



Do You Check The Oil

Regularly?

Ever been driving along and the “check oil” light comes on? If you keep on driving when the light is on and never check the oil there's a good chance that your engine will stop working because it's not properly lubricated. When that happens then the engine burns up. It's pretty costly to replace a whole engine. If you would just check the oil level and refill it to its proper level the engine would still be working properly. Now the vehicle is of no value because it cannot transport anyone to its destination since it cannot move. In other words, the car is still a car but cannot function like a car. It just becomes junk that sits on blocks.

Guess what happens to us and our teens when our “check oil” light comes on and we don't check it? We too will become burned up or burned out Christians who have no real value to the world. The check oil light is a warning to us that we need to pull out the dipstick in our engines and see if we are low and add oil if we are.

Oil in the Bible is often associated with an anointing to be set apart with the Spirit.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Ps. 23:5

Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him among his brothers. And the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon David from that day forward. I Sam. 16:13

Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. II Cor. 1:21-22

But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all have knowledge. I John 2:29

I am not saying that the Holy Spirit who lives in us fluctuates in His power within us, nor is there anything we have to do to have the Holy Spirit remain in us. For once we accept Christ as our personal Savior and Lord, He the Holy Spirit, comes to live in us in full and forever. According to Scripture, there is never anything we can do that will take the Holy Spirit from us. **“I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand.” John 10:28.** However, the Bible makes it clear that it's up to us on whether we will allow Him to remain “full” in us daily or if we chose to quench the Holy Spirit. **“Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit.” I Thess. 5:18-19**

*****WARNING***-Being filled with the Spirit is not a "feeling". Too many people are confused as to what it means to be filled with the Spirit. Many associate this filling with emotion and activity, such as speaking in tongues. Remember this very important point. Satan wants to do two main things. 1). He wants to stop anyone from having a relationship with Christ. 2) If that can't happen he wants to confuse the believer in what it means to walk and be filled with the Holy Spirit. If he can do that then he can stunt the growth of the believer and have them lead a defeated life.**

I'm sure if you've ever watched Late Night with David Letterman a long time ago, you have seen him do his “Top 10”. He usually picks some subject and makes a top 10 joke about it. Such as the “Top 10 things you don't want to say to your wife on your honeymoon.” Often he will have a special guest come on just to read the Top 10.

God too has a "Top 10 Ways to Quench the Holy Spirit." However, unlike Letterman's bit, this is no laughing matter. When we as believers quench the Holy Spirit in our walk we can get dangerously close to "burning out" our engine which does not allow us to get where we want to go as a Christian.

TOP 10 WAYS THE HOLY SPIRIT IS QUENCHED

- 1. We practice the "opposite" temperament traits of love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, kindness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control of the Holy Spirit found in Galatians 5:22-23.**
- 2. We freely indulge our desires to the point that our heart gets so hard that we no longer hear what God is saying to us.**
- 3. We tell the Holy Spirit when we feel His prompting that we will do it later or when we're older.**
- 4. We intentionally disobey commands from scripture and we know we shouldn't**
- 5. When we are with other believers we "pretend" we are better Christians than we are. In other words, we live one way in private and another way in public.**
- 6. We continually ignore the guidance our conscience gives us**
- 7. We care more about what other people think about us than what God thinks about us.**
- 8. We believe because of grace it doesn't matter if we obey God or not.**
- 9. We let our pride keep us from doing anything that we would consider humbling**
- 10. We believe that only the preacher has to share their faith, memorize and meditate on scripture, and apply God's Word daily.**

So when does the "check oil" light usually comes on? (Here are a few culprits)

- **Constant frustration without being able to overcome.**
- **Anger that can't be easily controlled, short tempers which lead to consistent arguments**
- **Can't control your tongue which leads to gossip and exaggerations.**
- **"Little white" lies and deception. Not the big ones, of course, just ones that get you out of trouble**
- **Pride, building yourself up to bigger than you should**
- **Worrying about everything which can affect your appetite, your sleeping, and health**
- **Impure thoughts that include immoral thoughts and hurtful thoughts toward others**
- **Depression to the point that you don't want to get out of bed, don't want to go to work and don't care about other people.**
- **Sadness that is constant with no joy ever-present**
- **Worship at Church becomes boring, habitual with no real meaning, and stale.**
- **Bible reading, prayer, and scripture memory are pretty much non-existent daily.**

Having the warning light come on can be a good thing. It lets you know we are heading down a path that will eventually hurt us. The good news is that it doesn't take a lot to pull over and check the dipstick to determine how low we are getting and how much we should add. If you want to make sure you limit the number of times you experience the above on a weekly, monthly, and annually, then you should consider doing the following.

Four Ways to check your oil and make sure you're "oil level" is properly filled

Check your oil level EVERY DAY. Walking or being filled in the Spirit is something that we should do every day. True, once saved always saved but not always filled. While we are on this earth God still gives us a free will to turn away from Him and His leadership in our lives. That's why the scripture warns us not to quench the Spirit.

1. Every day "ask" God to fill you with His presence in your life.
"Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the most of every opportunity because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish but understand what the Lord's will is. ¹⁸ Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit". Eph. 5:15-18

The above passage makes it clear that we should be very careful about how we live our daily lives. The way we can be wise is to make sure we do what the Lord's will is for us. What's His will for us? It's to be under the influence and filling of the Holy Spirit daily rather than other external influences (such as wine, but could be anything that externally influences us and affects our circumstances).

2. Spend a few moments every day reading from God's Word, even if it's only for 5 minutes. Ask God to speak to you as you read from His Word and think about what He is saying to you. Don't start reading out of the book of Numbers or Leviticus. If you're not familiar with the Bible, start reading from one of Paul's epistles like Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, or Colossians. Read I John, Romans, James, I Peter, II Peter, Psalms, Proverbs or the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. **Just do your best to commit at least 5 minutes of reading while being in a spirit of prayer.**
 - i. ***"Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful." Joshua 1:8***
 - ii. ***But whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and who meditates on his law day and night. Ps. 1:2***
 - iii. ***Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer. Ps. 19:14***
 - iv. ***Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Phil 4:8***

Find me a believer who spends at least 5 minutes a day in God's Word and I'll show you a more mature believer who experiences more victory in their life. Also, the person who spends time in God's Word usually does not get side-tracked by every wind of doctrine. They don't get confused about what the real truth is because they are exposed to the Truth regularly. They understand that filling of the Holy Spirit is not an experience but a lifestyle because they have searched the Scripture and know what it teaches. They don't just listen to the words of a gifted teacher or preacher but they listen to the prompting of the Holy Spirit as He speaks to them through thoughts in His Word.

3. Spend 5 minutes a day AT LEAST talking to God. Talking to God is prayer. Let me ask you a serious question. If you're married, do you love your wife or husband? If so, do you feel it's important to talk at least 5 minutes a day with them? Let me ask you another question. Do you have teenagers living in your house? I understand that it's very difficult sometimes to get more than 5 minutes conversation out of them but I'm sure as a parent you'd love to have at least 5 minutes of individual conversation with them. Shouldn't we want to spend at least 5 minutes a day with the creator of the universe who gave all to us?

Ask God to teach you how to pray and watch what happens. A simple way to remember how to pray about some things is the acronym A.C.T.S. It stands for “Adoration”, “Confession”, “Thanksgiving”, and “Supplication”. So start with:

“Adoration”-Take just a moment every day and give God some adoration. Tell Him how great He is and what He means to you. Think about the person you love most on this earth. Don't you think they'd love to hear from you how much they mean to you? Scripture says God loves our praise. He doesn't have to have it because He is self-sufficient but it does bring Him joy when His children praise Him. ***“Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the one Israel praises”. Ps 22:3***

“Confess” –confess all known sin. I know some of you might think that will take up all the 5 minutes but if you'll ask God to bring to your mind all sin He wants you to confess and then just be quiet and let Him speak to you, you'll find usually He will bring some specific sin that He wants you to confess that is hurting your relationship to Him. ***“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” I John 1:9 “***

“Thanksgiving”-this is different from praise and adoration. Take just a moment and thank God for some of the blessings in your life. If you ever want a fun activity to do some time you should take all 5 minutes and just thank God for everything you can think of. The first time I did that when I got off my knees I still had 3 minutes to go. That little activity made me start thinking about all the things I should be thankful for, including little things like toothbrushes, toilets, socks, glasses, contacts, ibuprofen, popsicles, steak, cool water, warm water, clean water, ice, air conditioning, summer breezes, sunsets, rain, fog, storms, clouds, blue skies, jets, cell phones, technology, microwaves, plasma screens, MRI's, X-rays, doctors, nurses, people smarter than me who invent, and of course my wife and kids. Get the point? ***“Give thanks to the Lord for He is good, His love endures forever.” I Chronicles 16:34***
“Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name”. Ps. 100:4

“Supplication”- This is a big word that says pray for yourself and others. The last few minutes of your prayer spend some time telling God your needs, wants, and desires. Don't just pray for yourself though, lift up others that you know need His presence in their life. They have needs too. By the way, if you do this you might find yourself going over the 5 minutes but that's okay. Spending time with God daily for more than 5 minutes will help you keep your oil at proper levels. ***“Be anxious for nothing but by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made to God. And the peace of God which surpasses all comprehension will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.” Phil 4:6-7.***

4. **Look for opportunities to WITNESS.** For believers who say, "That's just not my thing", you must understand that you are quenching the Holy Spirit. Remember, it's not up to you to force-feed someone the gospel. The Holy Spirit will do all the work in preparing someone to hear the good news but you must be willing to make yourself available if he so chooses for you to share. When He convicts your heart to speak up and say something and you keep quiet then you've just quenched Him. So daily you should ask not only for God to fill you this day with His Spirit, to ask Him to talk to you through the reading of His Word, and for you to talk to Him through prayer daily, but to also ask God to give you the courage to speak out should He allow you to claim your faith before someone. Remember, it won't be because of your persuasive words of wisdom that will argue a person to Christ; instead, it will be through the power of the Holy Spirit convicting him through His presence and God's Word. The Bible says in I Corinthians 2:4-5, ***“My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words,***

but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power."

What a lot of people don't understand is when they keep their mouth shut and not share their faith with others, they are showing some of the most selfish and un-loving attitudes they can express. Come on Keith, you're being a little harsh, aren't you? Not really, when you consider that God more than likely prepared that person to hear a special word from Him and prompted them through His Spirit to speak yet they decided to keep quiet. They not only quenched the Holy Spirit but they didn't realize the consequences of their actions. By not opening their mouth they are not sharing the most important message they could share with a person. This good news could show a person how to live a life of victory rather than defeat. It's a message of a life of eternity with God rather than a life of eternal separation from God. Perhaps a lot of believers don't want to share the good news because they are experiencing a life of defeat and are unfilled. A defeated Christian is exactly what Satan wants. If He can convince them to not see the need to be filled by God's Spirit, then He can keep that person from sharing their faith daily.

So many people want to hear the good news and hear how God is making a difference in someone's life but too many believers think it just "a personal issue" and shouldn't be shared publicly. Let me ask you a question, how did you come to know Christ on a personal basis? More than likely someone who knew you personally planted a seed in your heart to hear the message and you responded either to them or to a message that reminded you of what they said. So don't underestimate your importance in God's plan to share the good news. When you are filled with His Spirit you will not shy away from witnessing the good news of Christ to others. You may be nervous and you may not know exactly what to say but if you make yourself available to Him, He'll give you the right words in the right way to say.

I'd like to close with some words from Tim LaHaye from his book, *Spirit-controlled Temperament*. ***"When an angry, selfish, caustic Choleric becomes kind and compassionate, that is the Holy Spirit. When an inconsistent, weak-willed Sanguine becomes a person of strong character, that is the control of the Holy Spirit. When a naturally critical, ungrateful Melancholy becomes a thankful praiser who serves others, that is the control of the Spirit. When a selfish, stingy, unmotivated Phlegmatic gives both self and possessions to God to serve other people, that is the Holy Spirit."***

Conclusion: Review how to be filled with the Holy Spirit consistently

- 1. Examine Yourself for Sin.** The Bible tells us to *"examine ourselves, to test ourselves to see if we are in the faith"*. II Cor. 13:5 and it says *"that everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup."* I Cor. 11:28. If after we examine ourselves we see there is a need to confess our sin to God because it's hindering our walk with Him then we need to...
- 2. Confess all known sin to God.** I John 1:9 says, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." The word righteousness is a big word that can be defined as a right relationship with God. When there is known sin in your life you can't have a right walk with God and your sin will quench the walk you have with His Spirit. God will only fill clean vessels. II Tim. 2:21- *Those who cleanse themselves from the latter will be instruments for special purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work"*.
- 3. Submit yourself completely to God.** *"In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. ¹² Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. ¹³ Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness."* Rom. 6:11-13. Selling out to God is critical to being filled with the Spirit. Going halfway won't complete you.

Apply the FOUR oil checks-

- a. ask daily for His filling,**
- b. read his word daily**
- c. pray daily,**
- d. witness when given the opportunity.**