

## Ephesians 5:15-21

Pastor Daniel tells of a day in his youth when a Sunday morning class was talking about how hard it was to live the Christian life. He was discouraged hearing this... the Christian life is not hard... it is impossible... in our own strength.

- Would people notice a difference in our lives when filled with the Holy Spirit vs not filled? There is a difference! How do we know? Jesus Christ - John 1:1-10 Jesus is God and there is no one like Him. Are we astonished and amazed by Jesus' life?
- It is impossible to be like Jesus without Jesus, the Holy Spirit. 2 Cor. 3:18 We are being conformed to the image of Jesus thru the Spirit. Jesus knew we would need the Holy Spirit (filled and led). John 14:16-17, John 16:7
- Jesus could do nothing on His own. He was full of the Holy Spirit. He relied on the Holy Spirit. Luke 14:1 When we are filled with the Spirit, we are led by the Spirit. John 5:30
- Jesus overcame sin as a man with the Holy Spirit. Jesus withstood temptations with the same resources available to us today. How do we have the same confidence to overcome? Jesus didn't purchase us with the price of His Son to then be filled with the Holy Spirit at a later date. It is for us, for now, for today.

### 1. What does it mean to be filled with the Holy Spirit?

- Being filled is a continuous taking in the Holy Spirit – It means to keep on being filled.
- We have a choice to be filled or to not be filled. Filled means controlled by. Luke 4:28-29, Acts 5:17-18, Ephesians 5
- When the days get evil, what do we turn to? Alcohol, food, sleep, watching TV, work... Turn to the Spirit instead.

### 2. What are the effects of being filled with the Holy Spirit?

- The fullness of the Spirit gets us talking – V 19 *Speaking to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs.*
  - Speaking (confidence) vs. the silence of Adam saying nothing when Eve was tempted. Acts 2:4, 4:31, 4:8, Matthew 12:34
  - Speaking His Words with boldness, astonishment, amazement, and love. What keeps us from speaking up? Romans 10:14-15
  - Stop and pray for a person on your mind who needs to know Jesus.
  - What do we speak of? Trials, hardships, or thanksgiving?
- Fruit of the Spirit are given (ALL are given). Galatians 5:16-23 It is not about trying harder – The fruit comes from the Spirit.
- Submission - Being filled with the Holy Spirit causes submission to God and one other. John 6:38
  - Jesus changes us in private but is seen first in the home. It's an inside-out process.
  - Are you self-seeking, full of self, or submitted to God?

### 3. How are we filled with the Holy Spirit?

- Don't quench the Spirit (don't stifle or resist it). 1 Thessalonians 5:19 This happens when we don't agree with the Holy Spirit's working. Jonah knew what God wanted but went the other way.
- Surrender. John 16:8 Be a part of what God is doing in the world. Surrender to working with Him.
- Don't grieve the Spirit. Ephesians 4:30 The Holy Spirit is God, not a force, but a person. If we offend Him through sin and disobedience, it keeps us from experiencing His fullness.
- Confess. As a Christian, at the moment we accept God's gift of Jesus, all of our sin was paid for by the death of Jesus. The presence of sin after becoming a Christian is not about salvation but is a barrier to your fellowship with God. This sin must be confessed. 1 John 1:9
- Ask. Luke 11:13 Our Father is eager to give the Holy Spirit to those who ask. 1 John 5:14-15 Being filled does not happen by accident, you have to ask in faith.
- Choose. Faith is choosing to live as if the Bible is true. It is not a feeling, it's a choice.

The Christian life is not hard - it is impossible without the Spirit. We should not fail this Christian life as we have been given the Holy Spirit.

1. Do you believe? John 7:37-39 Believe in Jesus as your Lord and Savior. He will forgive our sins and make us clean. He will dwell in us and make us and guide us to be more and more like Jesus.
2. Have we quenched the Spirit? Surrender your will for His. Jesus in the garden surrendered His will to His Father.
3. Have we grieved the Spirit? God knows and has paid the price. James 4:5 Be healed and have communion again with God.

## Bible References:

Ephesians 5:15-21

John 1:1-10

2 Corinthians 3:18

John 14:16-17, 16:7, 5:30

John 5:30

Acts 4:31, 4:8, 13:52

Luke 4:28-29

Acts 5:17-18

Genesis 3

Acts 2:4, 4:32, 4:8

Matthew 12:34

Romans 10:4-15

Galatians 5:16-23

1 Thessalonians 5:19

John 16:8

Book of Jonah

Matthew 16:24-25

Ephesians 4:30

1 John 1:5, 5:14-15

Psalms 51

Luke 11:13

John 7:37-39