

WALK IN THE SPIRIT

EPHESIANS 5:18-21

The topic of being filled with the Spirit of God is one that many Christians shy away from. They see it is in the Bible but it appears to be too much of a mystery to them. I pray you will become more familiar today with what it means to be filled with the Spirit and that you will want this in your own life.

There are phrases in the scriptures concerning the Spirit of God which throw us a little such as: **Walking in the Spirit, praying in the Spirit, and being filled with the Spirit.**

It may help to look at some of these phrases this way: *“Walk according to the leading of the Holy Spirit,”* or *“Pray with the help and leading of the Holy Spirit,”* and *“Yield to the Spirit.”*

A few things I want to accomplish through this message today:

- 1. The joy of letting the Holy Spirit fill your life.** I would say joy that you have never experienced any other way. (I did not make this statement without serious thought.)
- 2. The practical part of letting Him fill your life.** (Not mystical)
- 3. The sacrifice in letting Him fill your life.** We are so filled with our will, our selfishness, our stubbornness, and so forth. We have to get rid of these things in order to let the Spirit of God fill us.

I found a good chart in the *Jeremiah Study Bible* concerning the Baptism of the Spirit and being Filled with the Spirit. It is an insert in your bulletin. Notice some words in the right column...

HOW do you and I, as God’s children, **walk in the Spirit?** Let’s look at this together starting with Ephesians 5:18.

We are to walk in the Spirit by:

I. **Being Filled with the Spirit** *“be filled with the Spirit” (18)*

* The first part of the verse says, **“And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation.”** Paul uses a **negative example to illustrate a positive command.**

> People are not the same when they are controlled or filled with wine.

> In a positive way, Paul says we should “be filled with the Spirit.” When we are filled with the Spirit, we are not the same. We are not out of control, but we are under the control of the Holy Spirit. It is not mystical. It is yielding ourselves to the indwelling Holy Spirit.

Consider these points about the filling of the Holy Spirit:

1. The filling puts us under the control/influence of the Holy Spirit (Eph. 5:18)

* This allows us to experience the fullness of the Holy Spirit on a daily basis...in good times and bad times.

2. We are commanded to be filled with the Spirit (Eph. 5:18).

* We are *not commanded* to be baptized, indwelt, or sealed by the Holy Spirit because these are done to us by God Himself *because of our position* in Christ.

* The Christian lives in victory by the power of the Holy Spirit as seen in Galatians 5:16-17.

“I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.”

- The Spirit of God gives us victory as we yield to His leading.

3. The filling is a continual experience. (Not a one and done experience.) The verb “filled” is present tense in the Greek and indicates continuously being filled. It is also a passive verb meaning that we permit the Spirit to fill us. We do not fill ourselves.

A. Being Filled brings Joy

“speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.” (19)

* A natural result of being filled by the Holy Spirit is inner joy. It is expressed by a life where Jesus is spilling out everywhere.

> When you are filled with God’s Spirit, it is joy that cannot be manufactured any other way.

B. Being Filled brings Thankfulness

“giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ” (20)

* **“Always for all things”** - Since you are filled with the Spirit of God, you are even more aware that God let’s nothing into your life except it has a divine purpose and for God’s purposes you give thanks.

> **Give thanks, remain faithful, and look for the purposes of God.**

C. Being Filled brings Submission

“submitting to one another in the fear of God” (21)

*Submission shows godly humility. It gives value to the other person.

I’ve never seen a Spirit-filled, arrogant Christian. It is not possible.

QUESTIONS:

Does your daily walk show you are yielding to the Spirit of God?

Does He have control or do you hold tightly to it?

- **Confess any sin and ask for forgiveness.**

- **Surrender your all to the Spirit’s daily control.**

- **Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly (Col. 3:16).** Same results as being filled with the Spirit.

You will never regret letting the Spirit of God fill your life.

*** If you are still not sure about the filling of the Spirit, just tell God that you are willing to give up the rule in your heart so He can have it. Then begin to live like it.