

Filled with the Spirit Ephesians 5:18-21

INTRODUCTION

What is the difference between living the Christian life in one's own power and living the Christian life in the fullness of the Holy Spirit? **The obvious, of course, is our power is limited, our vision shortsighted, our boldness weak, and our steadfastness wavering.** And this is why we need to be filled with the Spirit.

The filling of the Spirit is one of the most controversial, divisive, and misunderstood ministry of the Holy Spirit. Ask any Christian what it means to be filled with the Spirit. The answer may reflect ignorance, fear, speculation, fanaticism, or indifference. Why is there so much confusion about Spirit-filling? Two reasons: **NO TEACHING AND WRONG TEACHING.**

The filling of the Spirit has nothing to do with getting more of the Spirit. When you trust Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, the Holy Spirit takes up residence in your life immediately, completely, and permanently. **But there is a difference between Spirit-indwelling and Spirit-filling.** It is a tragedy to live and die and go to hell without Christ. It is also a tragedy to live the Christian life and die and go to heaven, without being filled with the Spirit.

Here's a **thought: we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit so that we might live in His fulness as we live out the Christian life.**

Christians who long for a deeper spiritual life and an experience of spiritual power look to Ephesians 5:18 for help and understanding. This is not only the desire of Christians but the desire of God for us. After all, in 1:13 the Holy Spirit is God's seal on us, the mark of ownership. In 4:30 this sealing is the reason we should not grieve the Spirit. We have seen that Ephesians emphasizes God's initiative in the work of salvation. We are the product of His grace. It is therefore consistent with the teaching of Ephesians that we regard the filling and control of the Holy Spirit to be God's will for our lives.

I. The _____: one is _____ the other (5:18)

The verse begins with a prohibition against drunkenness. Literally, Paul says, **“Stop getting drunk with wine.”** Proverbs 20:1 says: **“Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler, and whoever is led astray by it is not wise.”** Christians should not get drunk. **This prohibition against drunkenness is a contrast to being filled with the Spirit.** Spirit-filling is not spiritual intoxication. A drunken person is under the influence and so is a Spirit-filled person. **But the two realities are antithetical.** Galatians 5:23 says the fruit of the Spirit is self-control. Whereas drunkenness can lead you to lose control, the filling of the Spirit grants you the power to control yourself. Verse 18 says: **“And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery.”** What is debauchery? The word points to a wasted life.

II. The _____ to be Spirit-filled: it's not a _____ (5:18)

Something that is filled does not have room for anything else. **To be filled with something is for that thing to be the dominating presence, controlling influence, or driving force of your life.** You can be filled with various things. Luke 2:40 says Jesus was **“filled with wisdom.”** Luke 4:28 says Nazareth was **“filled with wrath”** at the preaching of Jesus. Acts 13:45 says the opponents of Paul were **“filled with jealousy.”** In 2 Corinthians 7:4, Paul claims to be **“filled with comfort.”** In 2 Timothy 1:4, Paul says he will be **“filled with joy”** to see Timothy again.

Because there is confusion about being filled with the Spirit, please allow me to share with you the following:

- ***The fullness of the Spirit is a _____, not a _____.***
- ***The fullness of the Spirit It is for _____, not just for a _____.***
- ***The fullness of the Spirit is _____, not _____.***
- ***The fullness of the Spirit is not a _____ to help you out when your strength is not quite up to the job.***
- ***The fullness of the Spirit is not commensurate with your _____ but rather His fullness is commensurate with your _____.***

- ***The fullness of the Spirit is not for _____ indulgence or personal _____.***
- ***The fullness of the Spirit is not something that you get because of your _____—so work harder and act with better morals, and the Spirit will fill you.***
- ***The fullness of the Spirit is _____, not _____.***

III. The _____ to be Spirit-filled: no _____
allowed (Colossians 3:16)

To be Spirit-filled is to be Word-filled. **A Word-filled Christian is a Spirit-filled Christian**; that is, a Christian who is so controlled by the Word of God that it dominates his entire life, shows by his life that he is filled with the Holy Spirit. **The Word of God in the heart and mind is the handle by which the Spirit turns the will. To be filled with the Spirit is to live with the Word of God permeating every area of life so that those areas of life are yielding to the Spirit's control.**

As we let the Word richly dwell within us (Colossians 3:16), we come to understand the will of God (Ephesians 5:15-16). The Holy Spirit applies God's truth to our hearts, and as we yield to it, allowing ourselves to be governed by it (Ephesians 5:18), we experience the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23)—peace, love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

IV. The _____ of the Spirit-filled life: decisions
have _____ (5:19-21)

4 consequences or characteristics of Spirit-filled Christians emerge from these verses:

A. _____: talk that _____ (5:19a)

The content of our conversations matter! **The point is that we need to be having redemptive conversations! Bible-saturated conversations!** Conversation that addresses spiritual matters.

B. _____: a heart that _____ (5:19b)

We are singing to the Lord. We are honoring him in our worship. He is the audience and object of our praise.

C. _____: an attitude of _____ (5:20)

Thanksgiving is another natural outflow of hearts made new by God's grace. **The grumbling spirit is not compatible with the Holy Spirit.** Grumbling was one of the besetting sins of the people of Israel; they were always 'murmuring' against the Lord and against Moses. But the Spirit-filled believer is full not of complaining, but of thanksgiving.

D. _____: an attitude of _____ (5:21)

The key to submission is profound, reverent submission to Christ.

CONCLUSION/INVITATION

What can we take with us this morning? Here are some questions to **ponder?**

- **Are you careful and wise in your behavior? Rate 1-10**
- **Are you disciplined and discerning in the way you spend your time? Rate 1-10**
- **Are you actively and correctly seeking to know and do the Father's will? Rate 1-10**
- **Are you living under the influence and control of the Holy Spirit? Rate 1-10**
- **Are you deliberately and frequently finding ways to honor and serve others? Rate 1-10**

If you're not doing well in some of these areas, you're not alone! Turn to the Lord today and find the needed grace and strength.