

Spiritual Maturity: Be Filled with the Spirit

Bruce Baker, Pastor

Washington County Bible Church

Definition of Spiritual Maturity

The spiritually mature are those who, ***through the power of the Holy Spirit,***

(1) understand God's Word well enough and

(2) have consistently put its truths into practice long enough that

(3) they are capable of distinguishing good from evil in practical circumstances and

(4) are competent in teaching others to do the same.



A Mad Tea-Party

“I told you butter wouldn’t suit
the works!”



Romans 7:5–13

Living by law works is ultimately self-defeating



Law incites Sin

Our Flesh desires the forbidden



Romans 7:14–25

Not a matter of trying harder

Warfare in my inner being

Taken as a prisoner

Romans 8:1–4

No longer condemned as a
prisoner

God's righteousness *fully* met in
us



Weak through the Flesh



What the law
could not do
God did

Law Unable to Produce Righteousness

Taking the Law out of the way
Providing the Spirit to walk in Him





Eph 5:18

Be Filled with the Spirit

Comparison to being drunk

No formal definition given

Debauchery



Behavior which shows lack of concern or thought for the consequences of an action—senseless deeds, reckless deeds, recklessness.

What one does without being able to think about it

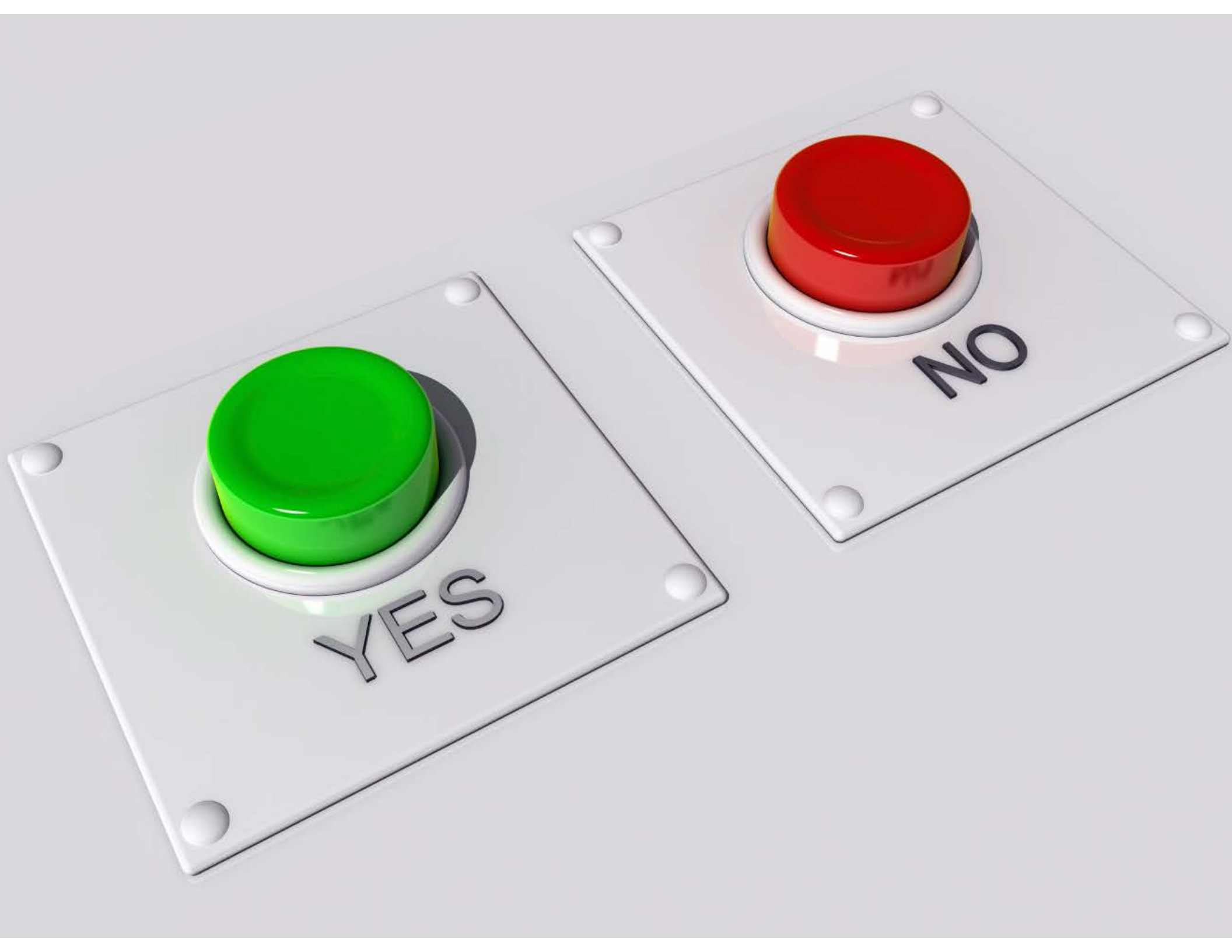
Filling of the Spirit



The filling of the Spirit is the spiritual state where the Holy Spirit is accomplishing in and through us all that he desires.

Filling of the Spirit

There is no such thing as being partially filled with the Spirit



YES

NO

Filling of the Spirit

There is no such thing as being partially filled with the Spirit

The issue isn't one of the Holy Spirit getting more of us

Even the newest believer can be (and is commanded to be) filled with the Spirit

When we are filled with the Spirit, he is able to display in us the life and character of Christ.

Philippians 3

¹⁴I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵All of us, then, who are mature should take such a view of things.



Eph 4:29–32

Do Not Grieve the Spirit

Grieving the Spirit



Grief is the emotion that God the Holy Spirit feels when the believer sins. The believer cannot be filled with the Spirit as long as the Holy Spirit is grieved.



1 John 1:3–2:1

The antidote for grieving the Spirit of God is confession



1Thess 5:16–23

Do Not Quench the Spirit



Eph 2:10

A self-directed life is a mis-directed life!

We must pray like Jesus, “*not my will, but yours be done.*” (Luke 22:2 NIV)



Rom 12:1-2

Living Sacrifices

Holy Sacrifices

Pleasing to God

Knowing the Will of God

God reveals his will only to those willing to do it.

God's will is always in accordance with the Scriptures

God doesn't lead his children by a set of rules

God's Spirit interprets providence by giving us the mind of Christ

God's leading is a knowledge that God provides



Galatians 5:16

Walk by the Spirit

Not “in” but “by means of”

Walking by the Spirit



...an unbroken reliance upon God the Holy Spirit to empower us to accomplish what he desires in and through us.

The Filling of the Spirit is God working in us.

Walking by the Spirit is our dependence upon him.

Three Reasons to Walk by the Spirit

A Supernatural Standard

A Supernatural Enemy

A Sub-Standard Nature

Being a

Christian

is being rightly related to

Christ

Christ

is being rightly related to

Being

Spiritual

is being rightly related to the

Spirit

Spirit

is being rightly related to the

Questions?

