

"Be Filled With the Holy Spirit"

**A Bible Study on the Command of
Ephesians 5:18**

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1. Read Ephesians 5:18 through 6:9, noting this outline as you read and study:

I. The Command: be filled with the Spirit versus being drunk with wine (5: 18)

II. The manifestations that show a person is filled with the Spirit (5:19-21)

A. Such a person sings with the congregation to the Lord, singing to help his fellow believers and to glorify and please the Lord, and singing from the heart (5: 19)

B. Such a person gives thanks for all things to God the Father through Jesus Christ (5:20)

C. Such a person is submissive to those God's Word commands him to be submissive to (5:21)

1. Read Ephesians 5:18 through 6:9, noting this outline as you read and study: (cont'd)

III. Submission to those God commands us to be submissive to-this is specified (5:22 through 6:9)

A. Wives to husbands while the husbands love their wives (5:22-33)

B. Children to parents while fathers bring the children up in the teaching and discipline of the Lord (6: 1-4)

C. Servants to masters while the masters give considerate leadership (employees and employers???) (6: 5-9)

Those filled with the Spirit show this by obedience to these commands!

**2. Read Colossians 3: 16 through 4:1,
comparing it to Ephesians 5:18 through 6:9, as
follows:**

Ephesians 5:18 compared to Colossians 3:16a
Ephesians 5:19 compared to Colossians 3:16b
Ephesians 5 :20 compared to Colossians 3: 17
Ephesians 5:21 through 6:9 compared to
Colossians 3:18 through 4:1

From Colossians' parallelism to Ephesians, we see
that being filled with God's Word is the same as
being filled with the Holy Spirit.

3. Being "filled" means being "controlled":

a. This is seen from the contrast between being drunk with wine and being filled with the Spirit in Ephesians 5: 18. Being drunk differs from drinking wine in that a person drinks too much and is controlled by the alcohol. We are to be so filled with God's Word that the Holy Spirit controls us by conforming us to the Word. This same contrast is seen in Acts 2:4, 12-17.

b. This meaning of "filled" as "controlled" is seen also in the use of the same word to speak of being filled with envy, jealousy, anger, fear, etc. People are so envious or jealous or angry or fearful that they let these emotional qualities control them in a sinful way. See for examples: Luke 5:26; Luke 4:28; Acts 13:45. *We are to be filled or controlled by the Spirit using the Word in our hearts instead!*

4. How to be "filled" or "controlled" by God's Word, by the Holy Spirit:

a. Ask God to fill you with the Holy Spirit, praying with faith because this is God's revealed will for all Christians, Take Ephesians 5:18 with I John 5:14-15. Do not wait to FEEL different before you believe and act on being FILLED. Take this by faith. Since God commands you to be filled, it is His will for you. If it is His will for you, He will give you the Spirit's control, the control of the Word, if you ask Him for it.

b. Read and study God's Word, the entire Bible. Read and study God's Word as an individual and with the family each day, and every Lord's Day with the gathered Church. Hide it in your heart, asking the Holy Spirit to use it to renew your mind and your heart and your life. Pray this daily, and throughout the day, with faith.

APPLICATION:

Are you filled with the Holy Spirit?

Are you filled with God's Word (the Scriptures)?

Is this seen by your heart and mouth recognizing God's promises in public worship?

Is this seen by you giving thanks to God in all circumstances?

Is this seen by you, as a husband loving your wife, or as a wife submitting to your husband, or by you as a parent rearing your children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord, or by you as a child obeying your parents, or by you as an employer or boss treating those under you well, or by you as a worker following the lawful rules of your boss?

Being filled with the Holy Spirit is more than words or strong emotions!

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