

"Pursued To Fill Us With His Spirit"

The Ministry of the Spirit

June 14, 2026

SGC Statement of Faith. The Empowering Ministry of the Spirit, Pg 43-44

To be filled with the Spirit is to be more fully under his influence, more aware of his presence, and more effective in his service. All Christians, therefore, must continually seek to be filled with the Spirit by living and praying in such a way that invites the Spirit's work among us, actively longing for God to accomplish his gracious purposes in us and through us. The filling of the Spirit brings to God's people a deeper knowledge of Christ, an increased desire for holiness, a stronger commitment to unity and love, a greater fruitfulness in ministry, and a deeper gratitude for our salvation...

But we wouldn't care one bit about these things if not for God pursuing, revealing, and persuading us of His love and purposes in each of our lives.

The God Who Relentlessly Pursues Us To Be Filled With the Spirit

God pursued us until he saved us. Then he pursued us because he saved us. And he will continue to pursue us until he takes us home.

Genesis 3:8-9 But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?"

Romans 5:8 but God shows(demonstrates NIV) his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Psalms 23:6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

(Mercy: Heb. chesed, covenant) (Follow: Heb. rawdaph, chase down, to hunt)

Psalms 139:7-10 Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? ⁸ If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! ⁹ If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, ¹⁰ even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me.

Luke 19:10 For the son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.

John 16:13a When the Spirit of truth comes; he will guide you into all the truth.

Matthew 28:20b "...I am with you always, to the end of the age."

A Two-Sided "Convince-tion": The Before and After Work of the Spirit

The Holy Spirit pursued us to convict and convince us of our separation from God. Now he continues the pursuit to convict and convince us of our unification with God.

John 16:8-11 ⁸ And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹ concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰ concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; ¹¹ concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

There's the one Side of the purpose of the Holy Spirit's "Convince-tion" to the Unbeliever

Convict (Greek elencho [el-eng'-kho] to convict, convince, reprove, show fault) Elencho does not always or necessarily carry with it a negative presumption or determination.

- Sin=Unbelief, Unforgiven

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death

- Righteous (lack thereof) =unrighteous, legally and totally guilty before God

Romans 3:10 None is righteous, no, not one.

- **Judgment**=forever separated from the presence of God, suffering under his holy wrath
Revelation 20:15 And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

God doesn't send his Spirit into the world to thumb his nose in our faces, heckling us that we are condemned without receiving Christ.

John 3:17-18a For God did not send his son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned.

So, what's the Holy Spirit doing now for us who believe, who are no longer "of the world", though in it? Is he threatening to kick us out if we don't stay in line? NO!!! He's JOYFULLY completing the work which He began in us!

And There's The Other Side of Holy Spirit "Convince-tion"... to the Believer

- **Sin** : TOTALLY, FOREVER AND FINALLY FORGIVEN
Colossians 2:13-14 ¹³ And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us having forgiven us all our trespasses, ¹⁴ by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.
- **Righteous**= legally not guilty, just, accepted and approved by God
2 Cor. 5:21 ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
Jesus took on sin, something totally alien to him so that we might become something totally alien to us, a righteousness imputed to us by the Holy Spirit through the perfect sacrifice of Christ.
- **Judgment**=forever free from condemnation and ever being separated from God
John 5:24 Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life. **(Rms 8:1)**

On the one hand, believers are characterized by the Spirit: they walk according to the Spirit (Romans 8:4), live according to the Spirit (verse 5), set their minds on the Spirit (verses 5–6), are in the Spirit, and have the Spirit (verse 9). The Spirit indwells believers (verses 9, 11), enables us to mortify our sin (verse 13), and testifies that we are children of God (verse 16). On the other hand, unbelievers are under the sway of the flesh: they walk according to the flesh (verse 4), live according to the flesh (verse 5), set their minds on the flesh (verses 5–6), and are in the flesh (verse 8). They are hostile to God and cannot please him (verses 7–8).

Have you Misread Romans 8? Joshua Greever: Professor, Bethlehem College and Seminary

The Great Divide That Isn't: The Secular vs. The Sacred

Secular: relating to the physical, worldly, or temporal realm rather than the spiritual or sacred. It describes attitudes, beliefs, activities, or institutions that have no religious or spiritual basis and operate independently of religious control. **Merriam-Webster Dictionary**

Sacred: Sanctified, set apart, holy to God. **(The Bible)**

Romans 8:6 You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you.

John 3:6b That which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

Heb. 10:10,14 ¹⁰ And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. ¹⁴ For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

The natural thing for the supernatural believer is to be constantly filled with the sanctifying presence of Holy Spirit. The more we submit to the absolute ownership of God over every part of our lives, the more supernaturally natural every part of our lives become. We begin to actually believe that all of life is as a new creation, with Christ alive in us, Christ always for us, and Christ living through us. Each breath, each beat of our hearts takes place with growing revelation of his power and presence incessantly in us so that we with ever increasing faith walk by the power of the Spirit that we won't carry out the desires of the flesh (Gal 5:16).

Colossians 3:17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

"To a man who lives unto God nothing is secular, everything is sacred. He puts on his workday garment and it is a vestment to him. He sits down to his meal and it is a sacrament. He goes forth to his labor, and therein exercises the office of the priesthood. His breath is incense and his life a sacrifice. He sleeps on the bosom of God, and lives and moves in the divine presence.

The Lord hath cleansed your houses, he has cleansed your bed chambers, your tables, your shops, he has made the bells upon your horses holiness to the Lord, he has made the common pots and pans of your kitchens to be as the bowls before the altar, if you know what you are and live according to your high calling. You housemaids, you cooks, you nurses, you ploughmen, you housewives, you traders, you sailors, your labor is holy if you serve the Lord Christ in it, by living unto him as you ought to live. The sacred has absorbed the secular."

C.H. Spurgeon, "All for Jesus"

Overcoming Encumbrances to Being Filled with the Spirit

As we are actively presenting ourselves to God (that's pursuing), the Holy Spirit who gave us life, and made us holy and acceptable to God, is actively transforming us into Christ's image by renewing our minds. And as our minds are renewed, we see nothing as secular, all as Christ.

Romans 12:1-2 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Hebrews 12:1-2a Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith...

The house key is absolute surrender. And though there is a key to the front door, there is a key to every room of the house that must be opened to the Spirit's cleansing. Every room. In our absolute surrender to the will of the Spirit, we experience the absolute blessing of His blessed life coursing through each of us. I therefore now with faith in the fulness of the Spirit's promises, deny myself, take up my cross, and follow him, every moment of every day. And I can with joyful confidence say, "for to me, to live is Christ, to die is gain." I am no longer my own. I am bought with a price. I will worship God with my body."

What rooms of our house have we not surrendered to the cleansing, liberating work of the Holy Spirit? And Why? God is FOR US!

Luke 11:9-13 And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. ¹¹ What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; ¹² or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? ¹³ If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

Galatians 5:1 For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

The Holy Spirit is the power! HE is the power IN US to unlock every door of our hearts that the enemy desires to keep locked, prohibiting us from experiencing the full freedom of the gospel which is Christ in us, by the presence of the Holy Spirit is our only hope of glory! Living in his glorious presence is our freedom.