

BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT

EPHESIANS 5:18;
1 CORINTHIANS 12:13-21

Text: Ephesians 5:18

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¹⁸ *And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but **be filled with the Spirit;***

Introduction:

D. L. Moody was to have a campaign in England. An elderly pastor protested, "Why do we need this 'Mr. Moody'? He's uneducated, inexperienced, etc. Who does he think he is anyway? Does he think he has a monopoly on the Holy Spirit?" A younger, wiser pastor rose and responded, "No, but the Holy Spirit has a monopoly on Mr. Moody."

Now we understand what was meant by the statement – that Moody was filled with the spirit.

The greatest need that we have today is to be filled with the Spirit.

There is much confusion today regarding the person of the Holy Spirit.

What about you? Do you know Who the Holy Spirit is?

If so, when was the last time that you sensed His leading?

Today, there are those who say, "I want more of the Holy Spirit."

The truth is you cannot have more of the Holy Spirit.

Illustration:

A couple who is married. When you said "I do" you got all of that individual that you are ever going to get.

Are you filled with the Spirit this evening? Let's check the evidence and see where we stand.

Note:

1. OUR WALK WITH THE SPIRIT (VS 18)

Ephesians 5:18

¹⁸ And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

Note this verse teaches the following:

A. Control

As liquor controls the life of the drunkard, (see Pro. 23:29-35), the Spirit of God should control the life of the believer. (In their walk, their talk, their thoughts, their attitudes, their actions, etc.)

Proverbs 23:29-35

²⁹ Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes? ³⁰ They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine. ³¹ Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright. ³² At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder. ³³ Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thine heart shall utter perverse things. ³⁴ Yea, thou shalt be as he that lieth down in the midst of the sea, or as he that lieth upon the top of a mast. ³⁵ They have stricken me, shalt thou say, and I was not sick; they have beaten me, and I felt it not: when shall I awake? I will seek it yet again.

It speaks also of:

B. Completeness

The word "filled" means "to be full to the top; lacking nothing; nothing short of complete." If there is room

for any other thing in our hearts, then we are not filled with the Spirit.

His will should be our will. His thoughts should be our thoughts. His desires should be our desires. The Holy Spirit is to be in absolute domination of our lives.

It speaks also of:

C. Consistency

This means that it is to be a constant state of being. Very literally, we are to "go on being filled with the Spirit." Sadly, this kind of consistent living is missing from many Christians who walk with God.

It speaks also of:

D. Compliance

This means that this filling is something that is done to us. It is not something we can work up on our own, but we are to be vessels that God can fill and use for His glory. That means that we are to be clean, ready and open to the filling of the Spirit of God.

It speaks also of

E. Command

Paul is not offering us an option for living, but is laying down the command of God for our lives. When all these things are taken together, it seems clear to me that it is the Lord's will for every believer to be filled with the Spirit at all times. When we aren't, then it seems obvious that we are walking in rebellion and sin before the Lord.

James 4:17

¹⁷ Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.

Why is this so serious of a matter? Because when we are not walking in the Spirit as we should be, we will not be able to hear His voice when He speaks and God will not be able to use us as He desires to.

Notice not only "Our Walk In the Spirit but also:

2. OUR WORSHIP OF THE SAVIOUR (VS. 19-20)

Ephesians 5:19-20

¹⁹ Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; ²⁰ Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

These verses teach us that we are to be:

A. A Celebrating People

This verses teaches us that we are to be making "melody in your heart to the Lord."

As individuals, we are to be so filled and thrilled by all that the Lord has done in and to us that our hearts are filled with a song of praise for Him.

The word "melody" means "to pluck, to strum or to vibrate." The image is of someone playing a harp. I think that Paul is telling us that when we are filled with the Spirit of God, we will be walking in close communion with Him.

As this takes place, the Spirit will fill our hearts with love for Him and like a master musician plucks the strips of a harp to produce beautiful music, the Lord will pluck the strings of our hearts and will produce a symphony of praise to the glory of God.

Have you ever been guilty of walking around with a song in your heart? Ever been guilty of making up your own songs of praise to Him for all He has done for you?

That's what Paul is talking about.

When we are walking in the Spirit, He will produce worship for the Savior!

It speaks also of being:

B. A Contented People

Not only will the Spirit teach us to worship Him with songs of praise, but the Spirit will teach us to worship Him by trusting Him. As the Spirit of God takes control of the believer's life, the believer will be brought to the place where he learns to trust the Lord for every need and for everything. As we grow in the Lord we come to understand that He is on our side.

Romans 8:31

³¹ *What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?*

When this truth becomes a reality in our hearts, we will be able to say with David, "The LORD is my Shepherd, I shall not want." We will know for certain that our God is able to look after us, and that all He is doing, whether we like it or not, is for our good and His glory.

Romans 8:28

²⁸ *And we know that **all things** work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*

The Holy Spirit will teach us contentment.

Philippians 4:11-13

¹¹ Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. ¹² I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. ¹³ I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

1 Timothy 6:6-8

⁶ But godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷ For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. ⁸ And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.

Notice not only Our Walk With the Spirit, and Our Worship of the Saviour, but also:

3. OUR WITNESS AMONG THE SAINTS (VS. 19, 21)

Ephesians 5:19

¹⁹ Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;

Ephesians 5:21

²¹ *Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.*

We are told that we are to:

A. Encourage One Another

We are told that the Spirit of God will cause us to sing psalms to one another. This is referring to the Psalms of the Old Testament and to other Psalms that were popular in the early church.

The point is, that when we are walking in the Spirit, our objective will be to help others in their walk with God.

May the Lord help us to be an encouragement! When we are filled with the Spirit, He will work through us to produce encouragement for others. You watch that person who is constantly discouraging people in the Lord's work. That person is not walking in the power of the Holy Spirit!

We are also to:

B. Edify One Another

We are told to sing "*hymns*" to one another. This refers to songs that are filled with "*religious content*". The

whole point being that we are to be active in helping one another grow in the Lord. Contrary to popular belief, the Lord never called any one of us to tear another believer down. He has, however, called every one of us to build one another up in the Lord!

1 Thessalonians 5:11

¹¹ *Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.*

C. Exhort One Another

Hebrews 10:25

²⁵ *Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.*

D. Exalt One Another (vs. 21)

Ephesians 5:21

²¹ Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.

We are commanded to "submit ourselves one to another." What does this mean? Well, the word "submitting" is a military term. It means "to fall in rank under another.

Close:

Speaking to a large audience, D.L. Moody held up a glass and asked, "How can I get the air out of this glass?"

One man shouted, "Suck it out with a pump!" Moody replied, "That would create a vacuum and shatter the glass."

After numerous other suggestions Moody smiled, picked up a pitcher of water, and filled the glass.

"There," he said, "all the air is now removed."

He then went on to explain that victory in the Christian life is not accomplished by "sucking out a sin here and there," but by being filled with the Holy Spirit.