



IN EPHESIANS

Lesson #41

Filled with the Spirit

(Ephesians 5:18)

CHRIST

Christians Walk (Live) As Taught By Their Father (Eph 5:1-17)

- God's children are commanded to **IMITATE** God. (Ephesians 5:1)
 - ☆ Do God's standards concern you?
 - Matthew 5:48
 - Ephesians 4:11-12
 - 2 Corinthians 7:1
 - 1 John 2:3-6
 - 1 John 3:3
 - Hebrews 12:14
 - Philippians 3:12-16
- God's children are commanded to LOVE **just as** Christ **loves** them.
 - God's children **forgive just as** they are forgiven. (Eph 4:32; Colossians 3:12-13)
 - God's children give their lives to their brethren. (1 John 3:16-18)
 - God's children deny themselves to serve God and others. (Matthew 20:28; Philippians 2:5-8; Luke 9:23)
 - God's children love **unconditionally**. (1 John 2:12; Isaiah 43:25)
- God's children **do not** walk (live) as the world lives. (Eph 5:3-5, 7; Romans 12:1-2)
- God's children walk as "children of light"; **not** as "children of darkness". (Ephesians 5:8-13)
 - God saves us to be the light and salt of our generation. (Matthew 5:13-16)
 - God's children bear fruit of their walk as children of light:
 - ① **ALL** goodness – agape love in ACTION. (Gal 6:9-10)
 - ② **ALL** righteousness – Living in righteous character before God and man. (Romans 6:13; 1 Tim 6:13; 1 John 2:29; Titus 2:12-14)

- ③ **ALL** truth. The children of God walk (live) in conformity of the **written** Word of God. (Psalm 119:105, 142, 160; John 14:15, 21, 23-24; 15:10; 1 John 2:3-4; 5:1-3)
 - God's children walk **circumspectly**, wise; not as fools. (Eph 5:14-17)
 - ★ Matthew 7:24-29
 - God's children walk (live) **doing God's will**. (Matthew 7:21; 12:50; 1 John 2:17)

BE CONTROLLED (Ephesians 5:18)

- "do not be drunk with wine" ALCOHOL affects our MINDS.
 - The State has determined that one beer/one glass of wine affects the way one can control an automobile.
 - WARNING labels on medicines warn that people are not to drive or operate heavy machinery when taking it.
 - ★ ALL this because SCIENCE has determined that these people are not in full control of themselves!
 - ☆ The "wine" here is nothing like the table wine one can buy in the supermarket. Ancient philosophers consider the table wine of today as poison because of its alcohol content!
- **BUT** - the Holy Spirit moves Paul to give us yet another command:
 - "be **filled** with the Spirit"
 - ★ To be "filled" with the Spirit is be completely under the control of the Spirit and not self.

What "Filling of the Spirit" is NOT

- It is not an experience.
- It is not a second blessing from God that makes us super-spiritual Christians.
- It is not the baptism of the Holy Spirit.
 - ★ ALL Christians receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit at conversion. (1 Corinthians 12:13)
- It is not the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. (1 Cor 6:19; 2 Cor 6:16)
- It is not a process of progressing in degrees of power.
- It is not the same thing as being sealed with the Holy Spirit. (Eph 1:13)
- It is not something we pray for.
- God NEVER commands us to be indwelt; baptized with; sealed with; or seek the baptism of the Holy Spirit.
- He has given us one and only one command: BE FILLED.

A Careful Word Study (Ephesians 5:18)

- “BE FILLED” - πληρόω pleroo {play-ro'-o} “to fill to the brim”; “to fill to the top so that **nothing** shall be wanting to full measure”; “to make complete in every particular”
- Illustrations of πληρόω:
 - A glass overflowing. (Consider John 7:38-39)
 - Wind filling a sail - driving the boat. (See 2 Peter 1:21)
 - Salt in meat: permeation - to spread or diffuse; i.e. tobacco smoke permeating a room.
 - Total Control: sorrow (John 16:6); anger (Luke 6:11); faith (Acts 6:5); Satan (Acts 5:3)
 - **HAND IN GLOVE.** (Philippians 2:13; John 15:5)
- Biblical example: Stephen (Acts 6:4-5; 7:55, 59-60)
- **PRESENT TENSE:** Something we do NOW, day-by-day, moment-by-moment, *always*.
- **IMPERATIVE MOOD:** Something we must do. Something that our Father commands us. This is no option or good idea. NOT to do this is to sin against the Father.
- **PASSIVE MOOD:** It is something that happens to us. It is NOT something we do to ourselves. It is something we allow to happen to us.



PROBLEM: A Passive Command!

- The verb “BE FILLED” is in the PASSIVE VOICE. It is NOT something we can do to ourselves!
- God’s Spirit, as is the wind, is solely under the SOVEREIGN WILL of GOD. (John 3:8)
- ONLY God can control the SPIRIT.

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How Do We Obey This Command? (Ephesians 5:19-21)

- ★ Disobedience to this command will bring frustration, defeat, spiritual weakness, stumbling into even more sin, walking as the world, etc.
- ★ How to be filled with the Spirit –

RAISE THE SAILS

- ① Confession of sin. (1 John 1:9)
 - Putting to death (mortifying) sin. (Colossians 3:5, 8; Romans 8:12-13; Galatians 5:24)
 - ② DEATH to SELF. (Luke 9:23)
 - Be a SLAVE to God and OTHERS. (Ephesians 5:21; Philippians 2:5-8; Matthew 20:28; Romans 6:22)
 - ③ Complete SURRENDER of will, intellect, body, time, talents, possessions, and desires to God. (Luke 14:33)
 - ④ Let the Word of God dwell in you richly. (Ephesians 5:19-20; Colossians 3:16) Disciples **abide** in the Word of God. (John 8:31) Disciples live on **every** Word of God. (Luke 4:4; Matt 4:4; Deut 8:3)
 - ☆ As we fill ourselves with the **written** Word of God it controls our thinking and actions.
 - ☆ God’s thoughts become our thoughts.
 - ☆ God’s standard (holiness) becomes our standard.
 - ☆ God’s work becomes our work. (John 5:19)
 - ☆ God’s will becomes our will.
- ★ Being filled with the Holy Spirit is “walking thought by thought, decision by decision, act by act, word by word under the control of the Holy Spirit.”

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