

- In the course of our study and discussion on the Holy Spirit, I've made a handful of references to the need of being filled with the Holy Spirit ... I've touched briefly on what it means to be filled with the Holy Spirit ... But I don't think that I've done a sufficient job, for there is much more to say about the Holy Spirit filling us that I have not said, and that I need to say ... After all, the words of Eph5:18 still remain to be a command for Christians to regularly practice ... This week and next, we'll look more in depth on what Paul meant by, "be filled with the Holy Spirit"
- As noted before the Father sends the Holy Spirit to awaken a person in such a way for them to call upon the Name of Jesus for salvation ... He awakens our mind to understand the reality of our present condition and need for Jesus ... He opens our eyes to see the void within our life that only God Himself can fill ... He provides our voice and faith to call upon Jesus for life, forgiveness, freedom ... The Spirit works in conjunction with God's word, the hearing of the gospel ... No one can become a Christian apart from the work of the Spirit – Jo3:3, 5 (spiritual birth and cleansing)
 - 1Cor12:13, "For we were all baptized in one Spirit into one body – whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free – and we were all given one Spirit to drink" ... When the Spirit awakens us to our need for salvation, and when we call out for salvation, Jesus baptizes / pours out / seals us with the Holy Spirit – Eph1:13 ... This means that He takes up a permanent residence within us ... Through His indwelling, the full presence of God (Father and Jesus) also dwells within – Jo14:3, 16-18, 20, 23 ... The presence of the Spirit signifies we are united to Christ, and to one another, as the Body of Christ ... If one does not have the Spirit, one does not have Christ; if one belongs to Christ, then one also belongs to the Holy Spirit (Ro8:9)
- So, a Christian is one whom the Holy Spirit indwells ... However, Gerig, "it is one thing to be indwelt by Him. It is another thing to be controlled by Him." ... A spiritual birth necessitates a spiritual life ... A growing Christian is one whom the Holy Spirit influences, leads, empowers, and changes on a regular basis ... In other words, a growing Christian is one who is being filled with the Spirit again and again ... There is an on-going relationship that the Spirit and Christian share in together ... Storms, "to be filled with the Spirit is to come under progressively more intense and intimate influence of the Spirit" ... We are seeking to be led by the Spirit and keep in step with Him
- It is very possible for a Christian to go about life in their own direction, using their own wisdom and strength to make it through life's every turn, forgoing the Spirit's own leading, wisdom, strength to get them through ... How many can relate to this? ... I don't think any of us are exempt ... We all at one time or another go about our days thinking that we can handle things, until we can't, and we find ourselves once again in need of being rescued from our mess ... So, Paul instructs: 5:15-17 ... In this context, the word walk refers to how one conducts their life – 2:2, 4:1, 5:2
 - Prov3:5-7 ... Ja1:5 ... Paul's instruction here, I think, hints back to his prayer for the Ephesians in 1:17-19 ... Paul is praying for the people to experience a deeper awareness and understanding of God and His call upon them to live as His children ... And this comes about as they are given the Spirit ... This goes beyond what they already have of the Spirit ... May God continue to give you (fill you with) His Spirit of wisdom and understanding ... Why? So that, you and I can understand how to rightly live according to God's will
 - We take what we know to be true and we hold it against the ways of the world, so that we can carefully see and understand how we are to live, and how we are to make the best use of the time God has given us ... The days in which we live are morally corrupt ... As said last week, the motto of today's culture reflects the words of Ecc2:10, "All that my eyes desired, I did not deny them. I did not refuse myself any pleasure." ... But what does God's word say, "God has not called us to impurity but to live in holiness ... God who gives you His Holy Spirit," 1The4:8 ... He continues to fill us with His Spirit to help us live in ways that honor Him and reflect His image (holiness)
 - It is not so much that we get more of the Spirit, as if He is slowly poured into our lives ... We have all of Him ... The question is, does He have all of us? ... Each time we ask Him to fill us and lead us, we are handing over more of our life to Him ... So that, as I have all of Him, He has more and more of me

- In most translations, there's a period between **17–18** ... However, I read them with a comma, because I think Paul has a single thought running through ... Similar to what we read in **1The4:8**, the will of God is that you and I live in such a way that our actions and words and lifestyle bare the likeness of Jesus ... We don't drink of the wine that the world continually tries to offer us ... It always leaves a bad taste within our heart and our mind ... Instead, we are to maintain an on-going fellowship with the Holy Spirit, allowing His influence to be the main thing that consumes us
 - The pagan god of wine, Bacchus, was commonly celebrated in Ephesus ... There would be much singing and lewd dancing ... Those intoxicated were said to be possessed and controlled by him ... Philosophers would get intoxicated in order to receive inspiration from Bacchus to teach others ... The worship of this pagan god led people to be self-centered, foolish, reckless ... Can you see the contrast Paul is painting?
 - Every single day, you and I are presented with a choice to make: under whose influence and control will we live, our own or the Spirit of God? ... Our natural choice is to seek after our own control ... Yet, if our life no longer belongs to us, but to Him who purchased our salvation, then we must surrender our natural desire for what the Spirit desires ... And His desire is that He fill us anew each day, so as to give us the means to be led by Him and keep in step with Him
- Consequently, the fruit of the Spirit is grown and nurtured by the filling of the Spirit ... **Jo15:4-5** ... This fruit is the life and likeness of Jesus that the Spirit produces within a person ... What's needed? ... A commitment to remain in fellowship with Jesus through the Holy Spirit ... A fellowship that is active, not static ... A fellowship that influences the fellowship you and I share with each other ... Where we become authentic with one another, encourage one another, serve one another, submit to one another, and worship together with grateful hearts
- You seeking to be filled with the Spirit, on a regular basis, has ramifications upon all of your relationships – church, spouse, kids, workplace, neighbors