

## **Be Filled with the Spirit**

Every true Christian has the Holy Spirit in his or her life. When we got saved, we were “born of the Spirit” (see John 3:5-8). The Apostle Paul says that our walk with God began in the Spirit (see Galatians 3:3). He also said, “Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His” (Romans 8:9). Yet, though every Christian has the Spirit, not every Christian is filled with the Spirit. As someone once said, “It’s one thing to have the Spirit; it’s another thing for the Spirit to have you.”

Ephesians 5:18 says, “And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit.” To be filled with the Spirit is to be influenced by the Spirit, to be controlled by the Spirit. If a man is filled with rage, then at that time he is influenced and controlled by his rage. So it is with the Spirit. To be Spirit-filled is to be Spirit-controlled. Notice three things that this verse in Ephesians teaches us about being filled with the Spirit.

*Being filled with the Spirit is a command.* Paul says, “Be filled with the Spirit.” This is a command. Being filled with the Spirit is not optional for the Christian; it is something required of us by God. This is not something that we should approach with a take it or leave it attitude. And notice, since we are commanded to be filled with the Spirit, we have a responsibility in the matter. We should put ourselves in a position to be filled with the Spirit. How? By reading God’s word, attending church services, praying regularly, waiting on the Lord, obeying the Spirit’s promptings, etc.

*Being filled with the Spirit is for all Christians.* The letter of Ephesians was written “to the saints who are in Ephesus” (Ephesians 1:1). It does not say “to the bishops” or “to the pastors” or “to the evangelists.” It says “to the saints.” In the New Testament “saints” simply referred to ordinary Christian believers, not super Christians. Thus, God expects every Christian to be Spirit-filled. Don’t think that because you are not a pastor or a preacher that you need not be filled with the Spirit. We all need to be filled with the Spirit, whether you’re a stay-at-home Mom, a CEO of a company, or one who is retired.

*Being filled with the Spirit is to be continuous.* The verb “filled” in Ephesians 5:18 is in the present tense in the Greek, which implies a

continuous action. This verse could be translated, “Be continually filled with the Spirit.” It is like putting gas in our cars. We would not fill up our tanks with gas one time and expect that to last. We must fill our cars up again and again. This is also true with the Spirit. At times we find ourselves running on empty. Maybe that’s where you find yourself today. If so, why don’t you take the time to kneel down and humbly ask God to fill you with His Spirit? He is faithful; He will do it.