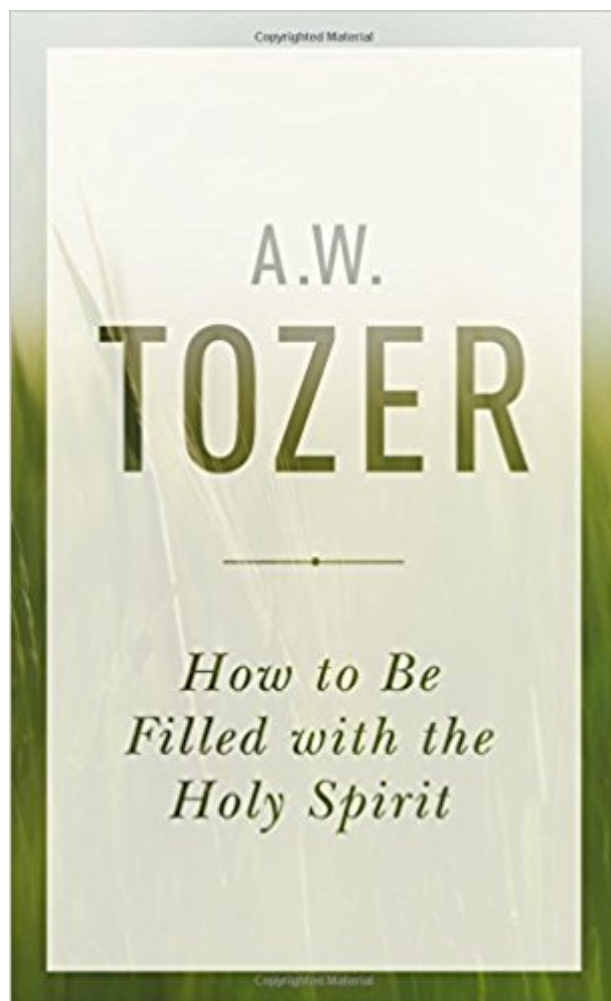


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# How To Be Filled With The Holy Spirit



## Synopsis

The only way to "live with true spiritual power" Are you sure you want to be possessed by a spirit other than your own? Even though that spirit be the pure Spirit of God? Even though He be the very gentle essence of the gentle Jesus? Even though He be wisdom personified, wisdom Himself? Even though He be as loving as the heart of God?" —A. W. Tozer In a little book that's hard to swallow, A. W. Tozer teaches plainly who the Spirit is, why we should desire Him, but why few of us do. He instructs us in how to be filled with the Spirit, but first poses this question: Do you really want to be filled?

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"Are you sure you want to be possessed by a spirit other than your own? Even though that spirit be the pure Spirit of God? Even though He be the very gentle essence of the gentle Jesus? Even though He be wisdom personified, wisdom Himself? Even though He be as loving as the heart of God?" —A. W. Tozer In a little book that's hard to swallow, A. W. Tozer teaches plainly who the Spirit is, why we should desire Him, but why few of us do. He instructs us in how to be filled with the Spirit, but first poses this question: Do you really want to be filled?

A.W. TOZER began his lifelong pursuit of God at the age of seventeen after hearing a street preacher in Akron, Ohio. A self-taught theologian, Tozer was a pastor, writer and editor whose powerful use of words continues to grip the intellect and stir the soul of today's reader. Among his

best-loved books are the classics *The Pursuit of God* and *The Attributes of God*.

I received A.W. Tozer's *How to Be Filled with the Holy Spirit* from Moody Publishers. This book holds another poignant message which challenges the Christian to attend another meditative self-review of his, or her, innermost values, and desires, so that he, or she, may realize the degree of importance to which he, or she, holds the personal relationship to, and with, God. In the first chapter, entitled, "Who is the Holy Spirit?", Tozer begins by first distinguishing the difference between the natural world and the spirit world. Then, in chapter two "The Promise of the Father", Tozer provides a brief, but constructive, introduction to the Holy Spirit as he describes His origin, role, and purpose, as a member of the Holy Trinity (or, Godhead) and as God in the Christian's life. Tozer is clear in his description of the Holy Spirit even as he establishes the fact that the Christian must depend totally upon the Holy Spirit in order to effectively live for Jesus Christ. Next, in the third chapter, entitled, "How to Be Filled with the Holy Spirit", Tozer explains how the Christian can be filled with the Holy Spirit--- but after he asks seven vital questions: 1.) Is the Spirit-filled life for you (pg. 40)? 2.) Can you believe this part (i.e., to be Spirit-filled) is part of God's plan (pg. 41)? 3.) Can you believe the Spirit is loveable (pg. 42)? 4.) Can you believe this is scriptural (pg. 43)? 5.) Do you want to be filled (pg. 44)? 6.) Do you want Him to be Lord of your life (pg. 46)? 7.) Are you sure you need Him (pg. 48)? It is after the position of these questions, and some insightful commentary, that Tozer explains how to receive the Holy Spirit by referencing the Holy Bible: 1.) Present your Body to Him (Romans 12:1 - 2). 2.) Ask to be filled (Luke 11:9 - 13 and Psalms 2:8). 3.) Obey the Holy Spirit (Acts 5:32). 4.) Have faith in God (Galatians 3:2). Finally, Tozer explains how to cultivate the Spirit's companionship as he cites the scripture, "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" (Amos 3:3). Perhaps Tozer's statement (on page 56) not only summarizes Chapter 4 (i.e., "How to Cultivate the Spirit's Companionship"), but it also harmonizes the message of this entire book: "I don't want to say this, but I think that some of you may not be ready for the message because you are more influenced by the world than you are by the New Testament. I am perfectly certain that I could rake up fifteen boxcar loads of fundamentalist Christians this hour in the city of Chicago who are more influenced in their whole outlook by Hollywood than they are by the Lord Jesus Christ. I am positive that much that passes for the Gospel in our day is very little more than a very mild case of orthodox religion grafted onto a

heart that is sold out to the world in its pleasures and tastes and ambitions

(1952). In this final chapter, Tozer also presents six important things which Christians must do in order to be filled with the Holy Spirit after he poses one important question (on page 54)--- "Are you ready for this?" After this question, Tozer enumerates some of the blessings and benefits of allowing the Holy Spirit to take on His rightful role in the Christian's life. Then, Tozer lists the six important things which the Christian must either remember, or do, if he, or she, is ready to be filled with the Holy Spirit: 1.) The Holy Spirit is a living Person [therefore, the Christian must relate to the Holy Spirit as the Person He is] (pg. 57). 2.) Be engrossed with Jesus Christ (pg. 58). 3.) Walk in righteousness (pg. 59). 4.) Make your thoughts a clean sanctuary (pg. 60). 5.) Seek to know him in the Word (pg. 61). 6.) Cultivate the art of recognizing the presence of the Spirit (pg. 63). So, to summarize this book, Tozer is explaining that while a Christian can have sincerely accepted and received the free gift of salvation offered to all by the Self-sacrifice of Jesus Christ, it is also possible for that same Christian to not be filled by the Holy Spirit, and as a result, miss out on a very intimate, life-changing and wholesome experience with the One whom Jesus promised would be our Comforter, and the One who would teach us all that we would need to know after Jesus ascended to the Father in Heaven (John 16:7). This is another one of Tozer's works which I have added to my personal library, and I highly recommend that Christians who wish to know how they can live out their purpose read this book. Tozer's message can help the seeking Christian to understand that the Christian already has a purpose (Isaiah 43:7)--- the Christian just needs to know God's plan for his, or her, life so that living out that purpose can be done (Jeremiah 29:11 - 13). But, this is done by cultivating an intimate relationship with the Holy Spirit. Tozer's fearless assessment and rebuke of the modern Church's seemingly mass abstention from the influence and leadership of the Holy Spirit, and its widely evident conformity to many of the world's ways and attitudes, further encourages me to take greater critical self-assessment in order to truly understand my personal need for more of the Holy Spirit's influence and leadership in my life, and I hope this book encourages other Christians to do the same.

I found this book very helpful, I've read three of his books now and find them inspiring, informative. And challenging, His love for and faithfulness to the scriptures is obvious, I look forward to reading more in the future,

It's not a deep, long read. Be aware that this is more of a pamphlet than a book. It's 64 pages and can be read in about 30 minutes. I was hoping for more substance and depth. Though there are some excellent points Tozer makes, especially in terms of people being afraid of a Spirit-filled life. It's worth the price you pay for the last 30 pages. It really is. He doesn't go into gifts or manifestations; Tozer talks about your inner life and how it works, or doesn't work, in tandem with Spirit-filled living. So, in that sense, you'll be glad you got it. He's plain spoken. The longer I live, and the more books I write, and the more books I read, and the more theologians I encounter, I appreciate plain spoken people ever the more.

This is short, but powerful. I wonder what was in the lost fifth sermon? This is a collection of four sermons that is probably the best and most complete review of the Holy Spirit. In an economy of words, Tozer hits all the main aspects in a way that is challenging, thought provoking and hope inspiring.

I'm a very immature Christian, having been lazy in pursuing anything more than a surface relationship with Christ for 40+ years. Lately, that has changed and this book (a few transcribed sermons) has provided even more encouragement.

Every true believer as well as new convert should read this book and apply it to their lives. This book tells how we as representatives of Jesus Christ should conduct ourselves in the earth.

This book clears up a lot of confusion about the Holy Spirit and why it is so important to be filled and led by this precious gift, comforter, teacher and power of God.

This book is thought provoking and insightful. I learned from it. You need to invite and want the Holy Spirit in to receive the Holy Spirit.

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