

What every Christian Ought To Know.
#9 HOW TO BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

- (Eph. 5:15-18) *“Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, 16 making the most of your time, because the days are evil. 17 So then do not be foolish but understand what the will of the Lord is. 18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but BE FILLED WITH 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'S COMMAND 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.
- The Bible is silent on the pre-Fall role music and song had, but we can safely infer that music has been important to mankind from the earliest times.
Notice (Gen. 4:21) *“His brother’s name was Jubal; he was the father of all those who play the lyre and pipe.”*
- **MOSES** and the people of Israel praised God after they were delivered from the Egyptians (**Ex. 15**).
- **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: he will be thankful toward God. 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" Genuine thankfulness also sees beyond the difficult or baffling circumstance to the sovereign plan and purpose of God.
- **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. 29 For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren;”**
- **PAUL** makes it clear to the Ephesians and us that thankfulness is to be a well-rounded, complete response that affects all areas of life.

- **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).
- Each of those categories contains many more specific items for which you can be grateful, so the point is that those filled by the Spirit know no limits or distinctions on **WHAT TO THANK GOD FOR.**

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.”

- 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.**