

The Holy Spirit
Filling of the Holy Spirit
Ephesians 5:15-21

October 28, 2018 a.m.

HDBC

One of the greatest promise ever made and delivered was the promise of Jesus to send the Holy Spirit to His disciples. It was fulfilled in the Acts 2, when the Holy Spirit fell upon and into the believers in Jerusalem. Now, the Holy Spirit indwells every new believer at the moment of salvation.

The presence of the Holy Spirit insures . . .

Our salvation and eternal life, for He seals us in Christ.

That we will never be alone, for He will never leave us.

That we will have the power to overcome temptations and spiritual attacks.

Our place in the family of God, for He baptizes us into the body of Christ.

However . . .

The presence of the Holy Spirit does not mean . . .

We are free from the power and persuasion of temptation.

We are free from bad decisions and the harmful consequences from them.

We will automatically experience the joy and peace that Christ offers.

We will be spiritually mature individuals who are being used of God.

Ephesians 5 makes it very clear. The chapter begins with a call for us to imitate God. It's not automatic. Paul mentions a whole host of sinful acts and tendencies that we are to avoid. Immoral and impure behavior, words and thoughts. Reject the kinds of things that unconverted routinely participate in.

Even the presence of the Holy Spirit does not insure that we live pure lives. We can be saved and not always act like it. **So, how** do we move from simply having the Holy Spirit **in us**, to allowing the Holy Spirit to **empower us**? How do we *imitate God as His beloved children*? The key is *being filled with the Holy Spirit*.

Read - Ephesians 5:15-21

1. The Need to be Filled with the Spirit

Paul has already outlined a number of reasons why we need to be filled with the Holy Spirit earlier in chapter 5. Now, he offers four problems associated with living apart from the filling of the Holy Spirit.

1) Living Carelessly

Paul wants us to walk with care and wisdom, not in foolishness. This is a reference to the manner of our lives. In Scripture, lacking wisdom generally refers to living life as if God does not exist. The idea of making bad decisions. Living with no view to being accountable to God.

2) Squandering Opportunities

Making the most of your time. KJV translates this *redeeming the time*. This suggests the idea of using for good the opportunities that we have. Rather than wasting time, we are redeeming the time for good.

3) Missing the Will of God

We should strive to understand the will of God. God has a plan for each person. There are things that God wants to accomplish in and through each one of us. It is important to discern the **BIG direction** that God has for your life. But it is equally important to discern the will of God in the **day-to-day decisions** that you face.

4) Being drunk with wine

Finally, Paul instructs us not to get drunk with wine. Certainly there is the specific application of not getting drunk. This is reiterated in other places in the Scriptures. But, I think there may also be a more here. We are not to allow negative influences to control our lives. In a drunken state the alcohol is controlling the person in a negative way. There are a whole host of negative influences that can control us. Avoid those!

All four of those are good illustrations of the kinds of things that can be expected when we are not filled with the Holy Spirit. We all need it!

2. The Call to be Filled with the Spirit

Be filled with the Spirit. Five little words, but they convey one of the most important truths for effective Christian living. What does it mean?

Short answer. To be filled with the Spirit means to be controlled by the Spirit. It has nothing to do with the amount of the Holy Spirit. You have all the Holy Spirit there is. You don't need more of Him. He needs more of you.

It's not like needing to fill up your car with gasoline because you ran out. When you are not filled by the Spirit, He is still there. You are not empty of Him. **It's more like having a full tank of gas but having a clogged fuel filter.**

This word *filled* is used many places in the N.T. In Luke 4:28 the people of Nazareth were **filled** with rage at Jesus. This was not simply a description of their emotions, but led to action. They took him to a cliff on the edge of town and tried to throw him off of it. **Their rage took possession of them.**

To be filled with the Holy Spirit means that we allow him to occupy and control every area of our lives...How much of you does the Holy Spirit have?

Imagine two glasses of water. Two packets of Alka-Seltzer. Open one and drop it into the water. Fizz! Drop the other packet into the other glass without opening it. Both glasses have Alka-Seltzer just as all Christians have the Holy Spirit. Only one is filled (controlled by) with the Alka-Seltzer.

Note three things:

1) It is Imperative

Not a declarative statement. *I see a dog.*

Not a question. *Do you see a dog?*

It is **imperative**. **Look at that dog!**

It is a command. Not a suggestion, but a directive. We are commanded by God to be filled with the Spirit. Not optional. So, before we learn anything else, we must know that it is a requirement for obedience.

Not Everyone is Filled. The fact that it is a command written to believers, proves that not all believers are filled with the Spirit. **Suppose I wanted all of you to wear red and white clothes every Sunday. I would tell you to do so. But suppose every one of you begin to dress in red and white every Sunday. Would I ever need to tell you to do it again? No.**

2) **It Happens to Us**

Active voice the subject is acting. *I am teaching.* Passive voice the subject is the one acted upon. Receives the action. *I am taught.*

This is passive voice. Means we are the recipient of the action. We are not doing it, but receiving it. The *filling of the Spirit* is not something I can do, but something I can receive. We allow it to happen. We yield to it.

3) **It Needs to Continue**

That means it is continual action. *Go on being filled with the Spirit. Keep on being filled with the Spirit.* Not a onetime thing.

3. **The Results of being Filled with the Spirit**

Paul now offers some evidences that a person is filled with the Spirit. **Four:**

1) **Fellowship (19a)**

Speaking to one another in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs.

This does not mean we will use the words of hymns and chorus in our conversation. It does mean our conversations will be affected by spiritual things. When we are filled with the Holy Spirit there is a unity that is evidenced in our fellowship with each other. There will be a sweetness about our conversations with each other.

The coarseness that is seen in our speech when we are walking in the flesh disappears. We will not cut each other, react harshly to each other.

2) **Worship (19b)**

Singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord

When the Holy Spirit is controlling our minds and hearts we are free to worship without hesitation or hindrances. The Holy Spirit directs our minds to worship the Lord and to exalt Him. Music is part of that. You may not be a good singer. But apparently the Holy Spirit is, and when He is allowed to control, a spiritual melody naturally bubbles up in our hearts.

3) **Gratitude (20)**

Note *always, all things*. Lifestyle of gratitude and thankfulness

4) **Submission (21)**

Mutual submission. Willingness to yield to one another. Follows with illustrations in home and workplace.

Let me suggest some keys to being filled based on other Scriptures.

1. **Confess and Repent of Sins**

The Holy Spirit in me wants to work freely in shaping my life and making me more and more like Jesus. He wants also to work through me to minister to others and to carry out kingdom work.

Though we are saved, we still sin. Probably more than we think. That sin has a way of restricting the work of the Holy Spirit in us. Like water line needs to be open for the water to flow freely, so our lives need to be pure to allow the Holy Spirit freedom to work in and through us.

2. **Regular Submission to the Will of God**

Consciously give Him control of your life. Let him know that you are counting on Him to guide you and to be your pilot. Putting ourselves totally under His control.

April 9, 1865 Robert E Lee surrender the Army of Northern Virginia to General Grant. This marked the beginning of the formal ending of the Civil War. Prior to their meeting in the Mclean house in Appomattox Courthouse, the two leaders had exchanged a series of letters.

Grant suggested that it was time for Lee to surrender his army. Lee initially rejected the suggestion. However, after considering the condition of his army and the bleak situation they were in, he wrote back to Grant, asking the terms of surrender.

Would it be punitive? Prison? Retribution?

Grant was gracious. Officers were allowed to keep their swords. Cavalrymen owned their own horses and were allowed to keep them

The men simply needed to lay down their arms and go home. . **It was time to stop fighting and start living.**

In an interesting twist, their surrender was the catalyst to new hope, new life and a new beginning. Surrender led to freedom. Before they could rebuild theirs there had to be surrender.