

Sermon Series: Embracing the Spirit

**WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE
FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT?
EPHESIANS 5:18-21**

Ephesians 5:18-21 (NIV)

- ◆ *Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit,¹⁹ speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord,²⁰ always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Introduction

- ◆ As an authentic believer, you live what you believe.
- ◆ You speak the truth.
- ◆ You love generously.
- ◆ You admit failure quickly.
- ◆ You acknowledge weakness without hesitation.

Introduction (cont'd)

- ◆ First and foremost, we must realize that the authentic Christian life is impossible and unexplainable without the Holy Spirit.
- ◆ God's Spirit is the power behind authenticity, behind genuine living of every description. It has nothing to do with your circumstances.

I. Where's the Power?

- ◆ John 14:6 (NIV) says, *“And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever...”*
- ◆ In fact, He said a little later, He would not only be with the disciples, *“He...will be in you”* (v.17).

Where's the Power (cont'd)

- ◆ So Jesus promised the Spirit at their last meal, and reminded them as He left earth that His followers would *"...receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth"* (Acts 1:8 NIV).

Where's the Power (cont'd)

- ◆ As an authentic, Christ-like community, we live for the purpose of reaching the entire world with the message of the Savior.
- ◆ People are watching, but they're not always impressed. They want to see that what we believe makes a transforming difference in our lives.

Where's the Power (cont'd)

- ◆ The difference in your life comes down to how, as a Christian, you respond when...
- ◆ *You face a dreadful trial from which you cannot escape.*
- ◆ *A doctor tells you they are concerned about the x-rays.*
- ◆ *The phone rings in the night with news about someone you love.*
- ◆ *You are the target of a complicated and ugly attack.*

II. 3 Metaphors of the Christian Life

- ◆ *1. It's like your marriage.*
- ◆ A Christian life that's real is transformational-like we saw in disciple's lives. The Spirit of God does more than just "help you out a bit."
- ◆ It includes such practical things as the power to control your tongue, the strength to face each day's challenges, the ability to clean up your thoughts, a way to guard yourself from the temptation so that you don't plunge after one lustful lure then another.

3 Metaphors (cont'd)

- ◆ *2. It's like your car.*
- ◆ Two things are essential for you to enjoy any car you buy:
 - ◆ First is a set of keys.

3 Metaphors (cont'd)

- ◆ What the keys are to the car, conversion is to the Christian life.
- ◆ 1 John 5:12 (NIV), *“Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.”*
- ◆ *The second essential you need for your car is fuel.*

3 Metaphors (cont'd)

- ◆ Colossians 2:6 (NIV), *“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him...”*
- ◆ As you have received Christ (that’s the key that gets you inside), so walk or live in Him (that’s the fuel, the Spirit of God engaging your life in an authentic manner).
- ◆ Jesus said that He would send the Spirit of God, and by sending Him, He would provide the power to live as His witnesses (Acts 1:8).

3 Metaphors (cont'd)

- ◆ We get our words *power* and *dynamic/dynamite* from the Greek word *dunamis*.
- ◆ It's a word that refers to "divine enablement."

3 Metaphors (cont'd)

- ◆ *3. It's like your body.*
- ◆ 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (NIV) paints an interesting metaphor that further explains the indwelling of the Spirit: *"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; ²⁰ you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies."*

3 Metaphors (cont'd)

- ◆ Never forget this: Jesus promised that the Spirit will be in you (John 14).
- ◆ If you're a Christian, you don't need to pray, "Lord, send me Your Spirit" or "Please be with us today."

3 Metaphors (cont'd)

- ◆ In living out the Christian life, we have one all important objective: to glorify God in our body.
- ◆ *When we do, we begin to realize that nothing is accidental, coincidental, meaningless, or insignificant.*
- ◆ Things that happen to us are under our Lord's supervision because we are His, and we are to glorify Him, regardless.

3 Metaphors (cont'd)

- ◆ 1 Cor. 6:19 reminds us that “you are not your own.”
- ◆ You must operate your life under the control of the One who has come to live within you.
- ◆ It's not about you, it's about Jesus.
- ◆ You're not your own; you've been bought with a price. In other words, God is still God and I am still not.

III. The Difference of Being Spirit-Filled

- ◆ Ephesians 5:18-21 (NIV):
- ◆ *Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit,¹⁹ speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord,²⁰ always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.*
- ◆ When I'm filled with the Spirit...

The Difference (cont'd)

- ◆ *1. My heart is teachable.*
- ◆ Verse 19 mentions “speaking to one another.”
- ◆ The Spirit’s filling affects our speaking-that’s the first result.

The Difference (cont'd)

- ◆ *2. My heart is melodious.*
- ◆ v.19, *"Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord."*
- ◆ Some translations say, "Sing heartily unto the Lord." Heartily is a good biblical word for that feeling when the Spirit's filling opens our hearts and moves us into an enthusiastic overflow of worship.

The Difference (cont'd)

- ◆ *3. My heart is grateful.*
- ◆ Gratitude is an eloquent statement of the Spirit's filling. Verse 20 says, *"always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."*
- ◆ When we are filled with the Spirit, there is an overwhelming sense of thankfulness. We are not hard to please. We are happy to have whatever God provides.

Invitation

- ◆ Ask yourself three questions:
- ◆ Am I keeping short accounts on those things that break fellowship with God?
- ◆ Am I walking in conscious dependence on the Lord?
- ◆ Am I saying to Him at the beginning of-and frequently throughout the day-"Lord, my life is Yours?"