

REVIVE CHURCH- EPHESIANS #18

Recap-As imitators of Jesus Christ we walk as the light of the world. ***Ephesians 5:13-14***
13But all things that are exposed are made manifest (made known) by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. 14Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light."

The revealing work of the light of God through the church by the Holy Spirit brings light into the darkness. The churches light illuminates the path of redemption. There is great power in the glorious light of Christ.

Ephesians 5:15-21 *15See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, 16redeeming the time, because the days are evil. 17Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. 18And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, 19speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, 20giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, 21submitting to one another in the fear of God.*

We are to walk diligently or carefully-paying attention to our lifestyle, walking in awareness of the Presence of the Holy Spirit, living with hearts set on pleasing God. We are told not to walk as fools, but as those who are wise, redeeming the time. **The word redeeming, means to buy back. Its easy to just live life without giving our full attention to the purposes of God.** **There are tons of distraction and lesser things that fight for our attention that are not necessarily evil but at the same time not purposeful.** God expects us to willingly put Him first, before all other things.

We are told to buy back the time because the days are evil. **The word evil here describes something that has sufficient force, something that we feel the pressure of, like a city that is under siege.** We can feel the pressures and cares of life and culture that squeeze life and time. It is in the type of pressure we must redeem the time so that the cares of the world don't crowd out first love and God's plans for us.

We can learn how to 'keep watch' stay awake, don't get sleepy in this thing, walk in the wisdom of God. *(17) Therefore Do not be unwise but understand what the will of the Lord is!* The will of God is knowable, and we are meant to have understanding of His will. **Immediately following the exhortation to have understanding of His will is:** *18And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,*

Two commands-The first tells us what not to do, the second tells us what to do. **Paul contrasts reckless drunken living with fulfilled spiritual living. Intoxication from alcohol or a high that comes from drugs falsely fill us with temporary counterfeits of the Holy Spirit. The intoxicated person has given control of his or her life over to a foreign power,** a controlling substance. (Open door to the demonic)

The result of the intoxication is a destructive manner of life that keeps us dependent upon a substance, rather than God. Paul here focuses on wine, but the controlling power could be any outside force/substance apart from the spirit of God that can take control of one's life. There is only one end to this type of lifestyle and it is called in scripture dissipation. *The Amplified versions says it like this: Ephesians 5:18 AMP Do not get drunk with wine, for that is wickedness (corruption, stupidity), but be filled with the [Holy] Spirit and constantly guided by Him.*

- **Another way of looking at intoxication is dependency on a substance that robs us from fellowship with God.** Rather than having God meet all of our needs according to His glorious riches we fall into dependency upon a substance which helps us temporarily escape but never deals with the root issue.
- **God want us walking with Him in process, learning, growing in Him, be tenderized to His movements etc.**
- We forego fellowship with Holy Spirit when we rely on a substance. Joy, boldness, comfort-everything that intoxication does is a counterfeit. Drugs take us out of our right mind and apart from the mind of Christ.

It is a sin to be controlled by anything other than God himself. **The command to be filled with the Holy Spirit is a present tense verb that indicates we should be filled and keep on being filled continuously by the spirit.**

- **Scripture prohibits drunkenness, not drinking.** If a Christian chooses to consume alcohol, they should do so with moderation and self-control, awareness of those around you to whom it may be a sin. If our personal freedom negatively impacts others, we should be willing to lay it down.

Ephesians 5:18 probably refers to the section in acts 2 when the Holy Spirit came upon the scene signaling that a new era had begun. The prophet Joel among other prophets predicted this event. The signs manifested by the Holy Spirit were misinterpreted. The record in acts shows that some people mocked the coming of the spirit, claiming that new wine had simply caused what they were witnessing. But that was not the reality. **A new power had taken**

control, the inauguration of the new era of the Holy Spirit brought new power and effectiveness to believers.

Acts:2:12-13- So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “Whatever could this mean?” 13Others mocking said, “They are full of new wine.”

The disciples were being accused by others of being drunk when the Holy Spirit was poured out. They were intoxicated but it was not an intoxication of the flesh, it was one of the Spirit. Some believe and I agree with this stand that the disciples were most likely overcome by His joy.

Jesus would offer a brand new baptism after His ascension that would immerse Men and women with power from on high.

Acts 1:4-5 Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, “Which,” He said, “you heard of from Me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

1:8 but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the *remotest part of the earth.*”

Same Greek word is used for baptized concerning water and Holy Spirit (to immerse, to submerge (of vessels sunk), to overwhelm)

1. Jesus promises the helper\ comforter will be beside us and in us to complete God's purpose by his power within us.
2. Jesus commanded his disciples to receive the promised spirit so that He might replicate His life in them.
3. The fullness of the Holy Spirit overflows into the emptiness of our spiritual capacities and expels the world's spirit.
4. The power of the Holy Spirit gives birth to an evangelistic passion to reach the lost and a compassion to love people to life.
5. Spiritual language begets praise and prayer that exalts Christ, breaks evil bonds, and builds up believer.

Again, being filled with the Holy Spirit is not a recommendation it is a command. We are foregoing the lifestyle of Christ if we neglect his baptism in the spirit, life in the spirit, growth in the spirit. It is only when we are filled with the Holy Spirit that we are able to accomplish what is listed in the next couple of verses.

19speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, 20giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ

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

Paul shows the manner in which Holy Spirit fullness is made known to the church. First it is found in a new way of relating to one another. The believers are known for their style of speech and song and this is focused around worship. He lists psalms , hymns and spiritual songs.

1. The book of psalms was the hymn book of the Old Testament. No wonder Paul underlines the importance of such scriptural songs.
2. It's important to note that Paul does not limit these songs to the Old Testament book of psalms. Paul does not give us a strict definition of what a hymn is but clearly it is sung in the context of public worship. The believers coming together are united in praise to God. A hymn is a sacred song based on biblical doctrine.
3. **The third element mentioned in the verse is spiritual songs.** These are songs motivated by the holy spirit. Spiritual songs is better translated in the spirit. **Having been filled with the spirit we are to worship God in the spirit.**
4. Psalms our scriptural songs, hymns are songs that have a lyric with doctrinal content and spiritual songs come from the Holy Spirit and are able to penetrate the spiritual realm. This kind of worship and fellowship guarantees a new manner of interpersonal relationships in Christ that are rooted in the worship of God.
5. *Making melody in one's heart reveals the personal way we can carry worship into everyday life. Worship is not limited to the public setting, private heart adoration is to be taken with us everywhere.* As his beloved, filled with his spirit, overflowing with hope, there should always be a song of praise upon the believer's heart and lips. God is enthroned in the believers praise. Worship and Thanksgiving provoked by the movement of the Holy Spirit point to the glory of God. The holy spirit moves us to praise.

21submitting to one another in the fear of God.

It is from this place of spirit filled worship and spirit filled living that we are prepared for true submission. Submission to Christ and to one another. We will get into this more next week but the verb submitting means that submission is under a person's voluntary choice to be under the influence of another. **Spirit filled people are not to demand others to submit to them. True submission protects, ensures, and secures it never demands.**