

"The Practice of the Believer"

Ephesians 4-6

Part 19

Introduction: The last time we were in Ephesians was June 13th. We are currently looking at Paul's instructions to the saints at Ephesus concerning daily living. Let us keep in mind that this letter is divided into two parts. The first three chapters deal with doctrine and the last three deal with duty. The last time we were together we looked at being FILLED with the SPIRIT.

Notice Ephesians 5:18-21

When we looked at the last message, we discussed what it meant to be filled with the Spirit.

A. A Joyful Heart

Notice Ephesians 5:19

B. A Thankful Heart

Notice Ephesians 5:20

C. A Submissive Spirit

Notice Ephesians 5:21

Today I want to look at being filled with the Spirit and I want to get more detailed with what the filling of the Spirit looks like.

To be Filled with the Spirit

Part 1

If we were to sit down together and I ask you if you are filled with the Spirit and you told me that you are, "What would be your proof?"

Before we get into the details let me make a few things very clear.

1. If you are saved, you have been given the Spirit.

Romans 8:9-11

⁹ But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

¹⁰ *And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.*

¹¹ *But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.*

Everyone who is saved has within them the Holy Spirit.

2. Not every believer is FILLED with the Spirit.

There is a great difference in having the Spirit and being filled with the Spirit.

Ephesians 1:13-14

¹³ *In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,*

¹⁴ *Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.*

Here Paul tells the believers they are sealed with the Spirit and then in 5:18 he commands them to be FILLED with the Spirit. Therefore, we can be sure that to be filled is not the same as possessing the Spirit.

To be filled with the Spirit is to be controlled by the Spirit and not by the flesh. The Bible also commands us to walk in the Spirit.

Galatians 5:16

¹⁶ *This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.*

This is what God desires for our lives because as we walk in the Spirit it is only then that we can bear the fruit of the Spirit.

Galatians 5:22-23

²² *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,*

²³ *Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*

It is when this fruit is produced that we bring glory to God.

John 15:1-5, 8

I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

² Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away; and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

³ Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

⁴ Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

⁵ I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

⁸ Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

Let us now consider what a life filled with the Spirit looks like.

I. The Manifestation of being Filled with the Spirit in the Church

Notice Ephesians 5:19

Before we consider this verse let me show you a parallel passage.

Colossians 3:15-16

¹⁵ And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Here in verse 16 to be filled by the Spirit is seen as allowing the Word of God to dwell in you. The word "DWELL" means "to influence". In other words to be filled with the Spirit is to be heavily influenced by the Word of God. But there is more here.

We are to let the Word dwell in us richly and we are to teach and admonish one another. This brings me to the first manifestation of being led by the Spirit.

1. Present in Church

This verse and Ephesians 5:19 cannot be carried out if we are not gathered together. So God is telling us here that when we are filled with the Spirit, we will be faithful attenders in the church. This fits perfectly with the Holy Spirit. He longs not for the things of the world, but He longs for the Spiritual things of God.

It is not possible for the believer to live for the world and to be controlled by the Spirit.

James 4:1-4

From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?

² *Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.*

³ *Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.*

⁴ *Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.*

When we are controlled by the Spirit we will long to gather together with fellow believers. When a believer is controlled by the flesh they will be pulled away from church by the world.

I heard a man speak on this subject recently and he said something that many believers give no thought about. We have seen an increase in activities to draw people away from church. Do you remember back when kids used to play little league and they played football only in school? Now there are traveling teams in which kids can focus on one sport almost year-round. These traveling teams are on the go every weekend and so what happens is that children are pulled away from church. Satan has baited the trap, and many have taken the bait. You have a son, or a daughter and the Spirit of God wants to work with their heart. But instead of being in the church gathering which God has ordained they are taken away to play football, baseball, softball, hockey or some other sport for those tender years of their lives.

Hebrews 10:23-25

²³ *Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)*

²⁴ And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

²⁵ Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Let us now get to the second point. Not only will we be present in church, but we will also:

2. Participate in Church.

Colossians 3:15-16

¹⁵ And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Notice Ephesians 5:19 again.

In both of these verses the Word of God tells us that when we are filled with the Spirit, we will sing our praises to God. In other words we will participate in the services. We will not just come and sit like a corpse, but we will show life.

1 Peter 1:3

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

1 Peter 2:5

⁵ Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

We have a lively hope, and we are lively stones so when we are in services, we should show life by singing our praises to the Lord.

There is yet another thought that goes with participating in church. When we are filled with the Spirit, we will exercise our spiritual gifts.

1 Corinthians 12:4-7

⁴ Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

⁵ *And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord.*

⁶ *And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.*

⁷ *But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.*

Ephesians 4:7

⁷ *But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.*

When we are filled with the Spirit, we will have a burning desire to exercise our spiritual gifts. The gifts are given to edify the body of Jesus Christ and to glorify Him and that runs parallel with the mission of the Holy Spirit.

John 16:13-14

¹³ *Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.*

¹⁴ *He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.*

So if we are filled with the Spirit, we will be **PRESENT** in the church, we will **PARTICIPATE** in the church and one more:

3. Purpose in the Church.

Colossians 3:15-17

¹⁵ *And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.*

¹⁶ *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.*

¹⁷ *And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.*

Notice Ephesians 5:19 again.

We will come to church, and we will participate in church, and it will be with the motive of glorifying God. It will all be unto the Lord. When we are filled with the Spirit we will want

to learn and to honor God. We will not attend church as many do who do so because they believe it is their weekly responsibility. We will be here to honor the Lord. We will participate as unto Him.

II. The Measure of being Filled.

Notice Ephesians 5:20

The person who is filled with the spirit will have a heart full of gratitude for ALL that they face. The person who is filled with the Spirit knows the Truth from Romans 8:28.

Romans 8:28-29

²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

²⁹ For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

The believer who is filled with the Spirit is not a complainer. It does not mean they do not shed tears, it does not mean they do not grow weary, it does not mean they have it all together. But whatever they face they can find a way to praise God in the face of adversity.

Conclusion:

Romans 8:35-39

³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

³⁶ As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

³⁷ Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

³⁸ For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

³⁹ Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.