

I think there's times, sometimes, when we are in the middle of one of those weeks.

and you just really want to know what the Lord wants you to do.

I don't think we always want to know what the Lord wants us to do.

I'm not saying that.

I realize some of you in the room struggle with asking the Lord what he wants you to do, because then he might tell you, then you might have to do it.

And so I realize not all of us are always asking the Lord, what do you want us to do?

But there are those moments when we really do want to know what the Lord wants us to do.

And maybe you've had one of those weeks.

And I think at moments like that, we have this

thing in our head that says like if the lord would just show up at night like literally physically show up at night and Jesus would just sit on the end of our bed and if he would just tell us what he wants us to do man life would be good at this moment and I have two responses to that and about eight more that I'll share as we go through the sermon the first one is really would you would I mean how would you how would you get over that moment

If that happened last night, how would you come in here this morning?

Would you hide that?

That like Jesus sat on the foot of your bed and actually talked to you?

And then would you come in here and tell people that, knowing that there would be people that would look at you like the dog does when that noise goes off?

Because there would be people in this room that would thought, well, my brother had a lot to drink last night.

He's had a hard week, Mexican food.

I mean, there'd be people that would doubt you that you really saw and talked to Jesus.

What would you do with that moment if you really sat on the end of your bed?

How would that have caused you to live with your family?

What would you do at work that week?

And then how would you remember all the things he said?

Like if you didn't go find your phone and push record and held it up to Jesus' mouth, how would you remember all that?

And I'm not saying it wouldn't be amazing if Jesus sat on the end of your bed.

I'm just asking this question, would it make it okay for

the stress that you're dealing with right now and the questions that you have.

Would everything be better?

Would it create a whole new set of things for you?

Because I think, here's where I want to start.

I think some of us are, and I'll include me in this, I'm sometimes way more consumed with what I call the hand of Jesus that is, what do you have for me?

What do you want me to do?

Than I am the face of Jesus.

like who he is and that him being with me really is what changes me like there's a part of me that believes if he would just tell me what to do and show me what to do life would be better and then in that belief I really don't really think I need him I just need his direction does that make sense and my question to you this morning is what are you more consumed with Jesus direction or Jesus I

Like if Jesus didn't tell you the rest of this life, what you need to do and all of those, what we talked about last week, permissive will decisions.

I mean, he's filled the scripture with how he wants you to live with him and with others.

There's thousands of things and how God's told us to love him with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength and our neighbors like ourselves, right?

So there's scripture galore about this relationship and this relationship.

But if God never spoke to all those other things we pray about, right?

Like what job do I take?

Where do I go?

What do I do with this time?

Do I lead this small group?

Do I stop this place?

What do I do with this neighbor?

When all of those kinds of decisions, if God never ever spoke to any of those, would you be satisfied enough with just Jesus?

And so this morning, as we continue to talk about redeeming the time, if you haven't been here, I'm gonna catch you up to where we've been.

But I just wanna encourage you this morning, the whole desire of God through his word is to help you believe and realize that he is what you need.

That you were created for him.

That you and I were created to be satisfied and fully delighted in him.

And the problem, the struggle for you and I living in this world that are followers of Jesus is that gets questioned in our minds every day.

Is this better?

Will this satisfy?

God, just tell me what to do and then I'll... This is where we've been.

Verse 15 of Ephesians 5 says, look carefully then how you walk.

Not as unwise, but as wise, making the best use of your time.

We've learned that phrase there means redeeming the time.

Literally, the best use of the time is to redeem the time.

And we've said there's two reasons why God commands us.

This is a command, not just a suggestion or even an invitation.

We use that word a lot about Jesus, like he's inviting you to things.

When you come under Jesus as your Lord and Savior, one of those words is Lord.

We don't use that word a lot in our culture, but I'll give you another word, king.

He's not your president.

He's not your book club member.

He's not just your buddy.

And I don't know that you would ever call Jesus your buddy, but he does say I'm your friend and John, right?

But he's also your king.

And we don't have many people we have relationship with that are friends and kings.

And so I don't know how that works for you, but I lean into Jesus more as friend than I do king sometimes.

Because friends are like, it's okay.

Kings are like, no, this is how it's going to be.

And if Jesus is your king, he gets to tell us what to do.

Or he's not our king.

And if he's our friend, then he's someone who cares about what he's telling us to do, right?

And here he is telling us what to do.

This is a command.

Make the best use of your time.

Redeem it.

Steward the time.

Two reasons we've been talking about.

One is ownership.

He owns you.

1 Corinthians 6 says you've been bought at a price.

That's why he's your king.

And so he owns us and everything about us.

Time, money.

We don't tithe money.

From a standpoint of like, because that's all God owns is 10% of us.

And I don't even know how you guys feel about tithing and all that.

We give, I know the Bible commands us, but in the New Testament, he says it's all his.

And so like, if you're like, well, I give 10% because that's all it's God's.

No, the other 90% is his too.

And whatever you get past that, his too.

And your breaths, you're going to breathe today, his too.

The food you're going to eat today, his too.

The kids you're going to deal with today, parents, his too.

The relationships you're going to deal with today, all of it's his.

And so ownership is one of the reasons he's saying steward the time.

Second is this, your time is short.

There's an urgency.

In Psalms 90, it says...

Number your days.

Teach us to number our days.

To count, really to understand that we have a limited amount of time.

We're but a little vapor in the rest of this eternity on both directions that always has been and always will be.

Like no matter how long you live, whether it's my dad's 95 today, and if you live 95 years, that is a long time.

But in the course of eternity, that is a blink.

And pretty soon my dad's going to be another of one billion tombstones that fill this earth that live from 19, whatever he did, to 2000, whatever he did.

And for all of his grandkids and great grandkids and great great grandkids that didn't know him, if Jesus doesn't come back first, they're going to look at that tombstone and most of them are going to go, wow.

And they're going to move on and forget because his life is like that.

Now while you're living it, God says, I want you to redeem this time.

My time, it's short, it's full of evil, he goes on to tell us, and he's called us into this kingdom work.

So we've been talking about how do we walk in wisdom, understanding how this time, and we've started last week with this idea that if we're going to walk in the Spirit's will, redeeming time, it requires two things, intentionality and submission.

We're going to talk about submission today, but intentionality, just to catch you up on where we've been.

There's got to be some intention in the scripture.

Jesus says, if you're going to redeem time, you can't redeem something without some intention about it.

And so I think there's all sorts of reasons we're not very intentional with our time.

But I just want you to hear this today.

God loves to walk with us in the time that we have because it is how we get to be with him.

Again, we look at time as things we get to do.

God looks at his time we get to be with.

Those of you that are parents that have older kids and they're gone, you don't care what you get to do with them when you get to be around them as a 30-year-old.

You just want to be with them.

Now, when they're three, you're like all about what you're doing.

What are we going to do today?

Because we got to do something with all this time we have.

We have so much time to fill, so much time.

So we got to come up with all these 50 things to do with our three-year-old.

I get it.

But when that three-year-old's 30 and they have a life and they have friends and they have kids and you get to be around them for three minutes, you're like, this is awesome.

Because you get three minutes and you don't care what you're doing.

That's your heavenly father.

He's way more consumed with being with you than what you're doing.

If you're a donkey when you get there, what does it matter?

So he's always trying to change your heart, transform you into his image, and he's about being with you.

He's about being with you.

And so as we go through this redeeming the time, when we get intention, it's not just so you can use your time more efficiently.

Some of you need to learn how to use your time less efficiently, and I'm using that as a euphemism, because you're so efficient, you miss God in everything.

Some of you need to be Martha, just sitting at the feet of Jesus.

Some of you need to be, maybe I have that backwards.

Some of you need to be the other sister because you don't do much.

So I don't know where you are with your time.

But the point is Jesus wants to be with you.

Here's the intentionality things we talked about.

What are your current commitments?

Austin talked about that this minute ago.

What's important in this life are the things we get to invest in that are eternal.

And that means changing a diaper is an eternal commitment.

Now some of you may not see it that way, but it is.

Because orphans, listen to me, orphans turn out differently than those who have a family.

That's why God's adopted you into his family and everything he does with you, even changing your diaper matters.

And that's why what we do with little kids matters.

You're setting legacy kind of things.

What you do with friends matters.

Sharing a meal and how you share that meal matters.

So what are you doing with your current commitments?

And part of the intentionality we talked about is who and what are you committed to?

Second thing is, are you being foolish in any part of those commitments?



Verse 17 last week told us, do not be foolish.

Understand what the will of the Lord is.

Foolish is walking in our own wisdom.

Are we thinking about how we're walking in those relationships with our kids, with our friends, people we work with, the things that God's given you?

that you're committed to?

Are you thinking about those things, asking the Lord, Lord, how do you want me to spend this time with these people?

Do you want me to continue some of these commitments you can't get out of?

If you're married, God says, this is a commitment you're in.

So you don't get to vote on that one again.

But some of you have relationships right now in your life that I would tell you need to evaluate.

You need to be around those people.

Because some of them, all they do is suck life and time from you, and you are around them, and in no way does it push you towards the things of Christ.

I'm not talking about mission endeavors.

That's a lot of our mission work.

But if every one of the relationships in your life are missionary endeavors, you need some new relationships.

You need to have both.

Some of you have no missionary relationships.

I'm telling you, you need some of those.

But some of you, all of your relationships are mission endeavors, and even the people in your family.

And so is there anybody in your life that's like pouring, encouraging you?

Is there anybody that's iron sharpening iron?

Is there anybody that challenges you to look more like Jesus?

Is there anybody that makes you laugh in your life?

Is there anybody that gives you joy because they encourage you to be in the presence of God?

And there are seasons, man, when all of our relationships are just tough.

I'm just saying, evaluate them.

Look at them.

What does his wisdom then reveal as you seek it in the word about these relationships?

And we've said this, and I'm going to say it again.

The word of God is the only place you're going to get wisdom from that you know is true.

That moment on the edge of the bed that we all want, man, I could only imagine if Jesus and I got to talk for an hour and he just spoke for a solid hour, I would spend the rest of my life trying to remember what he said.

I don't have to remember here.

It's written down for me.

And I would love the moment on the bed experience, but I would kill myself trying to remember every single word he said.

It is written down here.

Go look at what he said.

And it's alive.

It's not past tense words.

It's a living and active word that you can know and you don't have to forget.

And that doesn't mean we don't need to memorize the scripture, but it's here.

And it lives on our phones for most of us, right?

And in our iPads and everywhere else.

And I'm just saying, isn't that good?

That we don't have to like wonder like, what was that thing Jesus said?

It's here.

And if you want to know what wisdom looks like in your relationships, you've got to live in the word, asking the Lord what he's asking you to do in these relationships.

And from the word, the spirit will speak.

He'll speak through true believers in your life.

He'll allow us to test the word.

Romans 12, 1 and 2 talked about, we talked about this, that as you're living as a living sacrifice, that God's actually going to allow you as you're laying your life down daily to then test what the will of the Lord is that you get to live it out.

And the Lord then speaks into that.

There's experiences you've had in your life in the middle of all this that the word and the spirit speaks into.

And that's the reason God's given you some of those.

There's so many things.

Two more things here.

One is what are other commitments you already have?

If you're thinking about new commitments in your life, are there other commitments you already have that are going to be impacted by a new commitment?

So we're thinking about time and how you're going to steward your time.

And there's moments where some of you are like, man, I need to do this.

And I would just say, man, that is a great, that could be a great phenomenal idea in doing that and investing in these new people or going and taking this new thing.

How is that going to impact other relationships you already have?

Let me say this that I think about all the time for me.

How is what, and I said this to you guys a couple of weeks ago, how was coming here preaching four weeks in a row going to invest what I'm already doing, investing in the church I'm at, but also what I'm going to do with my wife.

And so I'm not just coming home saying, hey friend, by the way, I'm going to preach at Heartland for the next four weeks and just telling her.

Now I've done that before.

It doesn't go well, but it's a whole lot better when I come home and tell her, hey, I'm thinking about doing this.

What do you think?

It's worth praying because I know it's going to impact her.

I know it's going to impact other things, so you can't just step into new commitments all the time without thinking, what are the commitments I'm already involved in?

Lord, help me understand these things.

Last thing we looked at last week was this, is that there's this, and this is going to carry us right into submission, but Psalm 37, verse 4 says this, delight yourself in the Lord.

As we think about redeeming the time the Lord has given us,

The best thing you and I need to redeem is this first part of Psalm 37.4.

What is it to delight in the Lord?

It's the Old Testament version of love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength.

Delight yourself in the Lord.

That idea of delight is to find ultimate joy and love in.

It's not what some of us say when we're saying, man, I love that new ice cream.

I love that new yogurt flavor.

That's not delight.

You love the new yogurt flavor, you're gonna find a new one next month.

God doesn't wanna be the flavor of your month.

Delight means he completely satisfies you.

That you know in your soul that man, when you want to taste joy, that delighting in him is where joy is.

Now that's a battle.

But here's what the Lord says.

When you delight in me, I will start putting into you desires.

He's not saying I'm going to give you whatever you desire.

What he's saying is this.

The Spirit of God will put desires into you.

And so one of the ways we get to test the will of the Lord, one of the ways we get to live in the will of the Lord, one of the ways we get to discover the will of the Lord is delighting ourself in him.

And then we get to see that these desires that the Lord gives us.

And sometimes, again, it's always got to go back to the word.

If I have a desire that goes against the word of God, that's not a desire from the Lord.

It's an easy way to determine that.

But there's so many other desires we just don't know.

Is this from the Lord?

Is this from...

Me, is this from somebody asking me to do something and I really want to please Jeff and come preach four weeks?

I mean, whose desire is this?

And the only way I've begun to know is this.

As I submit myself to finding my delight and my satisfaction in him, God starts putting desires into me.

And then I start asking him, God, I have this desire to go preach, do these four weeks, or I have this desire to do this thing with these people.

Do you want me to do this?

I have this desire today, Lord, to go do.

And I've already made the commitment here.

Do I say no to these people?

I mean, that happens to me every day.

Does it happen to you?

And most of us are just like, and this is how we handle it.

We handle like 14-year-olds.

We just don't call these other people back and tell them.

And then two days later, we're like, oh, I'm sorry.

Forgot to tell you I was doing something else.

Be an adult.

Call me and tell me you're not going to hang out with me if we've talked about it.

Can I just say that to you?

Stop just acting like you forgot.

Stop.

I live with 20-year-olds.

That's mostly who I work with in my church.

And I'm telling 20-year-olds all the time the same thing, and you need to hear this, that I'm telling 60-year-olds.

Because 60-year-olds are worse than 20-year-olds.

Can I be honest with you?

60-year-olds think because they're 60, they can just say, oh, I forgot.

I'm like, no, you didn't.

No, no, you got a mind like a steel trap, bro.

You told me every golf shot you hit last week when you hit at 83.

And you told me every single shot, which you did on every team.

I mean, you remember everything about that whole game.

And you're telling me you forgot.

You told me you wanted to hang out with me last week.

No, not happening.

So instead of just like flippantly walking through our days.

Here's what I've learned.

Man, the more you delight yourself in the Lord, the more he starts to give you desires, the more you can start asking him from his word.

Lord, is this from you or is this from me?

This is where this leads into submission.

Walking in the Spirit's will.

This redeeming time requires not just intentionality but submission.

So here we are in verse 18.

I'm going to read 15 through 18 for us.

Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time because the days are evil.

Verse 17, therefore don't be foolish.

Don't walk in your own wisdom or the wisdom of this world or the wisdom of Satan.

We looked at in James that demonic wisdom.

But understand what the will of the Lord is.

Here we are in verse 18.

That's where we're going to be today.

Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery.

When's the last time you used that word in a sentence?

Debauchery.

But be filled with the Spirit.

Lord, help us as we dive into this.

We need you.

We need your Spirit to teach us, to encourage us, to challenge us, to change us.

We cannot be changed without your Holy Spirit moving us.

So remind us right now, Lord.

Fill us with humility, even now as we listen to you, and we pray this in your name, Jesus.

Amen.

Do not get drunk with wine.



Let's just start there.

Two things.

First, the Spirit of God is giving us a direct, real issue that is a comparison of what it looks like to be filled with the Spirit.

It's just the exact opposite.

We're going to talk about what it means to be filled with the Spirit in just a minute.

But the exact opposite of that, in a fleshly way, is getting drunk with wine.

And so if you needed to know where the Bible is on drunkenness, this is one of many verses that says it's a sin.

So drunkenness.

But he's not just saying it as a random, like, hey, in case some of you have forgotten that drunkenness is bad.

He's doing two things here.

One, he's comparing what he's going to be talking about filling the spirit.

Here's the second thing he's doing, though.

Ephesus, as we talked about the first week, was a really massive cosmopolitan city of art and commerce and wealth and beauty.

And it was full of people who did not know the Lord God.

And they worshiped pagan God.

There was this main temple to a lady God named Artemis.

And part of the high worship to her was drunkenness.

And so he was speaking to idols of that culture while he was talking about it.

This is something super relevant.

And for believers in Ephesus, who, by the way, most of them hadn't been following Christ more than three years.

That's how long Paul spent there.

There might have been some four or five years in a walk in Jesus.

But I don't know.

Some of you haven't been walking with Jesus more than three years.

But some of you have been walking with Jesus 15 years.

Do you remember back to what it was like when you got saved?

Now, if you got saved at four, you probably weren't into drunkenness.

but you were into stuff.

And I know this, if you're a follower of Christ, you still struggle with sin.

And so Paul's writing to a church in Ephesus that for a lot of these people, their worship had been taken from a pagan God where drunkenness was just a part of the worship.

And so do you believe that all of those believers sitting in those house churches were done with that?

I don't.

Do you think there was people in those house churches that weren't saved yet that were still struggling with, like, do I worship Artemis or do I worship this Jesus?

And so he's speaking to not just the act of drunkenness.

He's speaking to the worship of a false idol that takes away our submission and worship to the true God.

Let me say it this way.

What is the thing that fights for your worship day to day?

And I put after the thing another S there.

What is the things?

Because for me, there's things.

It's not just a thing.

Now, maybe you have a thing.

I have things that fight for my worship.

And what do I mean by that?

Let me go back to delight yourself in the Lord.

What is it that you find yourself delighting in that's not the Lord?

That's one way to look at it.

What do you find yourself like, man, when that happens, there's this momentary satisfaction that you're like, man, that is good.

What is that thing?

What is it that gives you value and worth that just internally just makes you go, man?

That's why I do this thing.

I'm not talking about what's a gift and what's joy.

What is the Lord giving you as a gift that makes you feel some sense of like, man, Lord, thank you for this.

Those things are awesome.

I'm just saying, what's the thing that's a gift that has become greater than the giver to you?

In other words, you don't find the same joy in the Lord that you do in the gift that he's given you.

Anybody?

Because I struggle with some of those.

where there's a gift that I find greater than the giver and how it makes me feel when I do it or how it makes me experience life, how it makes me happy at moments.

And that's what he's aiming at here when he says, don't get drunk with wine because that's debauchery.

So I just wanna ask you this before we get into the debauchery thought, what is it that fights for your worship?

For all of you to be satisfied and say, man, I'm yours.

And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery.

That word just means this, senseless, harmful, wasteful.

It's this idea that you really have either a lack of concern for what you're doing or a belief that it's not harmful.

So would you just think about drunkenness for a moment?

You're sitting in a restaurant and you're watching some, I always say dudes here, so I'm just gonna pick on ladies for a second.

You're watching some lady get drunk and you realize she's about to go get in her car and drive home her Tesla and she's drunk and you're thinking, what are you doing?

Because you're not drunk and you're watching this drunkenness and you realize this, that is senseless and that is dangerous, right?

But when you're the one in the middle of it, you're not thinking that.

You're saying, this is awesome.

This is fun.

Let's go.

I wonder how fast my Tesla will go.

And then we get in a car and we realize I've been senseless and dangerous to everyone else, not just me.

That's how all sin is to us.

And he's saying here in this moment, he's saying like drunkenness isn't just a sin.

It is.

Drunkenness isn't just against our laws, which it is.

You go out here and you're drunk somewhere in public, man, you can get arrested for that.

But it's debauchery.

It means this.

You don't realize how senseless and wasteful it is of your time, but also how dangerous it is.

Remember what he's talking about.

He's talking about worship of other idols here, not just the drunkenness thing.

So let me ask the question again.

What is fighting for your worship according to the Spirit?

And it's really not even a question.

It's a statement.

It's dangerous.

And do you realize that?

That what's fighting for your worship is dangerous.

And we're going to talk about why it's dangerous more in just a minute.

But I want you to see God's provision first.

Like what God has done in providing for us because he knows this.

Everything that you deal with on the rest of this planet, as long as you breathe, is going to be a worship issue.

And it surfaces, the symptoms of it come out in a lot of other things.

In other words, my job versus the Lord can be a worship thing.

I'll speak for me for a second.

Sometimes I love doing ministry more than I love the Lord.

Now, some of you are like, well, that's terrible.

You're a pastor.

Do you understand why doing ministry could be better than the Lord?

And I get direct feedback.

Now, sometimes it, pick your favorite word for terrible.

Sometimes it's that.

But there are other times when it's awesome.

And I'd love doing ministry, sometimes more than the Lord.

Sometimes I love my wife more than the Lord because I can touch her.

And she is there.

She's committed.

Most of the time she's faithful.

Most of the time she's gentle.

Most of the time she's good.

You ever struggle believing the Lord's good?

That he's gentle?

I don't struggle with that with my wife.

Your kids, when they're little, you're just like, man, this is awesome.

What a gift.

But I just have this question for you.

Who do you want to please more?

As a parent, your kids are the Lord because there's going to come a day in your house when you're going to have to make a choice.

Am I going to please the kids or am I going to please the Lord?

And that's not just about brushing teeth.

That's about a lot of other things that matter a whole lot more.

It's not just about are we going to eat corn dogs tonight or are we going to eat real food tonight?

There's a whole bunch of other bigger things where the Lord's going to say, are you going to please me or are you going to please your kids?

Because that's a worship moment, parents.

There's friends in your life right now that you're having to make decisions.

Do I want to please them more than I want to please the Lord?

Do I find more value in my friends and more worth and more affection, more comfort for my friends than I do the Lord?

That's tangibleness of worship issues that you're dealing with day to day to day.

And what the Lord says is this, all those things can be gifts, but they can also be very dangerous when they turn into greater than the giver.

So watch how the Lord provides for this in more than just a practical way, but watch what he does.

Don't get drunk with wine.

Watch what you worship.

That's debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit.

We're going to focus on be filled, but before we get there, listen, don't miss what, or more practically, who we are being filled with.

Who does it say we're being filled with?

God.

And I said this to you last week, and I said it to you the week before, but hear it again.

The God who flung the stars into space last night lives in you.

How crazy is that?

I mean, that's just, could put a period there and just end.

This happens every time worship, maybe not every time, but most every time when I'm in corporate worship, this happens to me.

Some point in time during the worship, I start to realize who I'm singing to.

Because sometimes at the beginning, I'm there because of prayer and other things.

But sometimes it takes like a half a song or a whole song or my favorite song, whatever, you know.

And all of a sudden, you realize who you're worshipping.

And this moment happens when you realize like, oh, there is a God and I'm not him.

And what happens?

I don't know what happens to you, but this is what happens to me.

My eyes go from the screen and they either close or they go to the ground because there's this moment of unworthiness.

Like, why am I singing to the Lord?

The God who created me.

Why am I saying those words when they're not even really reflective of my heart?

Oh, my soul.

And we just sang there, oh, my soul.

And then the gospel happens.

And God reminds me, hey, you're my son.

I own you, but I live in you.



Pick your eyes up.

And this happens all over the room.

I see it all over the room.

And eyes come back up and we worship.

Not because we're worthy, but because he is.

And that God lives in you.

And that God says this, be filled with me.

This is one of those phrases that's just so crazy.

I use this word sometimes, pregnant with meaning.

And so if you're pregnant and you think that's not a great illustration, sorry.

But it is just full of a lot in one phrase.

And so I'm gonna unpack all this for you, then we're gonna make it real practical.

Here's the first thing.

It's just, it's a verb and it means this, to be filled over the top, to be saturated in, supplied extravagantly.

And remember what all this is about God.

So to be filled with the Spirit means there's this saturating, over-the-top, filling extravagantly with God.

Now, it's not about getting more of the Spirit.

He makes you His home at salvation.

This is Ephesians 1.13, which will be on the screen.

It says this, So it's real specific here in Ephesians 1.13.

When you believed and trusted Jesus as your Lord and Savior, at that moment you were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit.

So all of God that you're ever going to get dwelling in you, you got at salvation.

Does that make sense?

Like nod at me if you understand this, okay?

You're not getting any more of the Holy Spirit when you're filled.

You've gotten all of God.

The question is, has God got all of you?

And the answer to that question is, well, no.

No.

I mean, I have all of God, but God doesn't have all of me.

That's a continual thing to the end of my life because of the worship battle, right?

So this filled with the Spirit, watch what he's telling us to do here.

Watch what's going on here.

Unpack more of this with you.

In the verb, it's got a lot of things that are going on in the tense that help us understand what's going on.

First thing, it's in present tense.

So just like in our language with verbs...

some of these tenses help us understand what the word's saying.

In this case, it just means it's an ongoing action.

It's not a one-time thing.

When God tells us to be filled with the Spirit, he's saying, this is an ongoing action in your life, daily, hourly.

Does that make sense?

Not just a one-time deal, but you need to, this is a continual deal.

Second thing he's saying this, this is in the passive as a verb, which means this, if you know anything about grammar, this is something it's done to you instead of something you do.

When I kick the ball, I'm doing all the action to the ball.

In this case, when it says be filled with the Spirit, what it's saying is this.

God's doing all the action to you.

Which means you're passive, you're submissive to being filled with the Spirit.

You're going to ask, well, what's my part?

Get there in just a second.

Hang on.

Third thing that's going on here is this.

It's an imperative, which means it's a command.

God is saying, this is not a suggestion.

This is a command.

I'm your king.

And we should say, yes, sir.

But we're like, I don't like submission.

Do we?

Let's be honest.

When we see submission in UFC fight, we're like, that doesn't look fun.

Somebody's getting tapped out.

We see submission in government settings and different things.

We're like, I don't like people telling me what to do, taking my taxes, telling me I can do this.

And God's like, I'm king.

I love you.

I'm in you.

I'm with you.

But hear this.

This is an ongoing action done to you, and it's a command, and it's plural, which means it's done to all of us.

So when we put all that together, here's the sentence I want to show you.

God is commanding, that's the imperative, that all in Christ, there's the plural part, are to continually, present tense, submit, that's the passive part, to the Spirit's saturating presence and rule.

Look at that again.

God is commanding all in Christ to continually submit to the Spirit's saturating presence and rule.

And here's the why.

So that we wholeheartedly follow Jesus.

So that our whole heart is Jesus.

So that our worship is His.

And our actions.

And I would say this to you, and I hope some of this is for some of you, like I knew this, I just need to be reminded for others of you, I hope you hear this for the first time.

I don't think you can follow Jesus without being submitted to him in his spirit.

I just don't think you can.

I think what you can do is check a bunch of boxes that look like you're following Jesus.

And on the outside, you can do some things that make you look like a Christian.

And it would be just like this.

I mean, me putting a ring on my finger doesn't mean I'm married.

Does that make sense?

Now, to those of you that are married, you see a ring on somebody's ring finger, you assume some things.

But it doesn't mean you're married.

It just means I have a ring on my ring finger.

And in a ton of other cultures, they don't even wear wedding bands.

And so, again, outward sign...

For an inward commitment, right?

That's my wife over there I'm pointing at, by the way.

And my question to you is not what are your outward signs look like?

My question is this, inwardly, I believe this, what the word teaches us, without the spirit of God leading, we are gonna do what we wanna do.

And I'm gonna show you that in scripture in just a second, and it's a battle.

And that's why every day that you wake up, the battle is, who am I going to worship?

And outwardly, I may do my quiet time and stack my Bible over by the place where my kids can see it when they come out.

And I may go to work and not cuss at people because I've learned I don't get fired that way.

I can even drop Jesus in every once in a while.

My boss is a Christian.

And everybody's like, oh, he's a Christian.

And then all day long, all I'm worshiping is sports.

that my kids are in, how I'm going to find more money to get them in the next soccer league.

Or I'm worshiping what my boss thinks about me, so I'm going to stay here until 9 o'clock at night and destroy all the other commitments in my life.

I mean, we all deal with it.

Again, this is not about getting more of the Spirit.

He's fully in us by the saving work of Christ.

This is primarily about coming under his rule and his submission to the Spirit's presence and power.

Let me get super practical right here for a second.

What the Lord is saying in this verse to us is we need to actively submit our hearts and minds and body to the Lord daily, hourly, in every moment.

In mundane moments, and I'm going to air quote this, and in big moments, because I think every moment's a big moment.

Can we...

Do you understand that?

Like how you treat a waiter in the restaurant here in an hour is just as big a moment as that presentation you're going to make in front of your boss next week.

In God's eyes.

I don't think God's going to go, hey, by the way, on January 21st, that presentation you did, bravo, man.

Well done.

But I think what God will do is like, the way you love that waiter in the restaurant, man.

My son, we worshiped in that moment.

We were worshiped in that moment.

Does that make sense?

And so mundane, big moments, all the same.

It's just we consider some things bigger.

I often begin my day praying this way when I wake up.

I'm yours, lead me.

I submit to your will and hear this, to your love.

Because the Lord's telling you how he loves you.

And for some of us, we don't submit to that.

The Lord's like, you're my daughter.

And we're like, yeah, but I feel better being a worker.

And the Lord's like, have you ever read the prodigal story?

Most of you, right?

When the son comes back, what does the son try to make himself in the middle of his sin?

A hired hand.

That's what a lot of you feel like in the kingdom.

I know.

You just feel like a hired hand, man.

God's got work for me to do.

But do you remember what the father did?

He's like, you will work, but you are my son.

Go get the robe.

Go get the shoes.

Go get the ring.

And what he reminded the son of is this.

You are family.

You are mine.

You are loved.

And most of us won't submit to that.

And in rebellion, we're like, I'm going to be a worker.

And the Lord's like, I got work for you to do, yes, but you will do it terribly if you're not my son or daughter.

So we're submitting to his rule, to his love, to his ways, to his will.

And man, it's an active prayer in my life.

When I wake up in the morning, part of the prayer is, Lord, and in 30 minutes when I forget this, remind me.

And you may say, 30 minutes?

Yes, all it takes is about 30 minutes for me to forget who's in charge.

I look at, open the refrigerator and what I'm going to eat and I start forgetting.

I get a text from somebody who's got to talk to me right now.

All caps, right?

You ever got one of those?

Like when you wake up in the morning, you're like, why are you shouting at me at 7 in the morning?

Slow down.

And immediately I'm like, get all bowed up on the inside.



Like, I don't have to talk to people.

Do they know who I am?

Like the Hulk starts ripping shirts.

And God's like, I'm in charge.

I'm in charge.

I'm in charge.

Listen to what these verses say.

This is Galatians 5, verse 16.

But I say, walk by the Spirit.

This is what submission looks like.

Walk by the Spirit.

And just so the end of that passage says this, if we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.

Have you ever seen a whole marching team or a drill team like march in step?

I mean, there's a whole bunch of submission going on for them to walk in step together.

Or they look goofy.

Right?

We're like, oh, that poor band.

They don't practice much.

And we clap like, we give them a golf clap, right?

We're like, hey, nice job.

But when people are in step together, whether it's military, band, whatever it is, it's a whole lot of work.

Somebody submitting to somebody clapping for them.

And I watch it because my son was in band.

And I listened to this for hours.

When I had to pick him up and I thought, oh, that would drive me nuts.

I couldn't be in band.

Just hearing the conductor, the head of the band person going, okay, one, two, three, four.

And they're trying to play and do that.

I'm thinking, gosh, stop.

And hear this.

Submission requires you coming in step with the spirit and doesn't take that.

What it takes is this.

You just saying, Lord, I'm yours.

I'm yours.

I'll submit to you.

I'll submit to your word.

I'll submit to your ways.

Now back to the danger.

What are your struggles as you seek to walk in the Lord's will for your time?

I'm going to give you some symptoms of the struggles.

Sometimes it's just we're lazy.

Anybody else feel lazy in here?

We're just like, man, we wake up and we're like, man, I don't want to do anything today.

And maybe you need to rest.

But there's a big difference between resting and being lazy.

Sabbath was a command in the Scripture in the Old Testament.

It's not in the New, but I think the principle carries over.

But there's a big difference between being lazy and resting.

Some of us are just, we get lazy at times and so our time just, we get overwhelmed.

My wife and I were talking about this yesterday.

Sometimes you have so much to do, so many people you feel like you have to love on and invest on that you just decide, I'm not doing anybody.

You ever been there?

Like you walk into your home gospel communities in here, right?

You walk into your GC and there's like 32 people in there.

And you're just like, this is overwhelming.

And you're like, I'm not going to love on anybody today.

I'm just going to smile and do the tennis thing.

How are you doing?

Good.

How are you doing?

Great.

How are you doing?

Good.

And you're just like, bring, bring, bring, bring.

Because it's just overwhelming.

Symptom.

Symptom.

So many voices in your head telling you what to do, demanding of you.

It's a symptom.

And so our time just gets lost because we're trying to please.

There's just too much.

These are all symptoms, surface issues, and there's more.

Deeper is the why you struggle to walk in the Lord's will.

Here's deeper things.

I love my comfort more than I love what it's going to cost me to follow the Lord.

That's a deeper issue than there's too much going on.

Does that make sense?

So I'm not telling you what your idols are.

I'm just asking you pray and ask the Lord because you will have a hard time redeeming your time if you don't realize what you're battling against to worship.

So even right now, Lord, would you speak those things?

Not done, but just in this brief 10 seconds, Lord, would you just tell us what is wooing us to worship?

Here's the crazy thing about most of those idols.

Hear this.

Let's just go with comfort.

Do you realize like one of the best things God's going to do when you step into heaven is this, is bring you eternal comfort?

Have you read Revelation lately?

No more tears.

That sounds like comfort.

So what we want is coming.

It's just what we settle for here at times.

Like this, God really can't comfort me.

Holy Spirit really, even though he's called comforter, isn't going to comfort me as well as this is, as well as this is, as well as this is, as well as my friends will, as well as me just checking out for four hours.

And again, you need to rest.

But what do you run into for comfort that you're saying is better than the Lord's comfort?

And that's just one idol.

There's others.

What you worship, and this is why it's so dangerous, what you worship will regularly and willingly, you will regularly and willingly submit to.

That's why it's so dangerous what you worship.

When you worship the Lord, you will regularly and willingly submit to him.

You will find yourself on your knees before the Lord at times praying, serving people, talking to people in their eyes.

And when you're 62, you get up like this and things, you know,

And you think about getting on your knees more.

And that's physically, but metaphorically, like some of us just don't like getting on our knees in front of people.

Like, man, if I actually get down and serve you, you're going to expect things out of me.

And the Lord's like, okay, how is it that you think I serve you?

And the Lord still pursues us, still serves us, still loves us, still gives us mercy, still comes after us, still speaks to us, still is pursuing us, still comes after you when you and I are in rebellion.

Man, the God doesn't stop serving us.

It wasn't just a moment on this earth when Jesus walked around and washed feet.

The Lord God is still a servant in his character while he's king.

And because of that, because he lives in us, when we submit to the spirit of God, we are going to serve others.

And that's uncomfortable, right?

And so hear me, what you worship, you will willingly and regularly submit to.

And if it's comfort, you will find yourself just regularly submitting to it.

When there's a choice between this and this, comfort will come first.

And you don't even have to tell yourself in the morning, okay, this morning I woke up in comfort.

I'm going to submit to you today because I love comfort.

You just do it because you worship it.

And you have to wake up in the morning and tell the Lord right now, most of us, Lord, I worship you.

I choose you.

I submit to you.

Fill me.

Rule me.

Lead me.

Listen to Galatians 5.

We're going to end on these things here.

But I say, walk by the Spirit.

And this is what I read to you earlier, but I want you to hear the whole thing now.

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

Now hear this.

You have some desires that are not of God.

And we know what they are.

And they attribute it to the flesh, just your old nature.

But if you walk by the Spirit, you won't gratify the desires of the flesh.

You won't want the desires of the flesh.

For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit.

And the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh.

They're opposed to each other to keep you from doing the things you want to do.

So when you delight yourself in the Lord, and it says He will give you the desires of your heart, is God going to give you your fleshly desires?

No.

No.

What God is giving you is the desires of the Spirit.

And so when I know this in my own heart, I have two desires living in here a lot.

I have desires of my flesh and the desires of my Spirit.

When I delight myself in the Lord, when I submit to the Lord, the desires of the Spirit get louder, more buoyant, bigger.

And I pray things like this.

Lord, here's my desire in this whole thing right now.

And this is yours.

Turn it up.

Make it louder.

Make it bigger.

And the more I delight in you, the more I submit to you.

Make it obvious.

Make it match up to your word.

Make it match up to what people are telling me as I pray and talk to people.

But that's how decisions sometimes happen for me in my life.

the desires that aren't yours, Lord, like this as I delight myself in you.

Like shrink them, get them to go away.

And not all my desires are sinful.

It's just God doesn't want me to do all my desires right now in this moment.

Some are.

This means, watch what happens as we submit.

Three thoughts.

As we submit, the Spirit's presence gives us His desires to live out His will.

We talked about this last week, but how about instead of just asking for the Lord's power to do something, we start asking for the Lord's desires.

Because a lot of times I'm asking for the Lord to give me his power to do something I really don't even want to do.

Does that resonate with anybody?



Like the Lord has desires, and your desires aren't his desires, so we just ask for his power to do his desires instead of saying, Lord, give me your desires.

As you submit to the Lord, watch, he gives you his desires.

He starts to change what you want in your heart.

It's what I tell people all the time about their kids and what they eat.

Man, your kids have taste buds when they're little, and they don't like certain things.

You have to teach them how to like other things.

You're like, well, my kid only wants to eat chicken nuggets.

Well, if that's what you feed him, then...

But chicken nuggets taste good to a little kid for some reason.

So does ice cream.

So don't be shocked when you're like, my kid just really loves ice cream.

Well, duh.

God made your taste buds to like that.

You kind of got to make them like other things.

But you can actually change their taste buds.

You know how I know that?

Prisoners figure it out in jail when that's all they get.

They're like, okay, I'm going to eat this.

Amazing what we will eat when that's all we have.

But even more amazing what we'll eat when our taste buds start to like it.

And I'm saying this, ask the Lord to change your taste buds of your heart.

What you desire can change.

And as we submit to the Spirit, that's where He does it.

Second thing, as we submit to the Spirit, then yes, He wants to give us His power to carry out His will because He knows we still can't do that on our own.

So that's the second thing.

As you submit to the Spirit, not only does His desires come, but His power...

Acts chapter 1 verse 8, and my power will come and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and Judea and Samaria to the ends of the earth.

The Holy Spirit is our power, but not just to do things we don't want to do.

He empowers to change desires.

He empowers us to carry out his will.

And the last thing is this, he gives us his joy.

This is where we started.

Remember sitting on the edge of that bed?

I mean, what would it be like if Jesus just came and sat on the edge of your bed tonight and didn't say a word and you didn't say a word and that was enough?

What would it be like if just his presence was enough?

Listen to Psalm 1611.

You make known to me the path of life.

If you're a follower of Christ in this room, God has made known to you the path of life.

That is through Jesus Christ.

And this is what the Bible tells us in the word.

So you need to hear this this morning.

If you're not a follower of Christ, please hear this this morning.

The Bible tells us this.

You are not right with God alone.

that in and of ourselves, we are not right with God.

We're under God's judgment, and because of that, we're separated from God.

But here's the good news of the gospel, that Jesus came into this world to take everything that was gonna be the punishment in your life for not being right with God.

And so what Jesus did is he came in this world to make you right with God.

Does that make sense?

Like without Jesus, we're not right with God.

With Jesus, we're right with God.

But it doesn't end there because this is the really good news of the gospel.

And if you've missed this your whole life, please ask the Lord to help you believe this this morning.

You were made right with God so that you can be with God.

That's the good news of the gospel.

If we're just made right with God and then sat in a place far from him, that is not the gospel.

That is not why God created you and I. God created us to live in fellowship with him, to share the joy and the love that God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit have known forever.

And God created us for that, which is him.

And it's in him.

And this is what Psalm 1611 says.

I've made known to you the path of life.

I've made you right with me.

And watch, this is why.

So that you could be with me in my presence is fullness of joy.

That's where your delight is.

And so as we pray right now, we're going to pray this.

Lord, man, I hear you telling me to redeem the time.

Help me believe that ultimately this is a worship battle.

And Lord, I want to believe that in your presence is where I will find the most joy.

What will bend my knee in joy is in your presence.

What will bend my knee to hear how you think of the world is in your presence.

What will bend my knee to serve others and actually find joy there even when it's not comfortable is your presence.

The Lord says there's fullness of joy, not just a little bit, but if you want to see the definition of delight, fullness of joy.

So Lord, we ask you in the name of Jesus, help us believe there's fullness of joy in your presence.

And Lord, help us realize that.

And your spirit has been given to us to walk in your presence, to walk in your will, to

And it begins with us being satisfied completely in you.

So in this place, yeah, if you need to confess, Lord, I've been looking for fullness of joy in every place but you.

Tell him that right now.

And hear your father say as he puts his arms around you, I'm not sending you out to the field apart from me to be a hired hand.

but you're my daughter, you're my son.

We're gonna work together.

Filled with my spirit.

God, when we go to bed tonight, may we submit ourselves to you.

When we wake up in the morning, may we submit ourselves to you.

And all during the day, may we submit ourselves to you, knowing that you fill us with the joy of your presence, the power to walk in that.

Would you stand with me?

Let's worship the Lord together.