

SHEDDING LIGHT ON BIBLICAL CONTRASTS

#9 – Spirit-Filled People Are: Like God / Not Like God

The Sunday School teacher who asked her class of fourth graders what God is like was surprised when a girl said, “God is like my grandpa. Grandpa is always kind, never gets mad, and loves everybody.”

At the same time, the child would have had to admit that her grandpa looks old, can’t run very fast, and isn’t as strong as her father. Furthermore, she didn’t know that her grandfather talks to the Lord every day about his sins and failures.

Spirit-Filled People Are Like God

1. Like God they love unselfishly (**1 John 4:7-19**).
2. Like God they forgive those who wrong them (**Ephesians 4:32**).
3. Like God, they are kind to friend and enemy (**Matthew 5:43-48**).
4. Like God, they hate sin and are repulsed by it when snatching a sinner from its grasp (**Jude 22-23**).
5. Like God, they exhibit God-like qualities (**Galatians 5:22-23**).
6. Like God, they will live forever (**John 5:24; 11:25-26; 2 Cor. 5:1-8; Phil. 1:21, 23**).

Spirit-Filled People Are Not Like God

1. Unlike God, they live in mortal bodies, which experience pain, get sick, grow weak, and die (**Ecclesiastes 3:18-20; 12:1-14; 2 Corinthians 4:16; 5:1-8**).
2. Unlike God, they possess physical desires which, though not wrong in themselves, can be kept under proper control only through much prayer & self-discipline (**Matthew 5:27-30; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27**).
3. Unlike God, they are troubled by an inner tendency to do evil, which continually conflicts with their higher desires & aspirations (**Romans 7:14-25; Gal. 5:16-26**).

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4. Unlike God, they still continue to sin & therefore continually need to confess their wrongs (**Matthew 6:12; 1 John 1:8-9**).

5. Unlike God, they will never in this life achieve full holiness or knowledge (**1 Corinthians 13:12; Philippians 3:12-16**).

Resolution

Spirit-filled Christians will reflect many of the characteristics of God (**Matthew 5:48; Galatians 5:22, 23**). But they will fall short of being like God because of the weakness, sinfulness and mortality of their own flesh.

Reflection

While Spirit-filled Christians are new persons (**2 Corinthians 5:17**) with a new future (**Ephesians 2:1-10; Philippians 3:20, 21**) and new capacities (**Galatians 5:22, 23**), they are not delivered from the temporal, earthly effects of sin.

God leaves us on this dying planet in dying bodies, and He permits the sin nature to remain with us so that we can learn to live disciplined lives. He wants to glorify Himself through us, and He receives this honour as we live in continual, conscious dependence on Him.

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