

*How* - 1. How can I be filled with the Spirit?

Before I answer that question specifically, let me say something about what it means to be filled with the Spirit. If we know what it is, then I think it will be easier to see how to experience it.

*Then* - Well, then, what does it mean to be filled with the Spirit?

Eph. 5:18 makes a contrast between being drunk and being filled with the Spirit. Paul says we are not to be drunk but we are to be filled. But in that verse there is also a comparison, for just as a drunk person is controlled by the alcohol he has taken into his system, so the Christian who is filled with the Spirit is controlled by the Spirit who lives in his life. So to be filled with the Spirit is to be controlled by the Spirit.

*Next* - That seems clear. How, then, can I be controlled by the Spirit?

The Holy Spirit does not impose His control over our lives; instead He asks us to give it to Him voluntarily. A Christian cannot be filled with the Spirit who has not given the Lord complete control over all the aspects of his life. In other words, dedication of life is necessary if a believer is to experience the filling of the Holy Spirit.

Is there anything else involved?

Yes, that dedication has to be kept alive and active by constant daily dependence on the Lord and the Spirit for help, direction, wisdom and all the activities of life. As we live depending on His power, we will be filled with the Spirit. And being filled with the Spirit is a command, not an option. So if you are a Christian, examine your life and be sure that you have dedicated it to the Lord and that you are living in dependence on His power.

*Then* 2. Will there be people saved during the tribulation days other than the 144000?

Yes, there will be a lot of people saved during the tribulation days. As a matter of fact they are described as a great multitude that no one is able to number (Rev. 7:9). They are seen clothed in white robes which were made white in the blood of the Lamb of God, so there is no question but that they are saved people.

How do we know that they were saved during the great tribulation and not before?

The answer is clear because in Rev. 7:14 we read that these are they who came out of the great tribulation, so there is no question but that they were saved during that time of great trouble that is coming. Now, let me add a word of warning. If you have been putting off receiving Christ as your Savior thinking that you'll have plenty of time to do so when you see the events of the great tribulation, don't be deceived. You may not have the opportunity or desire to do so. In 2 Thess. 2:11-12 we are told that during the tribulation days God will send strong delusion on those who believed not the truth and had pleasure in unrighteousness. That seems to say that if you don't believe now when you have the opportunity, you won't be able to believe later. God said not is the day of salvation, not later. So even tho there will be people saved during the tribulation days, don't count on putting off receiving Christ until then if you have the opportunity today. And you do have that opportunity right now. Just ask the Lord to come into your heart and save you from all your sins.