

CALL to PRAYER - Pray that we would be a Christ centered, Spirit filled, God honoring church.

## **Ephesian 5:18 - Under the Influence of.....**

Intro - The Bible is a big book. It covers eternity past to eternity future and everything in between. It unfolds the history of the world & the history of redemption while revealing fallen man's only Redeemer. The Scripture contains God's revelation of Himself, and it is a repository of truth and of Him who is the Way, Truth & Life. We can sometimes become intimidated by the Bible's size and the concepts it teaches. Some terms can seem mysterious and somewhat mystic to us. Such is the phrase in our text today. The command for believers to "*be filled with the Spirit*" might at first glance seem a little mystical ... but in reality, it is really very practical. It is profound to be sure, but it is also profoundly simple and there is simply no other way to live victoriously as Christian but to be continually filled with the Holy Spirit. My intent today is to try and de-mystify *being filled with the Spirit*. This *filling* is not something only some special class of Christian can attain. It is basic for every believer, and as basic as breathing, but it does require much discipline. We are all *filling* our lives with something, and that *filling* dictates our living. As the redeemed people of God, we are to be *filled* with the Spirit so we can walk in the Spirit <sup>Gal. 5:16-26</sup> as we are being led by the Spirit <sup>Rom. 8:14</sup>. *The filling of the Spirit - What it is and what it isn't.*

### **FILLING OF THE SPIRIT - WHAT IT ISN'T**

- God has revealed Himself as a Triune God - One God in Three distinct Persons
  - There is but one living and true God <sup>John 17:3</sup> Father, Son & Spirit (WSC - Q. 6.)
- We understand the Three Persons from God's revelation and in His works of creation & redemption
  - Creation - Gen. 1:1-2 Gen. 1:26
  - Redemption - The distinct roles of each Person of the Trinity in the plan of salvation.
    - FATHER - Election SON - Redemption SPIRIT - Application
- The Holy Spirit takes the decree of the Father & work of Son and applies it to the sinner.
  - Regeneration (new birth) John 3:5-6
  - Baptism of the Spirit - Mark 1:8
    - EVERY BELIEVER has been baptized *by/with/in* the Spirit - 1 Cor. 12:13
  - Sealing of the Spirit - Eph. 4:30
  - Indwelling of the Spirit - 1 Cor. 3:16 Rom. 8:9
- EVERY BELIEVER has undergone these gracious works of the Holy Spirit of God
  - These are NOT the *filling of the Spirit* - Those who have been born of the Spirit... & baptized in the Spirit... & sealed by the Spirit...& indwelt by the Spirit are commanded to be filled with the Spirit. Eph. 5:18

### **FILLING OF THE SPIRIT - WHAT IT IS**

- The filling of the Spirit is the continuous/daily process of being empowered /influenced by the Holy Spirit so the believer can live in the Spirit & produce the fruit of the Spirit
  - It is our participation in the Spirit's sanctification of our lives.
  - We are to be consistently & actively *being filled with the Holy Spirit*.

- The Holy Spirit is the only power available for a believer to live a Christian life
  - Acts 1:8                      Zech. 4:6
  - People filled by the Spirit were enabled to:
    - build buildings<sup>Ex. 31:3ff</sup>, win battles<sup>Judges 15:14-15</sup>, speak boldly<sup>Acts 4:31</sup>,
    - live righteously<sup>Acts 6:3</sup>, have discernment<sup>Luke 1:41; Acts 13:10-11</sup>, die well<sup>Acts 7:55</sup>
  - All the activities of life were lived out in the Spirit's power and influence.
- The word "spirit" has the meaning of *breath* or *wind*. (Greek - PNEUMA - pneumatic tools)
  - We must constantly breathe to live. (Acts 17:25) We must FILL our lungs to live.
    - If you have ever been short of breath, you know the threat to life that is
  - As humans we have a spirit that enlivens our bodies. (James 2:26a)
    - The Holy Spirit is the *breath* that gives life to our Christian walk.
  - "Spirit" also means "wind"
    - Why do windsurfers fly high at Lake Hefner while I am stuck on the ground? They are harnessing an available wind...and I am not
- How is the believer to be filled with Spirit?
  - Harness the wind and breathe the air.                      Fill your life with Biblical things
    - Wind farms are built where the wind current is strong.
    - You can't fly a kite sitting at home on the couch
  - This is so practical - if you want to be filled with the Spirit then you need to fill your life with spiritual things and godly influences. (Be where the Spirit is strong)
  - Eph. 5:18                      Negative analogy to drunkenness - a drunk is under the influence
    - A Christian is to be under the influence of a different spirit - Holy Spirit
  - But hooooow?                      Eph. 5:18-21
    - Speak and sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs - 5:19
    - Give thanks for all things to the Triune God -                      5:20
    - Submit to one another in the fear of Christ                      5:21
    - Parallel passage in Col. 3:16
      - *filled with Spirit* = "*word of Christ dwell in you richly*"
  - The believer is to saturate his life in scripture (Ps. 1:2) marinate in godly music<sup>Eph. 5</sup>, conversate about spiritual things<sup>Col. 4:6</sup> Permeate his mind with pure things<sup>Phil 4:8</sup>
    - The believer is commanded to be filled with the Spirit
    - This is not mystical - it is very practical.                      constantly breathing in Biblical truths
    - We are to be under the influence....of the Spirit
- What are you FILLING your life with?
  - *Influencers* are all the rage in our society. If you are constantly absorbing the worlds: message/news/music - then you will be filled with the spirit of the age not Spirit of Christ
  - Christian become ineffective because they are filling their life with the wrong influencers.                      Breathing in toxic air or holding their "spiritual breath"
  - You are living your life by what is influencing you most.
    - YOU "FILLING" DICTATES YOUR LIVING
  - As a believer....don't hold your breath....fill your life with Spirit of God
    - Breathe deep...lift your sail... be filled with The Spirit so you can walk in the Spirit as you are being led by Spirit and bear the fruit of the Spirit