

## Which Spirit?

The New Testament pictures two different kinds of spirit-filling:

filled with the spirit of evil and  
filled with the Spirit of God.

The most extreme form of the spirit of evil is

demon possession,  
seen repeatedly in the gospels.

Those individuals are described as helpless captives to  
all the worst of human existence:

sickness,  
suffering,  
self-harm, and  
total degradation.

Paul describes the fruits of evil in their more common form:

*Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: sexual immorality, impurity, indecent behavior, idolatry, witchcraft, hostilities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.*  
(Galatians 5:19-21, NASB)

The gospels also paint a beautiful portrait of a human being  
filled with the Spirit of God Himself.

That portrait is

Jesus Christ.

And back in Galatians 5, Paul lists the fruit of that Spirit,  
the fruit that grows in the life of every believer:

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.* (Galatians 5:22-23, NASB)

Each type of spirit-filling begins small, with either  
a heart focus on self, or  
a simple faith in God.

But from that small beginning, the tiny seed grows

day by  
day by  
day.

Paul reminds us of where each is headed:

*Do you not know that the one to whom you present yourselves as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of that same one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?*

*The wages of sin is death, but the gracious gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:16, 23, NASB)*

Which spirit do you want to fill your  
heart and  
life and  
home?

**Hymn: Which Spirit?**

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