

Be Filled with the Spirit, Part 4

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Ephesians 5:18-21.
- B. All our Christian living is based on the concept of being filled by the Spirit. (Galatians 3:3)
- C. We grow only by the control of the Spirit. (Luke 4:1; John 3:34; Acts 6; 7:55; 9:17; 13:9)
- D. The key to recapturing the spirit of the church is to live by the same Spirit that empowered it.

II. The contrast: do not be drunk with wine.

III. The command: be continually filled with the Spirit.

IV. The consequence: a spiritual person is rightly related to self and to God in all circumstances.

- A. The spiritual person is thankful to God in everything. (Romans 8:28; 2 Corinthians 4:15; 9:11)
- B. God has done all that he has done that we might give him glory.
- C. The kind of thanksgiving.

- A. When: always. This recognizes that God is in control of our lives. (1 Thessalonians 5:18, James 1)

- B. Categories of thankful people.

- 1. After the blessing. (Exodus 14:28, Revelation 15)

- 2. In advance of an act. This is a test of spiritual maturity. (John 11:41, 2 Chronicles 20)

- 3. In the midst of the battle. (Acts 16; Philippians 1)

- C. One does not always have to feel thankful, but one always has to be thankful for all things. Trials are the way that God perfects us.

- D. Only a humble person can be thankful for everything.

- E. Thanks is given to God the Father. (Ephesians 5:20, Psalm 105, Romans 1:21, Colossians 2:7)

D. Response:

- A. Do not give thanks. (Luke 12)
- B. Those who give hypocritical thanks. (Luke 18)
- C. Giving genuine thanks.

Application Questions:

1. Why thank God for everything—including trials?

2. What have you grown in your relationship with God through a trial?

3. How would you counsel someone to maintain thanks in a difficult situation? Explain.
