

In This World (pt.4)

How in this World Can I Be Spirit-filled? (Ephesians 5:18-21)

Introduction: The Christian cannot walk independent of the Holy Spirit in this world, generating his own energy. *Understanding the filling of the Spirit is a critical Spiritual truth for living the Christian life by God's standards in this world today. Today we will look at three aspects of what it means to being filled:*

I. The character of being filled with the spirit:

The Christian life demands that you be "filled with" or literally "controlled by" the Holy Spirit.

A. The Controversy— There is a big controversy in the church today about drinking wine.

1. **The social issue** —
2. **The spiritual issue** — Paul's main thrust here; *The Holy Spirit is the Christian's source of joy and comfort and power. Now Paul adds...*

B. The Command —

1. "Be filled with the Spirit" This is God's command, not a suggestion, and He expects us to obey.
2. In the Bible, "filled" means "controlled by." (for example) (Lk. 4:28; Ac 13:45)

C. The Contrast — Paul's main thrust here is a contrast between paganism and Christianity. *"Spirituality is what you are — what you do is only a manifestation of that!"*

D. The Context— The reason I believe Paul is mainly dealing with a spiritual issue here, is because of the context of vs.18-21

The is the key issue here is — *being filled with the Spirit*, being energized by the Spirit of God, is the only thing that will produce in us true communion with God and the Christian life.

Real Christians are not content to defy the commands of God or deny the filling of the Holy Spirit, and they don't live comfortably in the carnal box. (1 Jn. 5:3; Jn. 14:15, 21)

II. The conditions of being filled with the spirit:

A. What filling is not —

1. Filling is not "possessing" the Holy Spirit; (Rom.8:6-9)
2. Filling is not the baptism of the Spirit (1 Cor 12:13).
 - a. When the Spirit came at Pentecost, the believers were baptized by the Spirit and thus the body of Christ was formed (Acts 1:4-5).
 - b. But they were also "filled with the Spirit" (Acts 2:4), And it was this filling that gave them the power they needed to witness for Christ (Acts 1:8).
 - c. Now, in Acts 2, the Jewish believers were baptized by the Spirit, and...

- d. Then in Acts 10 the Gentile believers had the same experience and were baptized by the Spirit. (Acts 10:44-48; 11:15-17).
- e. So, the body of Christ was and is now made up of Jews and Gentiles (Eph 2:11-22).
- f. That historic baptism, in two stages, has never been repeated any more than Calvary has been repeated.

However, we are commanded to be "being filled with the Holy Spirit..." So,

B. What filling means —

1. Filling does mean a moment-by-moment continuous action.
2. It also means something is filling you, you don't fill yourself.
3. *It is the Holy spirit who does the filling and it's to be a continuous action.*
4. Filled = total control — this is the dominant use of the word.

For example: (Jn.16:6; Lk.5:26; Lk.6:11)

So, to be filled with the spirit means to be driven by the spirit, to be moved by the spirit, to be controlled by the spirit.

C. The means of filling —

1. *The filling of the Spirit involves a total surrender*—(Gal.2:20; 1 Cor.6:19; Gal. 5:17)
 2. *The filling of the spirit is identical to letting, "the Word of Christ dwell in you richly."* (We cannot do this without spending time in God's Word!) (Eph.5:18-21 to Col. 3:16,17)
- *Who is the author of the Word? (2 Pet 1:20-21)*
 - *What does the spirit do with the word? (1 Pet 1:12; Jn 6:63; 1 Cor 2:9-10)*
3. *The filling of the Spirit is to live every moment as if we were standing in the presence of Christ* — (2 Cor 3:18)
 4. *The filling of the Spirit can best be illustrated by the metaphor of walking. (Gal.5:16-26)*
 1. *The pace is one step at a time* —
 2. *The problem is the FLESH (Gal.5:17; Rom.7:15-25)*

III. The consequences of being filled with the spirit: (Gal. 5:16) is still there so what are they? ...

- The fruit of the Spirit (Gal.5:22-23a)
 - We never fall under the condemnation of breaking God's law — (Gal. 5:23b)
 - Since we already live in the Spirit (positionally), what's the sense in living in the Spirit and walking in the flesh?
- A. Toward ourselves** — *with singing* - singing is always an expression of the soul — (Js 5:13; Rev.5:9) God loves music that honors the Lord and blesses His people
 - B. Toward God** — *giving thanks* - A spirit filled, Christ conscious, Word filled, obedient, faithful Christian, is always finding & giving thanks to God (2 Cor 4:15; 1Thes 5:18)
 - C. Toward fellow believers** — *submitting* (Js 4:1; Phil.2:4-8) One who is filled with the spirit doesn't *think less of themselves, we are just led by the Spirit to think of ourselves less!*)