

“Be filled with the Spirit” (Eph. 5:18)

This workshop, based on Ephesians 5:18, addresses what it means to be filled with the Holy Spirit, how to yield yourself to the Holy Spirit, and how to continue to be filled by the Holy Spirit. We will examine steps we can go through to prepare ourselves to be filled by the Holy Spirit, such as reading the Bible, obeying, and yielding to the Spirit. We will also examine what would happen if we were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

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Ephesians 5:18: “And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit . . .” (ESV)

Suggested definition:

To be filled with the Holy Spirit is to be filled with the immediate presence of God himself, and it therefore will result in feeling what God feels, desiring what God desires, doing what God wants, speaking by God's power, praying and ministering in God's strength, and knowing with the knowledge which God himself gives.

I. But how? How do you do that?

- A. It doesn't “just happen” to some people and not to others.
- B. It's not automatic or magical
- C. 2 Chronicles 16:9 -- “For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to give strong support to those whose heart is blameless toward him.”

II. What can we do to be filled w/ HS?

A. Ask: Luke 11:9-13

B. Spend time in presence of the Holy Spirit: Romans 8:5

C. Read the Bible and obey it

1. Ephesians 4:30: "And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption."
2. James 1:22: "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."
3. John 14:23: Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him."
 - a) [Obedience is part of God's purpose in choosing us: Eph 1:4 that we should be holy and blameless before him.

(1) Therefore to be "wise" (Eph 5:15) and to "understand what the will of the Lord is" (vs. 17) is to be obedient to his word, to be "imitators of God, as beloved children" (Eph 5:1).] [see also God's plan to sum up all things in Christ (1:9-10) and to form a people who will bear his likeness (4:24)

D. Yield

- Yield your life to the influence and direction of HS

Romans 8:14: "all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God"

By contrast: if filled w/ HS, the HS will direct and guide you

Verb is passive: " be filled w/ HS"

- a) Doesn't say: "fill yourself w/ HS"
- b) There is a yielding, a receiving, a giving up of control of your life to him

Not to sin, not to disobey his Word - he may convict us of sin, ask us to change something in our lives

E. Wait.

- Acts 1:4 And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me; 5 for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with¹ the Holy Spirit not many days from now."
- Psalm 27:14 Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!
- Psalm 37:7 Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him;
- Psalm 62:1 For God alone my soul waits in silence; from him comes my salvation.
- Psalm 130:5 I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope; 6 my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning.

F. Then keep on being filled w/ HS:

1. Eph 5:18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but [keep on being] filled with the Spirit,

G. I don't think there are many people today who are continually filled w/ HS.

1. Acts 6:3 Therefore, brothers,¹ pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit,
2. Acts 11:24 [Barnabas] he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith.

H. What would happen if we were filled w/ HS and continued to be filled w/ HS?

III. Paul mentions some results in vss 19-21:

A. Ephesians 5:19 [spiritual counsel and edifying praise:] addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, [worship of God:] singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart, 20 [constant attitude of thanksgiving:] giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, 21 [humility and submission to those in authority:] submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

IV. Other results:

A. Victory over demonic opposition: (Eph 6:10-18)

1. Matthew 12:28 But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

B. More spiritual gifts will be evident in life of church:

1. 1 Corinthians 12:11 All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

C. More revelation of God's will in specific circumstances:

1. Ephesians 1:17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him,

2. Galatians 5:16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

3. Galatians 5:25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

D. Greater holiness of life, changed lives:

1. Romans 8:13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.
2. Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control;

V. You will know these in your heart, you will see them in others

A. Many more wonderful answers to prayer:

1. Ephesians 2:18 For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.
2. Ephesians 6:18 praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,
3. Romans 8:26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. 27 And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because¹ the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

B. Amazingly fruitful ministries:

1. All effectiveness in ministry comes from HS: Zechariah 4:6 “Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the LORD of hosts.”

C. Great peace in our hearts:

1. Romans 8:6 To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.
2. Ephesians 5:18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but [continually] be filled with the Spirit,