

INTRODUCTION

We resume our series through the book of Ephesians studying it verse after verse. We took a little break during August to talk about death and dying. Actually, we stopped our series right in the middle of a verse. The last Sunday in July I talked to you about "Don't Be Drunk with Wine." Then we stopped and we will pick up right there. The real point of Ephesians 5:18 really doesn't have as much to do with intoxication with wine as it has to do with "Intoxication by the Holy Spirit." The apostle, Paul, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit says, "Do not get drunk on wine which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit." When it comes to the filling of the Holy Spirit there is a lot of ignorance and a lot of fear about this. I grew up in a Baptist Church and I didn't understand much about the ministry of the Holy Spirit until I got to college. I thought it was just another name for God, like "Almighty One" or "Creator," "Holy Spirit." It wasn't until I was in college that I came to understand that the Holy Spirit is the precious third person of the godhead coeternal and coexistent with God, the Father God, the Son and God, the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit has a specific ministry and he has a personality. I used to make the insulting mistake of calling the Holy Spirit "it." When Jesus spoke of the Holy Spirit, he said, "When he, the Spirit of Truth, is come he will guide you into all truth." I didn't give the Holy Spirit a personality. That would be as insulting as if my wife were here next to me and you invited me to go have lunch with you and you said, "Oh, by the way 'it' can come too?" That's insulting. Don't insult the Holy Spirit; he has a personality. He has a ministry. I think sometimes as mainline Christians or as Baptists, we are a little bit afraid of the Holy Spirit, because some people have taken it to the extreme. We learned from Ephesians 4, that a true charismatic church in the true Biblical sense is simply a church where the gifts of the Spirit are operating. If "charismatic" is the center, you have some who are into "charis mania" and you have some who are into "charis phobia." I like what Vance Havner said. "Some people are so afraid of getting out on a limb with the Holy Spirit that they don't even get near the tree." In other words maybe fear or ignorance has kept some people from understanding the wonderful ministry of the Holy Spirit. I think it's because some people have taken it to the extreme and they emphasize it to the loss of other true Bible doctrine. If truth is central and its essence when it's at its central point, you move a little bit to one side and you have emphasis. Move a little bit more and you have extremism and if you move too far, you have error. You can take a Biblical truth and turn it into error if your truth is not balanced with the whole word of God. I think it is because we have seen some groups who have gone into "wildfire" that we have settled for "no fire." I think too many Christians are ignorant of the meaning of the filling of the Holy Spirit. So, this morning I simply want to answer two questions. "What is the filling of the Holy Spirit?" and number two "How can I be filled with the Holy Spirit?"

When I was at seminary in Louisville, Kentucky, one of the very first weddings I ever did was not in a church; it was actually to marry a young lady I worked with at the airport. I remember the rehearsal, because I hadn't spent a whole lot of time around a lot of intoxicated people. I remember the father of the bride very distinctly, because he was very quiet and withdrawn. At the rehearsal I said, "All you have to say when I say, 'Who gives this woman to be married to this man?' You say, 'Her mother and I.'" At the rehearsal he could hardly get it out. There was a lot of "Er...umm...uuh...What am I supposed to say?" I don't think I had ever met a guy who

was as shy and timid as this man was. We went to the "after rehearsal dinner." It was at some club and they had two punch bowls. They had the "preacher" punch bowl and they had the punch bowl for everybody else. This other one was highly spiked and the father of the bride must have had a dozen cups from that punch bowl and he was transformed. This timid man suddenly became very bold, very outgoing and gregarious. This quiet man suddenly became very vocal. He put his arm around me and told me all his "war stories" from WWII like I was his long lost buddy. He was totally transformed! What happens to a Christian who is under the influence of the Holy Spirit? Timid people become bold. If you don't have the courage to witness to people, when you are filled with the Holy Spirit, you will witness. You will have a holy boldness. If you are quiet and think you can never talk to anybody about the Lord, when you are filled with the Holy Spirit, you will have the power to be a witness. Jesus said, "You will receive power after the Holy Ghost has come upon you. You will be my witnesses. You'll testify." People who are greedy become generous. "The drinks are on me tonight." Carnal Christians are greedy, but when they are filled with the Spirit suddenly they become generous. It's "under the influence."

There are only two kinds of people: Lost and saved. Christians and non-Christians, but among Christians, the New Testament says there are two kind of Christians, carnal Christians (which means they are operating on the basis of their flesh) and Spirit-filled Christians. Are you filled with the Spirit? The answer is either "Yes," "No," or "I don't know."

I. WHAT IS THE "FILLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?"

1. The filling of the Spirit is being "under the influence" of the Spirit NOT being indwelt by the Spirit

In answer to the first question, I want to make six contrasting statements to teach you according to the scriptures "What is the filling of the Holy Spirit?" Here's truth number one. The filling of the Holy Spirit is being "under the influence" of the Spirit NOT being indwelt by the Spirit. You may think every Christian is filled with the Holy Spirit all the time. No, you are indwelt by the Holy Spirit constantly, but you may not be filled with the Holy Spirit. Paul commands these Christians in Ephesus to be filled with the Holy Spirit. On repeated occasions in the book of Acts, he talks about how the Christians who are already indwelt by the Holy Spirit were filled with the Holy Spirit. Again it says "the same ones were filled with the Holy Spirit."

It's not the same as being indwelt. When you became a Christian, the Holy Spirit did come to take up residence in you to represent the Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit will never leave you. You may have been filled with the Spirit when you first were indwelt by the Spirit but many, many Christians today are not filled with the Holy Spirit. It's not the same as being indwelt. I use that phrase "under the influence" intentionally, because what do you think of when I say "under the influence"? You think of somebody who is drunk, don't you? Why do you think the apostle, Paul, when he made this statement did not say, "Don't steal, but be filled with the Spirit?" Why didn't he say, "Don't commit adultery, but be filled with the Spirit"? Why did he say, "Don't be drunk with wine, be filled with the Spirit"? It's because there is both a comparison and a contrast between being "drunk with wine" and being "filled with the Spirit." There are some similarities.

In Acts 2, on the Day of Pentecost when the Bible says, the disciples in the Upper Room were all filled with the Holy Spirit and, "They spoke in tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance and then they went out on the streets and began to testify and to witness and began to preach." The onlookers said, "These people are drunk! They are drunk with wine!" Peter had to defend them. He said, "No, they're not drunk as you suppose." Meaning they're not drunk on wine, but, "Yes, they are intoxicated by the Spirit." When you are filled with the Spirit, you are under the influence of the Spirit.

2. The filling of the Spirit is a command for all Christians NOT an option for only a few

Number two. The filling of the Holy Spirit is a command for all Christians not an option for only a few. It is a command! Ephesians 5:18 says, "Be filled with the Spirit." That is the Greek word, *pleroo*, it is in the imperative sense, which means it is an absolute command; it is plural. It means all of you be filled with the Holy Spirit. It is the passive voice which means it is something that is done to you and it is the present tense which means it is something that happens continually over and over again. It is a command! "All of you be filled with the Spirit." Sometimes we think, "The filling of the Spirit that's necessary for preachers I want my preacher to be filled. It's necessary for evangelists. Lord, fill Luis Palau, with your Holy Spirit. Lord, fill our missionaries with your Holy Spirit." But for the common, ordinary, in the pew Christian we say, "I don't really need it it's like an option on an automobile, I can take it or leave it." Wrong! It is a command for all Christians. This is a yes or no question: If there is a clear command in the word of God and you do not obey it, is that sin? Yes or No? I believe if there is a clear command in the word of God and you don't obey it, it's sin; it's disobedience. This is a command "Be filled with the Spirit."

Some of you are proud, because you're not an adulterer or thief or liar. If you are not filled with the Holy Spirit, you are in sin against God. James says, "To him that knows to do good to do right and does it not to him it is sin." I believe it is a worse sin not to be filled with the Holy Spirit than it is to be drunk. I promise you this will never happen, but what if some Sunday I stagger into the pulpit and say, "Open your Bibles" with slurred speech. I'd be fired by 3:00 that afternoon as well I should be. You would be appalled. How awful it would be for a preacher to walk into the pulpit drunk! It's actually more of a tragedy for a preacher to walk into the pulpit not filled with the Holy Spirit than it is for him to walk into the pulpit drunk on wine. Don't you think it would be a tragedy for a Sunday School teacher to try to teach Sunday School drunk? Absolutely! It's a sin for that same Sunday School teacher to teach that Sunday School class not filled with the Holy Spirit. I think it would be awful if somebody sang in the choir or sang a solo drunk on wine. It's just as much a sin for that same person to try to sing not filled with the Holy Spirit. It is an absolute requirement demanded of all Christians, not just a few and it's a sin not to be.

3. The filling of the Spirit is a repeated experience for spiritual employment NOT a one-time experience for self enjoyment

Here's the third statement about the filling of the Holy Spirit: It is a repeated experience for spiritual employment, NOT a one-time experience for self enjoyment. Most of us have friends who are in the Pentecostal or maybe the Neo-Pentecostal movement and I love them, and I can

fellowship with them but I believe they are dead wrong on some of their teaching when they say the baptism in the Holy Spirit is something that takes place after you are saved and as evidence of that you have to speak in tongues. They try to make you feel like you are less than normal. Here you are down here bless your heart you have never gotten in on it and here they are up here on another spiritual plane. They act like it is a one time experience that gives you all kinds of giddy feelings. They are more interested in the feeling that they are the filling.

Have you been reading in the newspapers about this latest trend about the holy laughter revival? Last week in Dallas, hundreds of people gathered at a hotel there and paid \$25 a head just to get in on this holy laughter movement that seems to be going around. It is supposedly associated with the filling of the Holy Spirit. Save your \$25. I love to laugh, but the filling of the Holy Spirit is not to make you feel good. It is to equip you and empower you to serve God. If you are after some kind of a feeling that is the most selfish thing you can be after. It is a repeated experience for spiritual employment.

I cut my teeth on my good old Scofield reference Bible. Dr C. I. Scofield said there is one baptism of the Spirit, many fillings of the Holy Spirit and constant anointing of the Holy Spirit. Yes, if you want to call that initial filling the baptism of the Holy Spirit that John the Baptist promised Jesus would do, that's fine but then that's not all—there must be repeated fillings of the Holy Spirit. The question a lot of people have is "When does it happen?" and they want to say you have to have the same kind of experience they have to have. That is just not biblical.

Take your Bible some time and read Acts, chapters 8-10 and you will find that God is such a God of variety he does it in different ways. In Acts, chapter 8, the Christians at Samaria heard the gospel. Phillip preached it, they were saved and then they were baptized with water, then Peter and John come down from Jerusalem, lay hands on them and they were filled with the Holy Spirit. Do you see the sequence? Salvation water baptism filled with the Spirit. Some people say, "Look, look. Acts, chapter 8. It's a second blessing. You have to have it later on down the road after you are saved." All you have to do is go to Acts chapter 9 and you see a totally different sequence. Saul (who later becomes Paul) is on the way to Damascus. He sees a shining light and God knocks him down. Paul looks up into the face of the Lord and says, "Lord, what do you want me to do?" I think at that moment he put his faith in Jesus. He was blinded. So he was saved. Then, he went into the city. Ananias comes and lays his hands on him and he was filled with the Holy Spirit, then he later was baptized with water. It's a different sequence than Acts, chapter 8: Salvation, filling of the Holy Spirit, then water baptism. If you want to be totally confused, just read Acts, chapter 10, because it's a different sequence there too. Cornelius was at Caesarea when the apostle comes and preaches to them and the Bible says very clearly that they were saved, filled with the Holy Spirit simultaneously and later baptized in water. What am I getting at? In three consecutive chapters you have three totally different sequences. Wake up! Don't try to put God in a box and tell him he has to do it exactly like this. God is a God of variety and just because somebody else has had some kind of experience, don't think you have to have the same.

It's like those three men Jesus healed of blindness. Can you imagine what they would say to us today? "I was blind. Jesus touched me once and I can see and if you want to be right with God you have to be touched once." The second guy steps up and says, "I'm sorry to disagree, but he

is wrong. I was blind. Jesus touched me once and I saw men as trees walking and he touched me twice and now I can see. If you really want to be orthodox, you have to be touched twice. The third guy steps up and says, "I'm sorry to differ with my two friends, but they are both wrong. I was blind. Jesus spit in the dirt, made clay, daubed it on my eyes and told me to go down to the Pool of Siloam and wash it off. If you really want to be right with God, you have to have that kind of experience. Vance Havner said, "If those three guys were around today, we'd have three new churches before Friday. The "once-touched church" the "twice-touched church" and the 'spit in the eye' church." God is such a God of variety don't let somebody else say, "Just because I had this experience, you have to have it" but, for sure, if you read the Bible it is a repeated experience not just a one-time experience.

4. The filling of the Spirit is God receiving more of your surrender NOT you receiving more of God's Spirit

Here's truth number four. The filling of the Holy Spirit is God receiving more of your surrender, not you receiving more of the Spirit. When you come to Jesus Christ, you receive all of God that you will ever receive. He doesn't give the Holy Spirit like a down payment here and then an installment here and there. All you ever receive of God you receive at the point of salvation. You may grow into more surrender. It's like when our daughter was born, she didn't walk for the first 12 months, but when she was a year old, we didn't take her back to the hospital and say, "We're ready for some legs now. We want her to walk." No. She already had all the equipment when she was born. When you come to Christ, you already have everything you'll ever need.

What's the difference? As you grow, God gets more and more of your surrender and you come to the point where you say, "God, I give in to you. I surrender to you." You must be filled with the Holy Spirit if you want the power to serve. Henrietta Mears wrote: "I believe that it is impossible for any Christian to be effective either in this life or in his service unless he is filled with the Holy Spirit who is God's only provision of power. Charles G. Finney wrote this: "Christians are as guilty for not being filled with the Holy Spirit as sinners are for not repenting. They are even more so for as they have more light they are so much more guilty." Have you surrendered everything to the Lord? The question is not, "Have you got the Holy Ghost?" The question is, "Does the Holy Spirit have you?" The question is not "Do you possess the Holy Spirit?" it is "Does He possess you?"

Before the turn of the century, a group of businessmen in New York City were talking about a crusade and whom to invite. One man said, "We need to invite Dwight L. Moody. He is a great evangelist and God is using him." and he was really excited about Dwight L. Moody. There was another man who wasn't so excited about Moody, so he asked sarcastically, "Does Dwight L. Moody have a monopoly on the Holy Spirit?" The reply has a lot of truth in it. The man said, "No Dwight L. Moody does not have a monopoly on the Holy Spirit, but the Holy Spirit has a monopoly on Dwight L. Moody." Have you surrendered totally to the Lord? That's what the filling of the Spirit is. You don't have to say, "God give me more of your Spirit." God is saying to you, "Give me more of your surrender."

5. The filling of the Spirit is expressed in the fruit of the Spirit NOT in speaking in tongues

Here's truth number five. The filling of the Holy Spirit is expressed in the fruit of the Spirit NOT in speaking in tongues. I say that because there is a lot of error going around that says, "When you are filled with the Holy Spirit you will speak in tongues." There's a lot of confusion and a lot of disagreement about the gift of speaking in tongues, but the Bible does talk about "speaking in tongues" but it is listed among the other spiritual gifts and it's not something everybody has. Being godly and being gifted is not the same thing. When we get to 1 Corinthians 12 & 14 and I'm preaching through 1 Corinthians at night we're going to camp out there and I will share with you what I believe the Bible is teaching about that, but basically, Paul says the "gift of tongues is like a prayer gift that you have." It's never to communicate from God to man it is man speaking to God and in most cases it is absolutely inappropriate in a public setting. Paul said, "I would rather speak five words that you can understand than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue." Where a lot of people get confused is this. Some of these Pentecostal friends of ours or Neo-Pentecostals say, "Now you have been filled. You have to speak in tongues." The fruit of the Spirit is the evidence not speaking in tongues. You say "What's the fruit of the Spirit?" Revelation 5:22. Is the personality of Jesus expressed in your life? Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Gentleness, Goodness, Meekness, Kindness, Faith, and Self-Control. Is that expressed in your life? That is the expression of it, not speaking in tongues, so don't let anybody confuse you about that.

6. The filling of the Spirit is like wind filling a sail NOT like water filling a cup

Number six. Being filled with the Holy Spirit is like wind filling a sail NOT like water filling a cup. Some people think being filled with the Spirit is like, "I am a cup and I want God to fill me up." I like that song and I've even sung it. "Fill my cup, Lord. I lift it up." The only problem with that is this language *pleroo*, fill was never ever used in the Bible or in Greek literature to talk about taking something you can see like water and putting it into a pot. It was always used to describe the filling of an inanimate object like wind filling a sail. Some people have a "teacup theology." "Here's my little teacup, Lord. Fill me up. It's Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday...oops it's empty again, Lord. Fill me up." That is so self-centered! What you ought to picture is you're like a ship a boat and the Holy Spirit and the word *pneuma* (Spirit) is the word for *wind*. He wants to fill your sails. That speaks of direction. It speaks of motion. It speaks of power. Some Christians are not filled with the Holy Spirit because the wind is not blowing. It's because you haven't put your sail up. The wind is howling, but you are just sitting there dead in the water with your sails down. Or worse than that, some of you have some little, old, outboard motor called "self-works." You crank that thing up and you are putt-putting along trying to do it all in your own strength. "I don't need any wind. I have this outboard motor." The filling of the Holy Spirit is like wind filling a sail.

That's what the filling of the Holy Spirit is. That's not all that it is, but hopefully you have a better understanding. They say a picture is worth a thousand words. Look up here for a moment. Here's a glove, a golf glove in fact. Glove, I command you to wiggle your fingers. C'mon you old sorry, disobedient glove, wiggle your fingers. Glove, make an "okay" sign. Surely you can do that. Come on! In the name of Jesus, make an okay sign. Glove, make a fist. Can't you even make a fist? Come on! Point your finger. Can't you do any of that? You old, sorry, disobedient carnal glove! Jesus says to you, "Love your enemies. Come on! Love your enemies. Forgive those people who have treated you dirty. Forgive them! Turn the other cheek. Go the second

mile. Witness to people all around you. Come on! Do all that stuff!” You are sitting there saying, “I want to do all that, but I just can’t do it.” You’re right. You can’t do it. You can’t do it any more than this glove can do any of the things I asked. But watch this. Isn’t this amazing? Watch this glove now if I put my hand into it. WOW! This glove is wiggling its fingers. This glove is making an okay sign. It’s pointing its fingers. It’s making a fist. WOW. Isn’t that amazing? It’s a miracle. You say, “No. That’s not that glove doing that. That’s you in that glove.” That’s *exactly* what I am trying to say. You cannot love your enemies, but Jesus in you can. You can’t turn the other cheek, but Jesus in you can. You can’t forgive those people who treated you dirty, but Jesus in you can. You can’t witness to the lost on your own, but Jesus in you can.

That’s what it means to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Say, “Jesus, live your life in me.” I know one thing about the Holy Spirit. Jesus said when he comes he will not testify of himself he will testify of me. In other words, beware of any group or any movement that emphasizes the Holy Spirit too much, because if they are filled with the Holy Spirit, they won’t talk about the Holy Spirit they will talk about the Lord, Jesus Christ. He always bears witness to the Lord Jesus. When you are filled with the Spirit, you will be talking about Jesus.

II. HOW CAN I BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT?

I can remember my granddad talking about how he used to go out on the farm at night to the well and he’d drop that bucket down into the bottom. It was too dark to see anything, but he’d hear that bucket hit the water down there. He said the only way he could tell when that bucket was full was when he heard it overflowing. The way you can tell if a person is filled with the Holy Spirit they’ll be overflowing with Jesus. How do you do that? I hesitate to give you any steps or anything, because there is no formula. I use a checklist of four questions I ask myself. This can become a checklist for you if you want. God will fill you, Christian, anytime you allow him too.

1. Is sin confessed?

Number one. Is sin confessed? Have you confessed every sin that the Holy Spirit has convicted you of? He is the Holy Spirit. That means purity holiness. You say, “Wait a minute, pastor. Do you have to be perfect to be filled with the Spirit?” I hope not. But you have to be confessed up to date and you can do it. Some of you may need to start by confessing the sin of not being filled with the Spirit!

2. Is self crucified?

Number two. Ask yourself “Is self crucified?” You can use the word “ego;” you can use the big “I.” Is it crucified? In Galatians 2:20 the apostle, Paul, said, “I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live. But Christ lives in me.” Do you remember the hand in the glove? Christ lives in me and the life that I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the son of God. Jesus wants to live in you but the only way he can do that is when your self, your selfishness, your ego, has to be crucified put to death!

3. Is the Savior crowned?

Number three. "Is the Savior crowned?" In other words Is Jesus the Lord? Some of you have let Jesus be your Savior, you want to go to heaven but is he your boss? That's what the word, Lord, means. Is he in control? Have you given up control of your life and made Jesus your Lord? Have you crowned him Lord? You can only give up control when you let go of control. I have learned one thing from my background in aviation. Whenever I am in the cockpit of an airplane and there's a pilot and a co-pilot there is a very important protocol that must take place if the pilot is flying the plane and he wants the co-pilot to begin to fly it, he says "You've got the airplane." The co-pilot puts his hands on the yoke and says, "I have the airplane." When he's ready to turn it back over to the pilot, he says, "You've got the airplane." He lets go and the pilot says, "I've got the airplane." Can you imagine what would happen if both of them tried to fly it at the same time or even worse if neither one of them was flying it? You must say, "Lord you've got my life. You are controlling it. You're in charge. I take my hands off." and he says, "I've got your life." You surrender.

4. Have you surrendered control?

Here's the fourth question: Have you surrendered control of your life to Jesus? In other words have you said, "Jesus, I surrender. You take over. My life is no longer mine. I'm under your control." If you will ask yourself those questions and if you can follow those directions at any time any place God will fill you with his Holy Spirit and that's the only way you can live the Christian life.

CONCLUSION

I was down at First Baptist Church on Thursday night hearing Richard Jackson, whom I really admire and appreciate. He made a statement I had never thought about. He said, "What is the international sign of surrender anywhere you go? It's putting your hands up in the air. If somebody robs you at gunpoint and you are surrendering, you are yielding to them." I agree with him. He said that's why he believes in the book of Psalms. It says, "I will lift up my hands before the Lord." It is a posture of absolute surrender. I'd like for us to do that today if you are willing to just surrender to the Lord, don't worry about it you're not becoming some weirdo or anything. I want us to stand up right now all together would you do that? Just put your hands up. It's easier when everybody else is doing it you don't feel self-conscious. I wonder if you would just lift your hands up and in a spirit of prayer would you just bow your head with me right now in a spirit of surrender? Would you be willing to sing with sincerity that very well-known hymn "All to Jesus I surrender All to him I freely give I will ever love and trust him. In his presence daily live." That's what it means to surrender.

OUTLINE

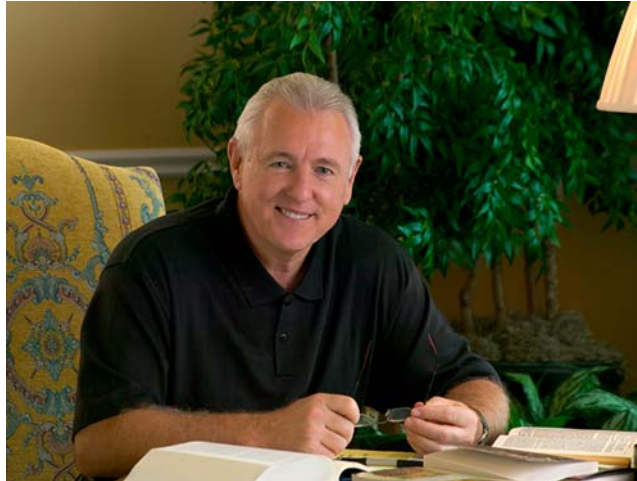
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- 2. Is self crucified?
- 3. Is the Savior crowned?
- 4. Have you surrendered control?



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For the Joy...
Pastor David Dykes