

HOW TO STAY FULL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

2Ch 5:13 indeed it came to pass, when the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD, and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and praised the LORD, saying: "*For He is good, For His mercy endures forever,*" that the house, the house of the LORD, was filled with a cloud,
2Ch 5:14 so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for **the glory of the LORD filled the house of God.**

Here we see the dedication of God's temple in the Old Testament. Once the temple was finished and all its furnishings were in place, the praisers and priests came to focus on the goodness of God. Many religious folk seem to focus on God's wrath and judgment. The singers were not singing, "For He is Holy, and His Judgment endures forever!" No, they were focusing on God's goodness. They shouted and sang, "For He is good, and His mercy endures forever!" When they did this the whole temple and its outer court was filled with the smoke of God's glory and the priests could not stand to minister because of it! Oh, that the glory would be so manifest today that God's ministers could not stand to minister, but just lie before God and see Him move!

Many probably have asked the same question I have asked, "How can I be full and stay full of the Holy Spirit?" We see a picture of how here in 2 Chronicles 5. The things written of in the Old Testament were mere pictures of a fuller fulfillment in the New Testament. The temple of the Old Testament was a picture of the New Testament temple, which is you and me. As God dwelt in the Holy of Holies, which was the inmost portion of the temple, so God dwells in our spirit which is the inmost part of us. The Holy Place had the candlestick, showbread, and the altar of incense. This corresponds to our soul- our mind, will, and emotions. The outer court of the temple represents our body. In the Old Testament temple God dwelt in the Holy of Holies above the mercy seat. Notice it was called the "mercy seat" and not the judgment seat! That is why the singers were focusing on God's goodness and mercy. God dwells in His goodness and mercy. God visited in

judgment, but He dwells in goodness and mercy today! When they magnified God's goodness and mercy, then the glory of God came out of the Holy of Holies, out into the Holy Place, and then out into the court where the ministers were. *God's glory is connected with God's goodness and mercy.*

Exo 33:18 And he [Moses] said, "Please, show me Your glory."

Here we see that Moses asked to see God's glory. Now what do you think Moses was ready to see and hear- Maybe a pyrotechnic light show? Let's see what God's glory was and how it manifested!

Exo 33:19 Then He said, "I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before you, and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy."

Moses asked to see God's glory, and God said, "Ok, I will make ALL of my goodness pass before you, and I will show mercy.." God's glory is His goodness and mercy! So when the singers magnified God's goodness and mercy, guess what? God's glory was released to fill the whole house of the Lord!

So how does this apply to us today? We are the temple of the Lord now!

1Co 3:16 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

God dwells in us by His Spirit in our inner man, our spirit. It is nice to have Him in our spirit, but it would be nicer to have Him manifest in our soul, and even in our body. How is this going to happen? The same way it happened in the Old Testament temple! It will happen when we stop focusing on our problems, our failures, and our own needs and wants, and turn our focus upon God within us. Our focus however needs to be directed specifically to God's goodness and His mercy to us through the person of Jesus Christ and His finished work. When we focus on God in us being good and merciful to us all of the time, **then God's glory [all of His goodness and mercy] will be released to fill all of the house of God.** Could it be that simple? Yes

my friend! Just looking upon the Lord is God's way of transforming us!

2Co 3:18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, *even* as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Beholding is the key to becoming or being transformed into God's image. What are we to behold? Our own failure, sins, shortcomings, or need for change? No, a thousand times NO! We are to behold the **GLORY** of the Lord. What is His glory? It is His goodness and everlasting mercy to us! When we do this the glory is revealed and released to us to change us into His image from glory to glory- from one manifestation of His goodness and mercy to another! How do you stay full of the Holy Spirit- keep beholding and magnifying God's goodness and everlasting mercy to you! Then you will be full of the glory and Spirit of God. Amen!