

southcitychurch

In addition to effecting regeneration and sanctification, the Holy Spirit also empowers believers for Christian witness and service (**Acts 1:8**, 4:8,31, 6:5, 8, 10; **Rom 15:19**; **1 Cor 2:4**; **1 Thess 1:5**; **1 Pet 1:12**). While all genuine believers are indwelt by the Holy Spirit at conversion (**1 Cor 12:13**), the New Testament indicates the importance of an ongoing, empowering work of the Spirit subsequent to conversion as well (**Acts 2:4**, 4:8, 31; **Eph 5:18**). Being indwelt by the Spirit and being filled with the Spirit are theologically distinct experiences (**Acts 2:4**; 4:8, 31; **Eph 1:12-14**; 5:18). The Holy Spirit desires to fill each believer continually with increased power for Christian life and witness, and imparts his supernatural gifts for the edification of the Church and for various works of ministry in the world (**Rom 8:26-27**; **1 Cor 12:7,11**, 14:26, **Eph 4:7-11**). All the gifts of the Holy Spirit (**Rom 12:6-8**; **1 Cor 7:7**; 12:8-10, 28; **Eph 4:11**) at work in the church of the first-century are available today (**1 Cor 13:9,12**), are vital for the mission of the church (**1 Cor 12:4-6**,28 14:12, 24-25; **Eph 4:12-14**), and are to be earnestly desired (**1 Cor 12:1**, 31, 14:1, 39-40) and practiced (**1 Cor 14:5**, 26-33, 39-40; **1 Thess 5:19-21**).

IMPLICATIONS:

The infilling of the Holy Spirit is an experience to be sought on a regular basis. It is right to pray that the Holy Spirit would fill us afresh, make us holy and empower for us to service. It is right to depend on the Lord, listen to His voice, and expect Him to do signs and wonders in our midst. These signs and wonders can both be the outwardly spectacular e.g. miraculous healing, or the less outwardly spectacular e.g. the conversion of a soul, inner healing etc.