

The Inner Anointing: The Spirit-Filled Life

Memorize Ephesians 5:18

And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit.

1. According to 1 Corinthians 15:31:

How often are we to die to sin & the old nature? _____

What do you think Paul meant by that? _____

According to Ephesians 5:18, what are we **not** to be drunk with?

According to Ephesians 5:18, what **are** we to be drunk with?

According to Acts 2:13, what were the disciples accused of being?

2. The idea of being *filled* in Ephesians 5:18 has two ideas attached to it:

- To be filled means *to be filled to overflowing*—in other words: to have more than you can handle! Can you imagine having so much of God in you that He just spilled out every time you moved or spoke. You would just *ooze* Jesus! That is where God wants us to be—so filled with Him, that no matter what we were doing, He would come out. That is His plan for us—*every disciple!*
- To be filled also means *to be under the control of*. When we think of someone *under the influence of alcohol*, we think of someone not under their own control. They are drunk! With the Holy Spirit it is the same. When we are filled with the Spirit we are under His control, under His influence! ***We are not in control any more.*** Now this is very difficult for most believers. They just want to be in control. Who rules in your life today? Does Jesus? Does He control you? Does the Lord set the agenda? Does He make the choices? Does He do the living? Sadly, the answer all too often is ***No!*** It is no wonder that we live in defeat and despair.

3. The life lived in the flesh is empty and fruitless. But the Spirit-filled life is vibrant and powerful. Read Ephesians 5:18-21.

From verse 19, what should we be doing in our hearts? _____

From verse 20, what should we be giving to God? _____

From verse 21, what should we do with each other? _____

4. There are three attitudes that permeate the heart of a person who is filled with the Spirit:

• **Joy.** The Spirit puts a bounce in your step and a song in your heart. What melody is in your heart today? Are you complaining, unhappy, discouraged, depressed, or defeated? If so, you are *not under the Spirit's control!* One of the signs that you are filled with the Spirit is that you have a song in your heart. Read Acts 16:25-26.

Where were Paul & Silas? _____

What did they do? _____

What did God do? _____

What does that tell you? _____

• **Thankfulness.** The second attitude a Spirit-filled person has is thankfulness. We live in a world of ungrateful people who seem to always want more. It is always the nature of the flesh to demand more. When the Spirit of the Lord is in control there is a sense of contentment—a calm, relaxed, and peaceful attitude. It is faith in action to live with contentment. Note that Paul says we are to give thanks to God *for all things*. Does he really mean *all*? Yes!

A thankful heart does not have time to condemn and judge others. There is a sense of gratefulness that permeates the heart of a Spirit-filled person that results in actions towards others that is consistent with the nature of God. Read Matthew 18:21-35.

Was the first servant thankful? _____

What was the master's reaction to his actions? _____

Do you have a thankful heart? Are you showing mercy and grace to others the way God has shown you?

• **Submission.** The third attitude of a Spirit-filled disciple is submission. This is the most maligned, misunderstood, and hated attitude in all of Scripture! Submission is the life-style of the Spirit and is best described in Matthew 8:5-10.

What was the man's nationality & rank? _____

What was his need? _____

What was Jesus going to do? _____

What was the centurion's response? _____

How did Jesus describe the centurion? _____

He knew how to be *under* authority—he understood submission. It takes faith to be submissive. God has called each of us to submit to Him and then to be submissive to each other. This attitude is essential in the Kingdom because there can be only one head, one leader, one authority and that is Jesus! Imagine the chaos that would ensue if everyone wanted his or her own way!

5. The **character** of a person who is Spirit-filled is listed in Galatians 5:22, *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance.*

Paul here lists the character qualities that should be residing in the life of a Spirit-filled person. Note that it is **fruit** not **fruits**. To some degree they should **all** be present since the word fruit is singular. But fruit does not grow immediately; it takes time for fruit to develop and ripen. This verse actually is the goal of the Spirit-filled life. Whereas the gifts of the Spirit might manifest themselves very early in the life of a believer, the fruit of the Spirit is developed over the long haul. **Character is the sum total of a person's insignificant choices over a lifetime.** It should be the goal of every Christian to walk in the Spirit so that the character of Jesus will be developed. Here are the characteristics of a Spirit-filled Christian:

- **Love.** The quality of wanting and doing what is best for others. Jesus demonstrated love by giving Himself for us *while we yet sinners (Rom. 5:8)*!
- **Joy.** The quality of deep contentment. Never having to demand anything ever again.
- **Peace.** The quality of certainty that God is in control. There is absolutely nothing hindering your walk and communion with the Lord.
- **Longsuffering.** The quality of enduring hardships or differences without wavering or giving up. God puts up with a great deal of garbage from us without ever giving up on us!
- **Gentleness.** The quality of graceful treatment of others. There is no harshness or condemnation.
- **Goodness.** The quality of being like God. To be good in that we do what God would do—we live righteously.
- **Faith.** The quality of believing God for everything. The ability to trust God no matter what others do or say, and to believe when there seems no reason to trust.
- **Meekness.** The quality of controlled power. To act in the appropriate way at the appropriate time. Jesus demonstrated meekness by controlling His power. He chased the money-changers out of the Temple and He let the adulterous woman with only a command to stop sinning.
- **Temperance.** The quality of self control. Doing what is right because it is right takes self control.

6. ***How to be filled with the Spirit***

- ***Believe that God wants you be filled.***

It is God's command and will for your life that the Spirit control you moment by moment. You must believe Him first.

- ***Repent of walking in the flesh.***

Read Galatians 5:17. When you live in the flesh you are actually at war with God. You are in ***rebellion!*** Repent. Ask God to forgive you—He is waiting to see you throw up the white flag and submit to Him.

- ***Ask God to fill you.***

James 4:2 says, “*yet ye have not, because ye ask not.*” It is a simple matter of faith. Remember when you were saved? Did you not just simply believe and ask? Colossians 2:6 states, “*As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him.*” Get on your knees right now and pray the following prayer:

Lord, I know You want to control me. I now relinquish all rights to my life. I have rebelled by being controlled by my flesh and I choose now to submit to the Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit fill me to overflowing. Control me and develop the character of Jesus in me. Thank you.

- ***Believe God filled you.***

Read 2 Corinthians 5:7. How are we to walk? _____

You will be challenged by the devil to believe that you are not filled. Don't listen to Him. He is a liar! God does not lie and He will honor your faith and fill you with His Spirit. Expect to be attacked and ***to have victory!!***

This inner anointing of the Spirit is the development of the character of Christ in you. The outer anointing is the power of God working through you in ministering to others through spiritual gifts.