

Are You Living a Spirit-Controlled Life?

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Ephesians 5:18.

B. There are many things that we can be filled with, but we are to be always filled with the Holy Spirit.

C. The reason Paul says not to be filled with wine is that wine was such a popular drink then.

D. The Spirit is the very presence of Christ. (Acts 2)

II. The question we should ask is not *have* we been filled by the Spirit, but *are* we filled by the Spirit?

A. Anyone who is a Christian is filled by the Spirit. (Romans 8)

B. Being filled by the Spirit is walking by the Spirit. (Galatians 5:16, John 7:27-28)

III. How to know if we are filled by the Spirit.

A. Do you have a growing awareness of God's love for you? (Romans 5:5)

B. Does sin deeply grieve you? (John 16:8)

C. Is your life explainable by God? (Acts 1:8)

D. Is your primary concern the Lord's will when you are making a decision? (John 16:13-14)

E. Does your life have liberty? (II Corinthians 3:17, Acts 16)

F. Does your life bring glory to God? (John 14:16)

G. Is the Spirit's fruit being formed in your life? (Galatians 5:15)

IV. Keys to being filled with the Spirit of God.

A. Get your heart right with God.

B. Express in advance your dependence upon the Spirit by choosing His will for your life.

C. Believe the Lord wants to fill you. (Luke 11:13)

D. By faith ask for and receive God's will.

E. Yield yourself to God to obey Him in all things.

Application questions:

1. What does it mean to be filled by the Spirit? Explain.

2. Which question for examining whether one is filled by the Spirit stands out to you? Explain.

3. How would you counsel someone looking for advice on how to be filled with the Spirit?
