

What does the Holy Spirit desire to produce in your life?

*discuss*

**Read Romans 8:16.** *What confirmation does the Holy Spirit give you in your relationship with God?*

**Read Galatians 5:22,23.**

The degree to which these traits of godliness are manifested in your life depends on how much you trust the Lord with your life and on how long you have been trusting Him. If you are only beginning to understand the ministry of the Holy Spirit, don't be discouraged if you are not as fruitful as you would like to be.

*What does Jesus say we are to do in order to see this fruit produced in us?*

"Take care to live in Me, and let Me live in you. For a branch can't produce fruit when severed from the vine. Nor can you be fruitful apart from Me. Yes, I am the Vine; you are the branches. Whoever lives in Me and I in him shall produce a large crop of fruit. For apart from Me you can't do a thing." — John 15:4,5

**Read Acts 1:8.** *What does the Holy Spirit desire to equip you to do?*

*Why do you think the Holy Spirit's power is needed to be a witness?*

## 2 Many Christians are not experiencing the Holy Spirit's power

You became a Christian through the Holy Spirit's work (Ephesians 1:13). From that moment on, the Spirit has lived within you (Romans 8:11). As we have already seen, He provides the power to live the abundant Christian life.

A Christian who is living by the power of the Holy Spirit is said to be "filled with the Spirit." Although the Holy Spirit lives **within** all Christians, not all Christians are **filled with** (that is, directed and empowered by) the Holy Spirit. The Bible explains this situation by describing three kinds of people:

**Natural (1 Corinthians 2:14)**

These people have not trusted in Christ's death to pay for their sins and thus the Holy Spirit does not live in them.



**Self-Directed**

- S = Self is in control.
- † = Christ does not live in the unbeliever.
- H = Throne or control center of one's life.

**Spiritual (1 Corinthians 2:15)**

These people have trusted Christ as their Savior and are trusting in the power of the Holy Spirit to live the Christian life — filled with the Spirit.



**Christ-Directed**

- † = Christ has been placed in control.
- S = Self is yielding to Christ's direction.

**Fleshly (1 Corinthians 3:1,2)**

These people have trusted Christ to pay for their sins but are trusting in their own efforts to live the Christian life.



**Self-Directed**

- S = Self is in control.
- † = Christ lives in the believer but is not allowed to direct the believer's life.



**KEY QUESTIONS**

*Which circle best represents your life? Which circle would you like to have represent your life?*