command to “walk by the Spirit” in Galatians 5:16, you are also _____ to be one who “sows to the Spirit” in Galatians 6:8.
20. If you are abiding in Christ—then His Word will be abiding in you, because the Holy Spirit does not work in a vacuum, but He always works in — conjunction with the truth — of His _____.
21. For this reason, we are commanded in Galatians 6:8, not to feed or ‘sow’ to the ‘flesh’ but to feed or ‘sow to the Spirit’ as we _____ God’s word.

2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect (Romans 12:2).

22. Only as your “**mind**” is renewed through the counsel of Scripture will more & more areas of your life conform to the Spirit’s _____.
23. We will explore in the next section of this discipleship course how we practically on a day to day can be _____ who “**sows to the Spirit.**”
24. Sadly, the Spirit-filled life today is _____ described in terms of emotions.
25. Sometimes people think that if they are Spirit-filled that they will display a certain kind of emotion & if that emotion is not present, they conclude that they are _____ longer filled with the Spirit.
26. Christ was always filled with the Spirit, and yet He displayed a wide range of emotions including “**joy**” (Jn. 15:11), “**anger**” (Mk. 11:15), “**exhaustion**” (Matt. 8:24) & “**sorrow**” (Heb. 5:7) to name a _____.
23. While feelings have their place in our lives — God did _____ intend for our emotions to rule our lives but He desires His word to rule us and when the Spirit — rules our emotions — then we are Spirit-filled.
24. For instance, we may not always “**feel**” like giving thanks when difficult times come in our lives but when we do, we are obeying what God says, and this is all a part of walking by _____ (1 Thess. 5:18; Rom. 8:28).
25. When the Spirit is filling us, we should not be looking for some emotional experience or something dramatic to happen to _____.
26. When we were saved it was not because of some dramatic or emotional experience that was brought upon us, but because as an act of faith we placed our _____ confidence in the death, burial & resurrection of Jesus.
27. Ephesians 2:8 states, “**For by grace you have been saved through faith.**”
28. Our emotions may have been involved, but ultimately, we do _____ become a Christian by some emotional experience but by an act of faith in Jesus.
29. Even so, the Holy Spirit is given to us not so that we can have some kind of an emotional experience—but in order that we can live a holy life for the Lord and to be a fruitful witness for _____ (1 Peter 1:14-16).

An Important Reminder . . .
Do Not Depend On Feelings



30. The engine in this diagram represents the truth or “**facts**” of God’s word, and the fuel car represents our “**faith**” in what God has said in His word — with the caboose representing _____ “**feelings.**”
31. Obviously, it would be futile to try to _____ the train by the caboose.
32. In the same way, we are not to place our faith in the way we feel, but we are to place our faith in our unchanging _____ who gives us His promises.
31. We do not depend on feelings or emotions to _____ a Spirit-filled life.
32. We can have various emotions as we walk with God, but to look or seek or an “**emotional experience**” is a denial of the concept of _____ and the Bible clearly states, “**whatever is not from faith is sin**” (Romans 14:21).
30. So, if you are not grieving or quenching the Spirit & are hungering and thirsting for righteousness—then by faith you can expect God to fill you for He always responds to our obeying His _____ (Eph 5:18; 1 Jn 5:14-15).

VI. How Does One Stay Filled With The Spirit?

*As we noted earlier in this section, being filled with the Spirit is not a once-and-for-all experience. We have learned that the Holy Spirit lives in us forever once we are saved. You never have to ask Him to come into your life again once you have had the second birth. However, it is important that he is not only indwelling us but filling us. While we are indwelt or “**baptized**” by the Spirit just once at the moment of conversion, there are many fillings of the Spirit as made clear in Ephesians 5:18. We noted earlier that the tense in the Greek language in which the command to “**be filled with the Spirit**” was originally written, speaks of an ongoing process. The command means to be ‘**continually controlled**’ & ‘**continually empowered**’ with the Spirit as a lifestyle.*

A. Trust God to continue to fill you with the Spirit.

1. The Spirit filled like is a moment-by-moment dependence on _____.
2. Many times when we are walking filled with the Spirit we are confronted with situations that require an immediate filling to carry out God's _____.
3. Earlier in this section—we studied how the disciples—who were walking 'filled with the Spirit' come under great persecution such that they came together for a prayer — asking for boldness — while _____ opposed.
4. And this same group—was filled _____ with the Holy Spirit (Acts 4:31):

31 And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God with boldness.

5. We learned from that passage—that the Apostles and others did not need to “be filled with the Spirit” again because of some sin—but because they needed “the control” & “the power” of the Holy Spirit in a _____ area.
6. They needed to “be filled” anew in order to know boldness in witnessing, in light of being “threatened” & “prohibited” to _____ about Jesus.
7. Sometimes in a moment of need or sometimes when God simply reveals a new area of His will that He wants you to obey, just continue to yield that need under His care — that you might keep on being _____.
8. That a new need or a new area for godly living is revealed does not at all mean that you were resisting the Spirit or in disobedience to _____.
9. The Christian life is a growing experience and so we are not only saved by grace _____ we are also commanded to “grow in grace” (1 Peter 3:18).
10. This is all part of a moment-by-moment Spirit-filled walk with _____.

B. When it is necessary trust God to fill you with the Spirit again.

1. As Christians we cease to be under the “control” & “power” of the Spirit when we sin through a definite act of disobedience—because we cannot run our lives while at the same time be _____ the control of the Spirit.
2. When this happens—then one must stop grieving the Spirit through confession of the _____ in his life that has broken the Spirit's control.

3. We saw the solution to grieving the Spirit is simply to confess any known willful sin against God and by _____ to claim the promise of 1 John 1:9:

9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

4. There are times when we have wronged a brother or sister & we must go and _____ for forgiveness — and if necessary — to make restitution.

23 “Therefore if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then and then come and present your offering (Matthew 5:23-24).

5. We are to “go” to our “brother” be it a family member or church member or a friend or an associate and make things right as _____ as possible.
6. Jesus clearly taught that our hearts are not right with God—if we are not right with each other & so—we cannot expect the Spirit to _____ us if we are unrepentant about causing another person legitimate offense.
7. The Apostle Paul reminds us in Romans 12:18, “**If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men**” knowing that it is _____ always possible even though we are humbly attempted.
8. We have learned in this discipleship lesson that we cannot “grieve” the Spirit of God and expect Him to fill us with Himself any more than we can “quench” the Spirit of and expect Him to _____ us.
9. So, if God makes you aware of some area whereby you are quenching Him, through an unwillingness to obey the positive commands of Scripture, then you must according to Romans 12:1, _____ that area of our life to God:

1 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

10. Assuming you have met these conditions — then by faith you can ask the Spirit to once again take control of your _____ according to God’s “**command**” (Eph. 5:18) & God’s “**promise**” (1 Jn. 5:14-15).
11. By being “**filled with the Spirit**” through each hour of the day you will experience an abundant, joyful and fruitful life to the _____ of God.

Scripture Memory Verses: Ephesians 5:18 & 1 John 5:14-15