

BEING FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT

“And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit” Eph. 5:18

A. THE “WHAT” OF BEING FILLED (Controlled & Empowered) WITH THE SPIRIT

It is important to note the conjunctive “and” at the beginning of this command; adding it to the previous command (5:17).

- So it is God’s will that we be filled with the Spirit.
- It is Necessary to walking in Wisdom (5:15)
- The only way to truly make the most (best) of our time (5:16)

1. A Call to the “What” . . BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT (Eph.5:18).

- Being Filled-Controlled by the Holy Spirit is a non-optional mandate for believers
 - No Christian can fulfill God’s purpose for their life without being filled-controlled by the Holy Spirit; “apart from me you can do nothing” (Jn.15:5; Phil.4:13)
 - To resist the filling and control of the Spirit is disobedience (Eph.4:30; 1Thes.5:19)
- Being Filled with the Holy Spirit is not the same as receiving the Spirit.
 - Jesus Promised that when He ascended to the Father, He would send the Holy Spirit to be both with and In us (John 7:37-39, 14:16-17,26, 16:7; Acts 1:4-5,8).
 - Now, Everyone receives the Holy Spirit (in total) the moment they believe, receive, put faith or trust in Christ as savior (Jn.1:33; Rom.8:9-11; Eph.1:13-14; 1Cor.6:19-20)
- Being Filled with the Holy Spirit is not the same as the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.
 - The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is an inescapable result of receiving (being partakers of) the Spirit (Mtt.3:11; John 1:33, Rom.8:9-11).
 - The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is that act of the Spirit where He “Baptizes” (immerses) us into Christ and His Body-Church (Rom.6:3-4; 1Cor.12:12-13; Gal.3:27-28)
- Not primarily a call to a state of being or condition; of “drunkenness” or being “full of the Spirit”
 - Not the Word “metuo” – Lit: “to be drunk”

- Not Gk. word “Sikera” – Lit: “strong drink”; Nor “Gleukos” Lit: “New (sugared/sweetened) wine”.
- **Rather a call to the “process” of getting drunk “excess”; and “continually being filled with the Spirit”**
 - Uses word “methusko” Lit: “to make or grow drunk” (marking the process)
 - Uses word “Oinos” common lightly fermented wine (i.e. wineskins, etc.)

The picture here is: that to be drunk with this wine “oinos”; one must “tarry long”, and it is a long process of “excess”. *Contrast with Acts 2:13, the accusation that the disciples had been drinking “new (sweet) wine” which is more intoxicating (higher alcohol content).*

So this passage is talking more about the Process of being filled than the state of fullness. A more literal translation: “Be ye being filled with the Holy Spirit”.

2. The call . TO continue ‘BEING EN-FILLED’ WITH THE SPIRIT (Eph.5:18).

- “Be filled” (Greek: “Pleroo”- be being filled; passive voice), includes the idea of allowing a conscious continuation; of ever increasing control.
- **Not a call to get more of the Spirit, but for the Spirit to get more of you.**
 - The Holy Spirit is the 3rd “person” of the Godhead; not an impersonal force or power that can be received piecemeal, or turned on and off at will.
 - Being “filled” with the Holy Spirit is really more accurately; to continuously be being “en-filled” with the Spirit.
 - God wants us to let His Spirit both “occupy” and “control” every aspect of every area of our lives and being.
- **THE Holy Spirit was never suppose to come into us and sit in one place, but rather to gradually permeate and take over (Gal.2:20).**
 - ILL: For many: receiving the Holy Spirit is like a drop of oil in water; in there but never mixing or dissolving.
 - Instead, God desires His Spirit to permeate and become one with our very being . . . like food coloring in water.

B. THE “HOW” OF BEING FILLED (Controlled & Empowered) WITH THE SPIRIT

1. DESIRE TO BE FILLED-CONTROLLED BY THE SPIRIT (Mtt.5:6)

2. ASK GOD BY FAITH, TO BE FILLED-CONTROLLED BY THE SPIRIT (Mtt.7:7-8; Jn.4:10; 7:37-38; 1Jn.5:14-15)

EXAMPLE OF CHRIST:

- *Jesus was anointed and Identified* (Luke 3:21-22); You must “be saved” desire to “be-being” filled; an essential and necessary mark of Salvation (Jn.3:3f; Rom.8:3-16; Eph.1:13-14)

- *Jesus was led by the Spirit* (Luke 4:1); You must consciously and continually be yielding (body, mind, soul and will) to the Spirit’s control-leading (Rom.6:12-22; Gal.5:16-18)
 - Reckoning the old “fleshy” self (man) to be dead (Rom.6:5-7)
 - Considering yourself “alive” unto God (Rom.6:8-11)
 - Jesus, “Never the Less, not My will but Thy will be done” (Mtt.26:39)
 - John the Baptist, “He must increase, I must decrease” (Jn.3:30).

- *Jesus resisted the devil and endured in temptation* (Luke 4:3-13); You must consciously and continually be drawing on God’s provisions to “resist the devil” (Jas.4:7; 1Pet.5:8-9), “endure in temptation” (1Cor.10:13) and “having done all-Stand”(Eph.6:10-13)
 - Admit your weakness and propensity to fall (1Cor.10:12)
 - Prayer (Mtt.6:13, 26:41)
 - Memorize & Meditate on Scripture (Ps.119:9-11; Phil.4:8)
 - Be on the Alert (1Pet.5:8)
 - Flee & Avoid temptation, stop giving opportunities to the flesh (1Cor.10:14; 1Tim.6:11; 2Tim.2:22; 1Thes.5:22; Ps.1; 1Cor.15:33; Rom.16:19).
 - Seek out good encouragement & Fellowship (Heb.10:24-25)
 - Diligently Pursue Holiness (Rom.12:9; 1Cor.9:24-27; 1Tim.4:7-10; 2Pet.1:5)

- *Jesus relied on the Word of God* (Luke 4:4,8,12); You must live (walk) by “faith” (Prov.3:5-6) as opposed to personal “feelings” or others “opinions” (2Cor.5:7).
 - Dependence and Trust in the objective, propositional Truth of God’s Word (Ps.19:7-10, 119:9-11; Rom.10:17;Heb.4:12-13)
 - Relying on the “Truest” thing about you (Ps.119:105).

- *Jesus returned in the Power of the Spirit* (Luke 4:14-15)
 - He began teaching and Ministering (Luke 4:15)

- The natural result of being filled with the Spirit is “works of Service” (Jn.15:8; Eph.2:10), fruit of the Spirit (Gal.5:22) and personal Holiness.

3. CONSCIOUSLY DESIRE TO GLORIFY GOD IN EVERYTHING (1Cor.10:31)

- Desiring God more than anything (Ps.42:1-2, 23:1-3; Mtt.11:28-29)
- Following hard after God (Ps.63:8)
- Blessedness of possessing nothing (Matt.5:3, 6:33)

4. ADMIT AND DESPISE YOUR FAILURES AND SIN.

- Paul, “. . . I am not practicing what I would like to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate” (Rom.7:15,19)
- “Abhor what is evil, cling to what is good (Rom.12:9, 16:19)

5. PRACTICE “SPIRITUAL BREATHING”

- *In contrast to Jesus’ sinlessness, **WE DO SIN** “He was tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin” (Heb.4:15); “If we say we have no sin, the truth is not in us” (1Jn.1:8, Rom.3:10,23).*
- **CONFESS ALL SIN known and unknown (1Jn.1:9)-** Exhaling the old impure and Inhaling the new.
 - a. **Exhale-** by admitting, agreeing with God and confessing your sin (1Jn.1:9); asking God to reveal any “unknown” sin, that displeases Him.
 - b. **Inhale-** consciously yielding control of that area of your life to Christ, ask God to infill it by His Spirit (Rom.6:12-19)

6. MARKS OF THE SPIRIT CONTROLLED AND EMPOWERED LIFE (2Tim.1:7)

- God will accomplish His work of “renewing your mind”, which leads to a transformed life (Rom.12:2; Eph.4:23-24), through His Truth, the Bible.
- Your life will increasingly demonstrate the fruit of the Spirit
 - a. Reflecting-Taking on the Character and Image of Christ (Rom.8:29; 2Cor.3:18; Gal.5:22-24; Eph.5:1)
 - b. Accomplishing the “works” He gifts us to do (1Cor.12:7-11; Eph.2:10; Dan.11:28,32)
- You will be empowered for Spiritual conflict
 - a. Against the World (1Jn.2:15-17)
 - b. Against the Flesh (Gal.5:16-17; 1Cor.10:13)
 - c. Against the Devil (1Pet.5:7-9; Eph.6:10-13)
- You will be experience His power for witnessing (Acts 1:8)