


# A PRELUDE TO *BIBLICAL* EVANGELISM



A large, ancient tree with thick, gnarled roots growing over stone ruins. The tree's trunk is massive and textured, with roots spreading out across the ground and over the stone structures. The background shows more stone ruins and lush green foliage. The scene is set in a natural, outdoor environment.

THE FRUIT OF  
THE RIGHTEOUS IS A  
TREE OF LIFE,  
AND HE WHO IS WISE  
WINS SOULS.

PROVERBS 11:30 NASB

# PRINCIPLES FOR BIBLICAL *EVANGELISM* FOUND IN JOHN 4, “THE WOMAN AT THE WELL.”

TAKE

- TAKE THE INITIATIVE! JN. 4:6-9

OFFER

- OFFER GOD’S MERCY! JN. 4:10-14

IDENTIFY

- IDENTIFY SPIRITUAL NEEDS! JN. 4:9-10

CONFRONT

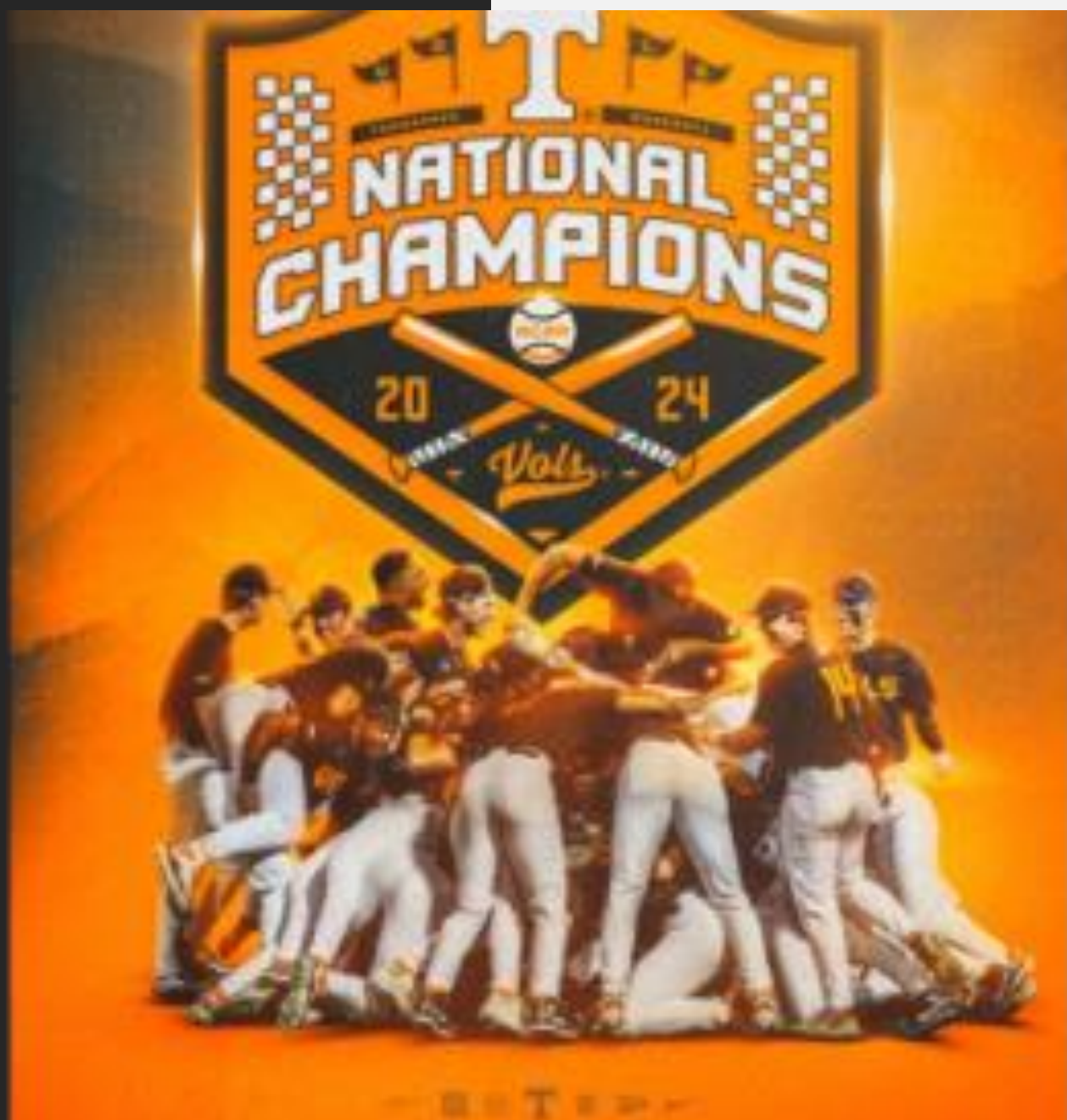
- CONFRONT SIN JN! 4:16-18

REJECT

- REJECT FALSE WORSHIP! JN. 4:19-24

REVEAL

- REVEAL CHRIST! JN. 4:25-26



### 3. BAPTISM COMES AFTER SALVATION, NOT BEFORE.

- This is why it's called "**BELIEVER'S BAPTISM.**" Notice: (Acts. 2:41) *"So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls."*
- Notice: (Acts. 10:46-47) *"For they were hearing them speaking with tongues and exalting God. Then Peter answered, 47 "Surely no one can refuse the water for these to be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we did, can he?"*
- Notice: (Acts. 16:31-33) *"They said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." 32 And they spoke the word of the Lord to him together with all who were in his house. 33 And he took them that very hour of the night and washed their wounds, and immediately he was baptized, he and all his household. (PHILIPPIAN JAILER)*

# “BAPTISM IS **NOT** “BAPTISMAL REGENERATION.”

“BAPTISMAL REGENERATION”—the view that teaches that one is saved (regenerated) through water baptism.

- **Notice (1 Pet 3:21)** *“...who once were disobedient, when the patience of God kept waiting in the **days of Noah**, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through the water. Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you—**not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,**”*
- **“BAPTISM”** (from baptizō) simply means **“TO IMMERSE,” AND NOT JUST IN WATER. PETER** here uses baptism to refer to a figurative immersion into Christ as the **“ARK OF SAFETY”** that will sail over the holocaust of judgment on the wicked.

- There are people today who would tell you that there are some Christians ***WHO DON'T HAVE THE HOLY SPIRIT.*** These folks do not understand the dispensation of the church at all. They don't understand what the character of the church is. **IT IS A BODY OF BELIEVERS ALL INDWELT BY THE SPIRIT. IT CAN'T BE ANYTHING LESS THAN THAT.**
- That's why in Rom. 8:9 Paul said, ***“...But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.”*** So, every believer possesses the Spirit. Here are just a few blessings received from the Holy Spirit.
  1. HE GIVES **INSTRUCTION/WISDOM.**
  2. HE GIVES **POWER.**
  3. HE GIVES **COMFORT/PEASE.**
  4. HE GIVES **SECURITY.**
  5. HE GIVES A **GUARANTEE** OF OUR **INHERITANCE.**

- **THE SPIRIT IS IN EVERY “TRUE” BELIEVER.** Now, our Lord promised that this would happen, and it happens here in **Acts 2**. The church is born and from then on, every believer **AT THE POINT OF FAITH IN CHRIST RECEIVES THE HOLY SPIRIT**. And this is why we believe that to be true.
- Now the Bible calls this the **“BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.”** Jesus, Himself, gave it that title. **Notice: (Acts 1:5) “for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”**
- There is no doubt what **JESUS** was talking about when He said, **“NOT MANY DAYS FROM NOW.”** He was talking about what would happen at **PENTECOST**, which was **10** days later. Jesus said, **“You will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”**





- **THEY WERE *BAPTIZED* WITH THE *HOLY SPIRIT*.**
- ***JESUS*** had promised that the character of the church would be such that those who were in the church would be ***INDWELT BY THE SPIRIT***. He shall be in you and that they would be baptized in the Spirit.

# WHAT IS “FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT?”

- THE KEY TO RIGHTLY LIVING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE:

It is simply being controlled by the Holy Spirit, who provides energy for walking *"worthy of the calling with which you have been called"* (Eph. 4:1). Unless you are controlled by the Spirit of God, you can never walk in **humility, love, unity, light, and wisdom**. The life of God in the soul of man is the only way anyone can live a righteous life. To walk without the Spirit is to walk without wisdom (cf. Eph. 5:15 -17).

- GOD COMMAND'S YOU TO "BE FILLED."

(Eph. 5:18) contains this imperative from the Apostle Paul: *"BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT."* This concise, straightforward injunction is loaded with significance for you if you're a believer. However, that significance is often **misunderstood, misapplied, or missed** altogether. To begin with, many Christians are unclear about what the verse does not mean. Once you discard the incorrect meanings you can then focus on what Paul is really saying.

## THE **WRONG** FACTORS FOR BEING FILLED.

1. This phrase is not commanding empty Christians to acquire something they don't already have. Each of us possesses the **ENTIRE HOLY SPIRIT** from the time we repent and believe: **Notice (Rom. 8:9-10)** ***"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. 10 And if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness"***
2. Paul's phrase is not equating **"FULLNESS OF THE SPIRIT"** with **"BAPTISM WITH THE SPIRIT."** Holy Spirit baptism is not an extra experience you need to seek; it is something you have from the moment you are saved. This baptism is a theological reality, an act by which Jesus Christ through the agency of the Spirit places you into the Body of Christ (**1 Cor. 12:13 ; cf. John 7:37 -39**). **Notice (1 Cor. 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."***

## THE **RIGHT** FACTORS FOR BEING FILLED.

1. An understanding of the Greek for "**BE FILLED,**" *plerousthe*, quite clearly reveals the correct meaning of Paul's command in **(Eph. 5:18)**  
A literal translation of the verb would read something like "**BE BEING KEPT FILLED.**" The idea is one of keeping yourself constantly filled, as you yield moment by moment to the leading of the Spirit. It fits perfectly with the process of walking by the Spirit.
2. An accurate rendering of the Greek verb also **DESTROYS** the widespread Charismatic notion that being filled is a **ONE-TIME** emotional experience "**YOU INITIATE,**" which instantly places you into some inner circle of spiritual maturity. "**BE FILLED**" is actually in the passive voice and indicates that **YOU RECEIVE THE ACTION**—the Holy Spirit is continuously filling you. It is simply another facet of the Spirit's indwelling ministry, which allows you to have daily, moment-by-moment effectiveness and fulfillment in your Christian life.

## PRACTICAL CONSEQUENCES OF BEING **SPIRIT-FILLED**

- Now that we have dealt with the meaning of the divine command to ***“be filled with the Spirit,”*** you may be asking, **“How can I really know if I'm walking in step with the Spirit and realizing His fullness?”**
- The apostle Paul answers this with **three** clear evidences for judging the Holy Spirit's full operation in your life.
- **Notice (Eph. 5:19-21) *“Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; 20 always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father; 21 and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.”***

## 1. SINGING TO THE LORD.

- So, how does the matter of singing relate to the great doctrinal truth of **“BEING FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT?”**
- There is a **RELATIONSHIP**—the first consequence of being **Spirit-filled** is that **YOU WILL HAVE A SONG IN YOUR HEART**—and other Scripture passages will help us understand it.
- Notice (Gen. 4:21) **“His brother’s name was Jubal; he was the father of all those who play the lyre and pipe.”**
- **DEBORAH AND BARAK** sang following their victory over Sisera. (**Judges 5**)
- **The Psalms** are filled with references to song, music, and praise, culminating in this exhortation in the very last verse of the book: Notice (**Ps. 150:6**) **“Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord!”**
- **JESUS AND HIS DISCIPLES** sang a hymn at the close of the Last Supper (**Matt. 26:30; Mark 14:26**).

## 2. **GIVING THANKS TO THE LORD.**

- Notice (Eph. 5:20) ***“always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father;”*** This is the second virtue that will result when a believer is truly filled with the Spirit. Gratitude is the single greatest act of personal worship we can render to God.
- **WILLIAM HENDRIKSEN** said this concerning the matter: ***“The expression of gratitude is therefore a most blessed response to favors undeserved. While it lasts, worries tend to disappear, complaints vanish, courage to face the future is increased, virtuous resolutions are formed, peace is experienced, and God is glorified”***
- Notice (Rom. 8:28-29) ***“And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.”***

## ALWAYS!

- First, the Spirit-filled person will be thankful *always* and *at all times*. In Ephesians and elsewhere Paul makes it crystal clear that this is the Lord's will for you: ***"In everything give thanks; for this is GOD'S WILL FOR YOU in Christ Jesus"*** (1 Thess. 5:18; cf. Eph. 5:17; James 1:2-5).
- Such a consistent, no-exceptions-permitted reaction to what the Lord brings into your life is not easy or even possible **in your own strength**. But it will become your response all the time if you are living the **"SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE."** The Holy Spirit works graciously and mercifully to enable you to respond with thanksgiving no matter when blessings or challenges come.
- Sometimes He blesses you unexpectedly, which makes it easy to give thanks.
- The gratitude and praise of **MOSES AND THE ISRAELITES** after God delivered them by parting the Red Sea is one major example of that **(Ex. 14-15)**.



## **FOR ALL THINGS!**

- If the Spirit-filled believer is thankful at all times, it reasonably follows that he will also be thankful for all things. We have just seen that difficult times will also include difficult matters for which we must give thanks (**see again James 1:2-5; cf. Heb. 12:3-13; 1 Peter 2:20-21**). There are however a lot of things that Scripture reminds us to be thankful for. Some of the major ones include:
- **THE GOODNESS AND MERCY OF GOD:** (Psa. 106:1; 107:1; 136:1-3)
- **THE GIFT OF CHRIST:** (2 Cor. 9:15)
- **THE TRIUMPH OF THE GOSPEL:** (2 Cor. 2:14)
- **VICTORY OVER DEATH AND THE GRAVE:** (1 Cor. 15:57)
- **THE RECEPTION AND EFFECTUAL WORKING OF GOD'S WORD IN OTHERS:** (1 Thess. 2:13; 3:9)
- **THE SUPPLY OF OUR BODILY WANTS:** (Rom. 14:6-7; 1 Tim. 4:3-4).

### 3. SUBMITTING TO ONE ANOTHER!

- The third practical consequence of being filled with the Holy Spirit is “mutual submission to other believers”: ***“and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ”*** (Eph. 5:21). Once again, this aspect of the Spirit-filled life reflects and draws together a principle found in many other places in Scripture.
- The Bible is replete with statements and exhortations about the importance of being **subject to one another** and **ministering to one another**. I want to highlight some and list various others to underscore the importance the Holy Spirit has given to the concept of believers' supporting one another.
- Notice (1 Jn. 4:7) ***“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.”***

- **Notice (Phil. 2:3-4)** “Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; **4** do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.”
- **Notice (Heb. 13:17)** “Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.”

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- The only way to **VOLUNTARILY** and **JOYFULLY** submit to the Lord and to one another in the Body of Christ is to be **“FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT.”** He is the one who truly makes us willing to follow the narrow path of submission and relinquish our wills for His.
- When you surrender to the control of God's Spirit, you'll find Him producing amazing things in you—things that are entirely of His doing. Paul calls those marvelous blessings the **“FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT”**, and they are: **“love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control”** (Gal. 5:22-23). The person who is Spirit-filled and who bears the Spirit's fruit is the person who belongs to Christ and who has **“crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit,”** Paul continued, **“let us also walk by the Spirit”** (Gal. 5:24-25). To be filled by and walk in the Spirit is to fulfill your ultimate potential of your life on earth as one of **GOD'S CHILDREN.**