



November 16, 2014

“How to Be Spirit Filled”
Ephesians 5:18-21 Part 9

The Spirit-filled life is the very essence of the Christian life. It is lived in the eternal present!

Ephesians 5:20 provokes 4 questions:

1) When are we to be thankful? Always – vs. 20a

- This is to be the moment by moment disposition and attitude of the believer. Romans 8:28-29 ... if we have Christ, and we have Christlikeness, we have it all!

2) For what are we to be thankful? “For all things” – vs. 20b

- Even for man’s sin, inhumanity, perversions, hatred, abortion, war, famines, natural disasters, corruption, ungodliness, false religions?

The answer? We must interpret “always” and “all things” in reference to God’s holy character and His hatred for sin ... God loathes these things just mentioned.

- But, we do praise God for being God in the midst of all this sin and misery, and we do thank God that He is sovereignly working out His purposes in this sinful world.
- We do thank God that He brings good out of evil, and we do thank and praise God that there is a Savior Who delivers from sin. We do not praise God for that which He hates ...
- But, the filling of the Holy Spirit does call us to RADICAL spirit of gratitude!

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

You say, “But you don’t know my spouse ... my kids ... my job ... my boss ... walk a mile in my boots and you’ll be just as big a whiner as I am!” Not if you’re Spirit filled!

- We need HUMILITY, not pride. The humble person knows he only deserves condemnation and hell, therefore he is thankful for even the smallest blessing.

Psalms 136; James 1:17

- Pride is just the opposite! “I deserve more ... better ... something different.”
- Pride was the root of the first sin (Isaiah 14; Ezekiel 28) and pride remains the root of all sin and dissatisfaction.
- Check out Philippians 4, “the secret of being content”.

3) Why are we to be thankful? Because of the Lord Jesus Christ! – vs. 20c

- That means we give thanks CONSISTENT with Who Jesus is, all that He has done, continues to do, and will do in the future.

- All for our good and His glory ... predestined, adopted (Ephesians 1:4-5), saved by His magnanimous grace, indwelt by the Spirit forever (John 14:16; Ephesians 1:13-14), heirs of God, joint heirs (Romans 8:17), citizens of Heaven (Philippians 3:20), ambassadors (2 Corinthians 5:20), new heavens and new earth (Revelation 21 & 22).
- Christ is the very Why ... W-H-Y ... of life! Life is hopeless and pointless without Him. With Him, it's full of hope, meaning and thanksgiving.

4) To whom are we thankful? To God, even the Father – vs. 20d

Ephesians 1:3-6

Eph. 1:16-20a

Eph. 2:1-7

Eph. 3:14-21

How awesome and loving is our Father! How gracious and merciful and kind!

A final thought – 1 John 4:9-10

Salvation came from the heart and love of the Father, through the loving sacrifice and obedience of the Son, to those who were vile, sinful and undeserving! Is it too much that He would ask us to have a continual heart of praise and thanksgiving?

SUGGESTED DEVOTIONAL READING

Monday: Read Ephesians C. 1 – the Father, Son, Spirit

Tuesday: Read Ephesians C. 2 – the Father, Son, Spirit

Weds: Read Ephesians C. 3 – the Father, Son, Spirit

Thursday: Read John 14 – the Father, Son, Spirit

Friday: Read John 15 & 16 – the Father, Son, Spirit

Saturday: Memorize 1 John 4:9-10

TABLE TALK

Read 1 John 4:9-10 and write a paragraph on the love of the Father and the Son for us, the undeserving! How great is the Father's love (see Ephesians 2:4-5) ... how great is the love of the Son?