

“Be Filled With The Spirit” Delivered by Ed Terry June 14 2020

2nd Samuel 23: 1 – 7; Galatians 5: 16 – 26; Colossians 3: 1 – 17; **Ephesians 5: 18 – 21 (Sermon)**

Our focal scripture is part of an overall teaching that Christians are to ***“Following God’s example”***. (Ephesians 5:1)

Then The Apostle Paul gives us several ways that we as Christians are to follow God’s example.

We follow God’s example by walking in love (Ephesians 5:1); walking in light (Ephesians 5:8); walking in wisdom (Ephesians 5:15); and walking in The Spirit. (Ephesians 5:18)

Verse 18 states ***“Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.”***

Please note this is a command that is given to us.

As Christians we all have a responsibility to be filled with The Spirit.

Being filled with The Spirit is not optional and we all will be held accountable to obey this command and every other command given to us.

Secondly, this command is in the plural form’ so it is given to the entire body of Christ.

Thirdly, the command to be filled with The Spirit is in the passive voice.

The New English Bible translates this command this way; ***“Let the Holy Spirit fill you.”***

Fourthly, it is in the present tense meaning being filled is not a one-time experience, we are to continuously be filled with The Spirit.

Exactly what does it mean to be filled with The Spirit.

Being filled with The Spirit means every aspect of our life is under The Holy Spirit’s leading and control.

We voluntarily yield all of our thoughts, our words, and our actions to The Holy Spirit.

We voluntarily yield our all of our time and our possessions to The Holy Spirit.

The parallel passage to our focal scripture, ***“be filled with the Spirit.”*** is in Colossians 3.

Colossians 3:16 says, ***“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly”***.

So, to be filled with The Spirit is to be filled with The Word of God.

As we are filled with God's Word, God's word controls our thinking and our action, and we thereby come more and more under the Spirit's control.

To be filled with the Spirit involves confessing our sins, repenting, surrendering our will, our intellect, our body, our time, our talents, our possessions, and our desires to The Lord.

Being filled with the Spirit requires the death of selfishness and the slaying of self-will.

When we die to self, The Lord fills us with His Spirit.

Being filled with the Spirit means we are totally committed to live a life pleasing to Almighty God.

1st Corinthians 6:19 & 20 says; ***“Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your bodies.”***

Being filled with the Spirit is **not** about you getting more of the Spirit, but rather the Spirit getting more of you.

When you first asked Jesus to save you from the penalty of your sins you were given **all** of The Holy Spirit; not just part of the Holy Spirit.

The question is; *when will The Holy Spirit get **all** of you?*

Being filled with The Spirit is **not** same as being born of The Spirit.

John 1:12 says; ***“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:***

Being filled with the Spirit is **not** the same as the baptism of the Holy Spirit, because every Christian receives the baptism of The Holy Spirit at the moment of their conversion to Christianity.

1st Corinthians 12:13 says; ***“For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit”.***

Baptism is a one-time experience which places you in the body of Christ.

Baptism means identification with Jesus or that I belong to the Body of Christ.

Being filled with The Spirit is **not** the same as possessing, or being indwelt by The Holy Spirit. Jesus promised The Indwelling Holy Spirit to every believer.

Jesus said; ***“If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever, the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you”.*** (John 14: 15- 17)

Bible teacher John MacArthur lists several additional things that are **not** meant by being filled with The Spirit.

Being filled with the Spirit is **not** a dramatic experience subsequent to salvation advancing a Christian into some higher state of spirituality.

Being filled with The Spirit does **not** describe a process of progressively receiving The Holy Spirit by degrees or in doses.

Being filled with The Spirit is not the same as being sealed by The Holy Spirit.

Christians are never commanded to be sealed, indwelt, or baptized by The Spirit. The only command directed to Christians is to be filled with the Spirit.

The question now becomes how are Christians filled with the Spirit?

A person is filled with something.

You are either filled with good or evil, filled with a desire for physical blessings or spiritual blessings, filled with selfish ambitions or filled with concern for other people.

Ephesians 5:18 contrasted being filled with alcohol and being filled with The Spirit.

“Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.”

When a person has too much alcohol, they are uninhibited, they are not rational, and they will do things they would not normally do.

Too much alcohol changes you in a negative way.

When you are controlled by the influence of the Holy Spirit, you are changed in a positive way.

Listen as I read Romans 1:28-30 ***“Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done. They have become FILLED with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents.”***

“Filled with every kind of wickedness” sounds like the 6 o’clock news we hear every night.

When people do not know about the love of God, the forgiveness Jesus offers, and / or the power of The Holy Spirit they will be filled with every kind ***“of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity”***.

The New English Bible translates ***“be filled with the Spirit.”*** this way; ***“Let The Holy Spirit fill you.”***

You see there is no technique to learn and no formula to recite.

We choose to let The Holy Spirit fill us by humbly confessing and repenting of our sins, by seeking The Lord and His will for our life, and trusting in God's transforming power.

Remember the parallel passage in Colossians does not read; ***“Let the Spirit fill you”*** but rather ***“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly”*** (3:16).

We must never attempt to separate The Spirit and The Word. To obey The Word and to surrender to The Spirit are virtually identical.

In Ephesians 5: 19 – 21 we read about the evidences of being filled with The Spirit.

The first evidence of being filled with the Spirit is fellowship.

In verse 19a we read; ***“addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs.”***

This does not mean that Christians should stop speaking to one another and to start singing to one another.

The context is public worship, and it is specifically a reference to Christian fellowship in the context of public worship.

An example of mutual exhortation is Psalm 95:1–2, ***“Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!”***

Another evidence of being filled with the Spirit is worship.

Verse 19b says ***“singing and making melody to The Lord with your heart.”***

Christians who are filled with the Spirit *have “a song of joy in their hearts, and Spirit-filled public worship is a joyful celebration of God’s mighty acts.”*

Worship is not confined to 11 am on Sunday mornings.

Worship is to be a way of life.

We worship God by the way we talk and act.

We are either worshipping The Lord or we are worshipping Satan.

The third evidence of being filled with the Spirit is gratitude.

In verse 20 we read; ***“giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”***

Christians who are filled with the Spirit do not grumble; instead, they are filled with gratitude.

A grumbling spirit is not compatible with being filled with The Holy Spirit.

Grumbling was one of the Israel's sins.

Exodus 16:7-9 tells us the children of Israel were constantly grumbling against The Lord.

A spirit filled person does not complain about hardships, rather, a spirit filled person trusts The Lord and believes God's promises.

A spirit filled person can and always gives thanks to God because we know that God loves us and that God always does what is best for us.

A spirit filled person knows that God can turn any and all situation into our good.

Romans 8:28 says; ***“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose”.***

You see we praise God for who God is, not for the situation.

Another evidence of being filled with the Spirit is submission (5:21) ***“submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.”***

Christians who are filled with the Spirit listen to one another, serve one another, help one another, and are not aggressive or self-centered.

The Holy Spirit is a humble Spirit, and those who are filled with The Spirit exhibit the characteristics of The Holy Spirit.

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law”. (Galatians 5:22-23)

God's word to us today challenges each of us to ask ourselves; *what is my life filled with?*

You see if your life is filled with worldly pleasures and /or selfishness there is no room for the filling of The Holy Spirit.

Remember ***“be filled with the spirit”*** and ***“let the word of Christ dwell in you richly”*** are commands given to all Christians.

So, the question for each of us is; *am I going to be an obedient Christian?*

My prayer is that all of us will choose to make the filling of The Holy Spirit a top priority for us each and every day.

AMEN