



September 21, 2014

“Be Filled with the Holy Spirit”
Ephesians 5:18-21 Part 3

2) The commands – 18

“Be not drunk with wine for that is dissipation ...” (get CD from last week)

This morning we get to the good side of the 2 commands in this verse – “... but be filled with the Spirit.”

- Let’s emphasize from the outset, this is a COMMAND! Either you are walking in obedience, or disobedience. This is not optional! Why?
- Because the Holy Spirit reveals to us who we are in Christ! (Ephesians 1-3)
1 Corinthians 2:14
- Because the Holy Spirit energizes and empowers us to live like who we are in Christ. (Ephesians 4-6)
- It’s imperative we understand this command of scripture!

So, what does it mean to be filled with the Spirit? Let’s begin by stating what is isn’t, first:

- A) It is not an esoteric, ecstatic experience, to be had by a few ... a spiritual “ZAP” if you will.
- B) Our reaction to all the abuses should not be to minimize this aspect of the Spirit’s ministry in and through our lives.
- C) The filling has nothing to do with the indwelling, baptism or sealing of the Spirit – all great theological truths.
 - These are what God does in you, at the moment of salvation!
 - Romans 8:9-11 – if you do not have the indwelling Spirit, you are not a Christian! John 14:16
 - We are baptized by the Spirit and placed in the Body of Christ (the church) THE MOMENT we come to Christ as Savior and Lord (1 Corinthians 12:13).
 - Thus Paul’s question to the Corinthians, “What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit?” (1 Corinthians 3:16-17, 6:19-20; 2 Corinthians 6:14ff)
 - The sealing of the Spirit also takes place at the moment of salvation – Eph. 1:13-14, 4:30.
- D) Being filled with the Spirit is not getting more of the Spirit, as if He comes in doses ... how this happens – Ephesians 3:16-21.

- There are basically 3 commands in scripture concerning the Holy Spirit and the believer:
 - 1) Ephesians 4:30 – “Do not grieve the Holy Spirit ...”
 - 2) 1 Thessalonians 5:19-20 – “Do not quench the Spirit ...”
 - 3) Ephesians 5:18 – “Be filled with the Spirit ..”

So, what does it mean to be filled with the Holy Spirit?

- Filled – Gr. *plēroō* (πληροώ) – a present, passive imperative, and could literally be rendered “be being kept filled” with the Spirit.
- The Christian life takes place in the ETERNAL present!
- Present tense – the filling of the Spirit takes place on a moment by moment basis, as we yield to His power and direction (Eph. 3:20-21).
- Passive – my only part is to die to self, sin and Satan, so as not to grieve the Spirit, quench the Spirit and hinder His work in and through my life.
- Imperative – notice once again, and let it sink in, this is a command, not a swell idea! This is a mandate! An act of obedience, or direct disobedience!

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

- Monday:** The Spirit-filled church – Acts 1 & 2
- Tuesday:** The Spirit-filled believers – Acts 3 & 4
- Wednesday:** Sin, problems and Spirit-filled lives – Acts 5 & 6
- Thursday:** A Spirit-filled man – Acts 7
- Friday:** Another Spirit-filled man – Acts 8
- Saturday:** Memorize Ephesians 5:18 & Colossians 3:16

TABLE TALK

Read Ephesians 5:18-21 and Colossians 3:16-17. What do you see? How is being Spirit-filled like letting the Word of Christ richly dwell in you?