



October 5, 2014

**“How to Be Spirit Filled”**  
*Ephesians 5:18-21 Part 4*

Review: The command ... “be spirit filled”.

Gr. *plēróō* (πληρόω) – present, passive, imperative (command)

- Present – we can only be filled in the “eternal present”. Are you filled this very moment?
- Passive – as I am yielded, the Spirit of God acts on me to do His work both in and through my life.
- Imperative – This is a command to every believer. Am I obedient?

A few more words about the verb *plēróō* ...

- Ancients described it as the wind that fills the sail of a boat, and moves it along to its DESTINATION. The Spirit moves the believer along as He manifests Christ’s life in and through us.
- It also connotes the idea of permeation ... such as salt permeating meat to flavor and preserve it. The Spirit of God does the same as He permeates our lives with the Word of God and the God of the Word.
- But, probably the main meaning is total control ... there is no other influence in our lives that the Spirit of God when we are Spirit-filled.
- The idea of filling (controlling) sorrow (John 16:6) fear (Luke 5:26), anger (Luke 6:11), faith (Acts 6:5).
- So it is with the believer – only the Spirit is to fill (control) his life.

Two illustrations – one EXPERIENTIAL, one theological:

1. Experiential from the life of Peter

- Matthew 14:28-33 – When Peter was with Jesus, he could do the miraculous.
- Luke 22:48-62 – When Peter was with Jesus, he had miraculous courage.
- But, notice what happened to Peter when he was separated from Jesus (v 54-62).
- So, when Jesus was crucified, buried, risen and ascended to the right hand of power, what was to become of our now anti-hero?
- Well, we know the rest of the story! The promise of the Spirit (John 14:16-24) became a reality (Acts 2) and Peter could again ...
  - ... say the miraculous – Acts 2:14-40
  - ... do the miraculous – Acts 3:1-10 (see 4:22)

... and he had miraculous courage – Acts 5:27-32, 40-42

So, what's the point? Being Spirit filled is just like walking in the very presence of Jesus Christ.

## 2. Theological explanation

- What happens in the believer's life when he is filled by the Spirit of the LIVING GOD?
- Ephesians 5:19-21; Colossians 3:17 – Spirit filled people are right with God and each other.
- Eph. 5:22; Col. 3:18 – Spirit filled wives are subject to their husbands, as to the Lord.
- Eph. 5:25; Col. 3:19 – Spirit filled husbands love their wives as Christ loves the church.
- Eph. 6:1; Col. 3:20 – Spirit filled children are obedient to their parents.
- Eph. 6:4; Col. 3:21 – Spirit filled fathers train their children in the Lord.
- Eph. 6:5; Col. 3:22 – Spirit filled slaves are obedient to their masters, as to the Lord.
- Eph. 6:9; Col. 4:1 – Spirit filled masters treat their slaves righteously.
- Eph. 6:10-20 – Spirit filled Christians have their heavenly armor on, and are engaged in the spiritual war that rages in this world for the souls of men.

In other words, every relationship there is in life is, moment by moment, yielded and submitted to the Word of God and the Spirit of God. That's the real miracle of the Christian life!

So, we've seen the importance of the Spirit of promise, we've seen what the filling isn't, and we've begun to scratch the surface of what it is to walk in the Spirit. Wait till next time!

### **SUGGESTED DEVOTIONAL READING**

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**Monday:** Say the miraculous – Eph. 4:29; Col. 4:2-6

**Tuesday:** Do the miraculous – Eph. 4:17-32; Col. 3:1-16

**Wednesday:** Have miraculous courage – Acts 1:8; Matt. 28:18-20; Romans 10:8-14

**Thursday:** The Spirit filled life – Eph. 5:18-6:20

**Friday:** The Spirit filled life – Col. 3:16-4:6

**Saturday:** Memorize Colossians 3:16-17

### **TABLE TALK**

Read through all the relationships of the Spirit-filled person, then look at our world. Why is this so spiritually miraculous?