

SPIRIT FILLED LIVING

Eph 5:18 *Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, let the Holy Spirit fill and control you. 19 Then you will sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, making music to the Lord in your hearts. 20 And you will always give thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. NLT*

1. Being filled with the HS is contrasted with being drunk with wine. Thus, it is a question of *influence, control, or power*. Paul envisions a *community of people* (the church) whose lives are totally given over to the Spirit.
2. What does it really mean to be "filled with the Spirit?" Ephesians contains much "fullness language." What is it telling us?
 - a. **Eph. 1:23; 3:19; 4:10**
 - b. This letter tells us to be filled with Christ, to come to the fullness of God, and to be filled with the HS.
 - c. Perhaps our conclusion concerning being filled with the HS in 5:18 is to understand it in terms of *the Spirit's mediating the fullness of God and Christ to the believers*.

GRAMMAR AND GOD: "BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT."

The verb is *imperative*; i.e., it is a *command*.

1. The verb is *plural*.

- a. The exhortation has primarily to do with community life.
- b. Their *worship* is transformed: "*sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves....*"
- c. Their *hearts* are transformed: "*making melody in your hearts to the Lord.*"
- d. Their *attitudes* are transformed: "*always give thanks for everything to God the Father.*"
- e. Their *relationships* are transformed: "*submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.*"

2. The verb is *present tense*.

- a. This command is relevant to all believers throughout the whole of their lives.

3. This command is also *passive*.

- a. Being passive toward the Spirit means being yielded, surrendered, and available.

4. The mere fact that we are commanded to be filled implies that a Christian faces the danger of running "low" (but never empty!).

HOW MAY I BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT?

1. *Keep a clean heart.*

Eph 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. NIV

2. *Pray for it.*

Luke 11:11-13 Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? 12 Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? 13 If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him! NIV

3. *Walk in step with the HS.*

Gal 5:25 Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. NIV

4. *Thirst after Jesus!*

John 7:37-39 On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. 38 Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him." 39 By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. NIV

5. *Follow Jesus.*

Rev 7:17 For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. NIV

6. *Always live to overcome.*

Rev 21:6-7 He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. 7 He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son. NIV

THE SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE APPLIED: Ephesians 5-6

I. The reasons for being filled with the Spirit

A. Obedience to God

B. Obligation to God

a) Worship life

b) Wedded life

- c) Work life
 - d) War life
 - e) Witness life
- C. Opportunity before God
- II. The requirements for being filled with the Spirit
- A. Complete commitment
 - B. Continual control
- III. The results of being filled with the Spirit
- A. Spirit of adoration
 - B. Spirit of appreciation
 - C. Spirit of accommodation

WHAT ARE THE BLESSINGS OF BEING FILLED BY THE SPIRIT?

- IV. There are at least 21 blessings bestowed upon that Christian who allows the Holy Spirit to control his or her life.
- A. He will pray for us** (Rom 8:26). (See also Eph 6:18; Jude 1:20.)
 - B. He will lead and guide us** (John 16:13; Acts 8:29; 13:2; Rom 8:14).
 - C. He will empower us for witnessing** (Acts 1:8).
 - D. He will comfort us** (Acts 9:31).
 - E. He will give us liberty and freedom** (Rom 8:2; 1 Cor 3:17).
 - F. He will impart the love of Christ through us** (Rom 5:5).
 - G. He will conform us to the image of Christ** (1 Cor 3:18).
 - H. He will strengthen our new natures** (Eph 3:16).
 - I. He will teach us** (John 14:26; 15:26; 1 Cor 2:10; 1 Jn 2:20, 27).
 - J. He will assure us** (Rom 8:16; 1 Jn 3:24).
 - K. He will fill our mouths with appropriate things** (Mark 13:11).
 - L. He will give us peace and joy** (Rom 14:17).
 - M. He will cause us to abound in hope** (Rom 15:13; Gal 5:5).
 - N. He will unify us** (Eph 4:3).
 - O. He will bestow upon us abundant grace** (Jas 4:5-6).
 - P. He will promote us in due time** (Jas 4:10).
 - Q. He will help in our decision making** (Acts 15:28).
 - R. He will keep us from legalism** (Gal 5:18).
 - S. He will give us victory over the world** (1 Jn 4:4).
 - T. He will give us victory over the flesh** (Gal 5:16).
 - U. He will give us victory over the devil** (Jas 4:7).