



**Ephesians 5:18 – 21**, but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another in the fear of God.

“Earthly wisdom is doing what comes naturally. Godly wisdom is doing what the Holy Spirit compels us to do.” - Charles Stanley

**Who controls your life?**

There are many important truths in God's Word, but the truth that we'll look at today is one of the most important truths in all of life.

**Knowing and appropriating this truth will determine . . .**

- what comes out of your life.
- where you will go and what you will do.
- whether your life counts or misses the mark.
- whether or not your life pleases God.
- whether you will live a life of love or selfishness.
- whether or not you will be truly happy.
- whether or not you will experience real power.
- whether what you do affects people dramatically or minimally.
- whether or not you fulfill your destiny.
- whether or not you will be used to help change your world.

**1. What is the Spirit-filled life?**

The filling of the Holy Spirit is the continual control of God over my life. It is the issue of who controls my life—*self* or *God*?

**John 14:15-23**, I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper...

Who's on the throne of your life? Who is in control? Who was in control this past week? last month?

**2. Why is this filling and control so important?**

Spirit-controlled	Self-controlled	Spirit-controlled	Self-controlled
Careful, intentional	Careless, thoughtless	Redeems the time, productive	Wastes time
Wise	Foolish	Understands God's will	Ignorant of God's will

## **Galatians 5:16-23**

**Fruit of the Flesh:** adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries

**Fruit of the Spirit:** love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control

Is this difference important to you? How would this control and the ensuing difference change your relationships? your family? Your business? your school? your thought life? your habits?

Are you interested in this change occurring?

### **3. How can I experience this Spirit-control?**

The filling of the Holy Spirit is appropriated by a simple choice of faith, made possible by the grace of God.

To be filled with Him you must . . .

- **Continually acknowledge His presence.**
- **Humbly repent of your self-centered life.**
- **Deliberately yield control of your life to the Holy Spirit within.**
- **Consistently obey God's leadership through His Word and Spirit.**

**Remember, there are two things that can abort God's control:**

a. **Grieving the Spirit:** This happens when we choose to do things that displease Him. Such a choice causes the Lord to withdraw from control because we are doing what displeases Him. (See Ephesians 4:30-31.)

b. **Quenching the Spirit:** This happens when we choose NOT to do things He asks. We can quench the Spirit when He is moving and calling us to take a step, and we simply don't do what He says; we quench His leadership like quenching the hot embers of a fire. (See 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22.)

## **CONCLUSION**

What does this world need? What would change the world? CHRIST!

What does the world encounter when it encounters you?

When will you let Him have full control?

"The Holy Spirit doesn't need to equip you for what you're not going to do, so if you're in rebellion against Jesus and refusing His right to be Lord, He doesn't need to send the Holy Spirit to equip you for service. And, tragically, you miss out on the joy that He brings.

So let the Holy Spirit deal with anything that's keeping you from obeying Christ." — Henry T. Blackaby