

THE FILLING OF THE SPIRIT
Ephesians 5:18-21
7/11/10

1. Who Is The Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is not simply a power or influence, He is a person.

The third member of the Trinity

Acts 5:3-4 But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the *Holy Spirit* . . . You have not lied to men but to *God*."

2. What does it mean to be filled with the Spirit? 5:18

It means living under the control or influence of the Holy Spirit.

In Acts it always resulted in spiritual service and evangelism.

Here and other places it results in a changed life and godly living.

It is interesting how this verse begins by telling us not to get drunk with wine.

Drinking wine is not sin per se, but the Bible does forbid it in certain circumstances.

- ◆ If it leads to drunkenness (Ephesians 5:18 Cf Proverbs 23:29-35)
- ◆ When it becomes habit-forming (1 Corinthians 6:12b)
- ◆ When it becomes a stumbling block to another Christian (Romans 14:13; 1 Corinthians 8:9,12)
- ◆ When it hurts your testimony in to non-Christians in the community (1 Corinthians 10:31-33)
- ◆ When there are doubts about it in your own mind (Romans 14:23)

The recommended alternative to being drunk with wine is being filled with the Spirit

Being filled with the Spirit is not some kind of spiritual intoxication in which we lose self-control.

Being filled with the Spirit means allowing your life to be under the control or influence of the Holy Spirit.

Being drunk with wine produces dissipation.

Debauchery

A loss of self-control

Being filled with the Spirit produces the fruit of the Spirit, which includes having self-control

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

The filling of the Holy Spirit is different from the indwelling and baptizing ministries of the Spirit.

All true Christians are indwelt by the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 6:19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?

Romans 8:9 However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.

We are never commanded to become indwelt by the Holy Spirit- it is automatic at salvation

All true Christians have also been baptized by the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

We are never commanded to be baptized by the Holy Spirit.

This too is automatic and happens at salvation.

We are however commanded to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

This command is not for a special group of Christians, but for all Christians.

In the original language, the command to be filled with the Spirit is in the present passive imperative tense.

It means, “keep on being filled with the Spirit”

The filling of the Spirit does not describe a onetime event, but a regular pattern of life whereby we are to be continually submitting our lives to God.

3. What are the results of being filled with the Spirit? 5:19-21

We have already mentioned that the filling of the Spirit produces the fruit of the Spirit in our lives.

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

In our passage this morning five participles describe five additional results of the Holy Spirit’s influence in our lives.

a. Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs

To one another- this is public worship

Psalms- Old Testament

Hymns- perhaps early church songs and praise choruses

Spiritual songs- possibly songs or choruses of personal testimony

b. Singing and making melody in your heart to God.

In your heart

Private worship

To God

c. Giving thanks

An important aspect of prayer is recognizing and thanking God for who He is and what He is doing in your life.

Always

After blessings and in the midst of crises

All things

This takes faith in Romans 8:28

d. Being subject to one another

In the original language this verb is a participle.

It is saying that one of the results of being filled with the Spirit is that we are willing to be subject to those God has placed over us.

Be subject- to obey or submit

To one another

The following verses teach that submitting to one another means submitting to the authorities that God has placed over you.

When we are in rebellion against those God has set in authority over us, we are in rebellion against God.

4. How are we filled with the Spirit?

There is no ritual or formula.

Our passage does not tell us here how to be filled with the Spirit

But from other parts of the scriptures we know that to be filled with the Spirit:

- Confess and put away all known sin. cf 1 John 1:5-9

Sin grieves the Holy Spirit. Ephesians 4:30

- Yield ourselves completely to His control. Romans 12:1-2

Romans 12:1-2 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is your spiritual service of worship.* ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

We can quench the Spirit. 1 Thessalonians 5:19

- Let the word of Christ dwell in us richly. Colossians 3:16

Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms *and* hymns *and* spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

Notice that the results are the same as the filling of the Holy Spirit.

This involves reading, studying, and obeying the Word of God.

- Empty yourself of self. Cf Galatians 2:20

Galatians 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

This is a moment by moment, decision by decision issue.

It is an ever ongoing process.

To not be filled with the Spirit is to fall back into the deeds of the flesh.

Galatians 5:16-17 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh sets

its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.

Galatians 5:19-25 Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, ²¹ envying, 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. ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴ Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.