

"Hover o'er me, Holy Spirit, Bathe my trembling heart and brow;
Fill me with Thy hallow'd presence, Come, O come and fill me now.

Thou canst fill me, gracious Spirit, Tho I cannot tell Thee how;
But I need Thee, greatly need Thee, Come, O come and fill me now.

I am weakness, full of weakness, At Thy sacred feet I bow;
Blest, divine, eternal Spirit, Fill with pow'r, and fill me now.

Cleanse and comfort, bless and save me, Bathe, O bathe my heart and brow;
Thou art comforting and saving, Thou art sweetly filling now.

Fill me now, fill me now, Jesus, come and fill me now;
Fill me with Thy hallow'd presence Come, O come and fill me now."

(Elwood R. Stokes)

4. Fullness

In our attempt to formulate a working definition of this ministry, let us note four scriptures in particular.

Ephesians 5:18 -- "And do not be getting drunk with wine, in which is debauchery, but rather be being filled with the Spirit!" in this connection we stress, not so much the contrast between getting drunk with wine and being filled with the Spirit, but rather the command in the latter part of the verse. This command to "be being filled with the Spirit!" could mean a series of distinct, separate events of filling or a settled state of fullness or both. In the context the command appears to be dealing more with godly conduct of life rather than with temporary enablement to accomplish some task or service for God.

Acts 6:3, 5 -- "But select from among you, brethren, seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task And the statement found approval with the whole congregation; and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit.'

The idea here does not seem to be that of a temporary filling to equip for service; rather these seven men were to be characterized, not temporarily, but over a substantial duration, by having wisdom and a good reputation and the controlling influence of the Spirit in their lives. In choosing these men the question before the congregation was, "Is he a wise man? Does he have a good reputation? Does he live a Spirit-filled life?"

These qualities were found in Stephen. His life was characterized by faith and the controlling influence of the Spirit. When the congregation looked for men to nominate for the position, they looked for certain qualities of character and conduct that would ideally suit these men to shoulder this responsibility, and one of these qualities was that of the Spirit's control in their lives.

In Acts 11:22-24 we read, "And the news about them reached the ears of the church at Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas off to Antioch. Then when he had come and witnessed the grace of God, he rejoiced and