

HOLY SPIRIT FILLED CHURCHES

Part One

(Ephesians 5:17-18) Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord *is*. And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

Wouldn't it be great to have our churches all be filled with the Holy Spirit and walking in the Spirit not fulfilling the lust of the flesh (Gal. 5:16/25). One thing that is crystal clear from scripture is it the will of God that every believer be filled with the Holy Spirit. We don't have to pray about being filled, it's a command though we may need to pray that we have a willing heart to be filled and seek and yield to be filled with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is more willing to fill us then we are to be filled or ready and aliening ourselves to His conditions to be filled according to the scriptures.

What a wonderful sight to see believers filled with the Spirit of God and giving God the glory. In our churches there are those whose lives demonstrate a life that is led and filled with the Spirit. This doesn't mean that they are always every moment of the day filled with the Spirit, but as a general rule they are. This is due to their love and willingness to submit to God and His word concerning being filled with the Spirit. No one will be Spirit filled unless they are at least willing to obey the Lord with a humble heart and life.

Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is freedom, love, compassion, power, witnessing, forgiveness and the list could go on for those who are filled with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit brings the sense of the presence of God into our lives. He is the one that gives us assurance of our salvation and makes the reality of God to be active within us. The believer that is filled with the Holy Spirit enjoys heaven on earth personally and in other relationships as well. When we are filled with the Holy Spirit we can love as Christ loves, we can give as Christ gave, and we can forgive as Christ forgave others.

The believers that are filled with the Holy Spirit have a better opportunity to have a Spirit filled home life, and especially if all in the home are believers and obedient being filled also. Our churches are blessed if the members are filled and led by the Holy Spirit in walking in one accord with each other. If our churches are filled with the Holy Spirit then we will see great things done for the glory and praise of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The question is then is our churches really filled and walking in the fullness of the Holy Spirit? If not then are we willing to confess our disobedience and submit to God's word and let Him fill us again? When the Holy Spirit is in charge of our personal and church life, then we will see revival once again (Ps.85:6). Let's look at Holy Spirit churches in the next few weeks and see if ours is one of them. God bless and have a great week in the Lord and be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Bro. Mickey
SCM

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Part Two

(Ephesians 5:17-18) Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord *is*. And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

Every church that we go to and those we haven't been to would like to think that they all have a Holy Spirit filled church. But is that a reality or just hopeful thinking or an unrealistic opinion? It should be our desire to have a Holy Spirit filled church and we should be seeking to allow the Holy Spirit to have His way in all that we do as a church body. We say that we are Bible believers but sometimes we just don't obey what we say we really believe. The reality is that we all still are growing in this area of being filled with the Holy Spirit but more times than not, we are not truly filled. Being filled with the Holy Spirit should be our desire and obedience for every day.

This should not discourage us but challenge us to seek to be filled more with the Holy Spirit than we are right now. Let us determine to walk in the Spirit being filled with Spirit that we might not fulfill the lust of the flesh that wars against being filled with the Holy Spirit. When we decide that we are going to submit to God's word and live a Holy Spirit filled life, then we will have a battle with the flesh (Gal.5:17). But don't worry over the enemy he has already been defeated by the cross of Jesus Christ our Lord. All we have to do is just agree with God's word and live a life that is dead to the flesh and sin, and then commit to obeying (Rom.6:1-14).

Many believers are not aware of this battle of the flesh and of the Holy Spirit and if they do they don't understand it much. They are not taught about being filled with the Holy Spirit in a clear Biblical concise manner on a consistent teaching and preaching from God's word. The filling of the Holy Spirit should be one of the top subjects and series preached and taught in our churches in some way yearly. If we really want Holy Spirit filled churches then we will need to have more teaching, preaching and training for the members. This can be done in a variety of ways from the pulpit to the classroom to books and materials and personal discipleship. The goal is helping the members (this includes everyone, leaders also) to be equipped to do the work of the ministry filled with the Holy Spirit (Eph.4:11-13).

When we are pursuing peace in the church it can only be obtained through the filling of the Holy Spirit. **(Ephesians 4:3)** "Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." Maybe we just need to see more believers filled with the Holy Spirit then the distractions and conflicts will cease and the work can move forward.

O that we all would be filled more with the Holy Spirit this week than ever before. All it takes is our willingness and yieldedness in obedience to God's word.

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Part Three

(Ephesians 5:17-18) Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

Oh that our churches would be filled with the Holy Spirit and that every member would be obedient to the word of God as much as they know to do. This simply takes us being humble and yielded to the Lord and the Holy Spirit and His direction in our daily walk. It's a matter of loving our Lord enough to be willing to obey Him in everything that He asks of us in and through His word regardless of how we may feel. Many times our feelings get in the way of our faith in how we are to trust and obey.

If our churches are to be filled with the Holy Spirit then each member will need to keep a sensitive and close watch about the sin which hinders His filling in our lives. If we are sensitive to the filling and work of the Holy Spirit in our lives, then He will let us know when we get into the flesh and realize the need to repent and be filled again. What are these offences that will stop His filling and allow the flesh to have its way in our lives?

1. Grieving the Spirit - Eph. 4:30, 31; Isa. 63:10 *(William Evans) "To grieve means to make sad or sorrowful. The context of this passage (v.31) tells us how the Spirit may be grieved: by "foolish talking and jesting." Whenever the believer allows any of the things mentioned in this verse (and those stated also in Gal. 5:17-19) to find place in his heart and expression in his words and life; when these things abide in his heart and actively manifest themselves, then the Spirit is sad and grieved. Indeed to refuse any part of our moral nature to the full sway of the Spirit is to grieve Him. If we continue to grieve the Spirit, then the grief turns into vexation (Isa. 63:10)." "If we grieve the Spirit, we forego both power and joy as well as communion with God" - (Rene' Pache). Church leadership as well as the membership has so grieved the Holy Spirit that His presence and power is gone from many church services.

2. Lying to the Holy Spirit- Acts 5:3, 4 *(William Evans) "The sin of lying to the Spirit is very prominent when consecration is most popular. We stand up and say, "I surrender all" when in our hearts we know that we have not surrendered *all*. Yet, like Ananias, we like to have others believe that we have consecrated our all. We do not wish to be one whit behind others in our profession." Lying is one of satan's greatest tools to hinder the work of God in the church.

3. Quenching the Spirit-1 Thess. 5:19 *(William Evans) -"The context of 1 Thess. 5:19 shows the manifestation of the Spirit in prophesying was not to be quenched. The Holy Spirit is seen as coming down upon this gathered assembly for praise, prayer, and testimony. Thus we may quench the Spirit not only in our hearts, but also in the hearts of others. How? By disloyalty to the voice and call of the Spirit; by disobedience to His voice whether it be to testify, praise, to do any bit of service for God, or to refuse to go where He sends us to labor—the foreign field, for example. Let us see to it that the gift of the Holy Ghost for service be not lost by any unfaithfulness, or by the cultivation of a critical spirit on our part, so that the fire in our hearts dies out and nothing but ashes remain—ashes, a sign that fire was once there, but has been extinguished." *(The Great Doctrines of the Bible – William Evans)

If we are all honest we have grieved, lied and quenched the Holy Spirit, but thank God for His grace and forgiveness through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let us seek to be filled with the Holy Spirit and not offend Him in any way. If we do sin let us confess it as quick as possible and be filled.
Bro. Mickey - SCM

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Part Four

(Ephesians 5:17-18) Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

(Galatians 5:16) *This* I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

The command to be filled with the Holy Spirit is also followed up by a command in (Gal.5:16) to “walk in [by] the Holy Spirit” so that we will be able to have victory over walking in the flesh (Gal.5:17). Therefore Holy Spirit filled churches are not by accident or by the neglect on the believers part, but in cooperating with the conditions of being filled with the Holy Spirit. These basic conditions are, grieve not – quench not and lie not to the Holy Spirit. Of course these are always operating in and throughout our daily Christian lives as we yield and follow His leading to His will through the word of God. The filling of the Holy Spirit and word of Christ always go together (Eph.5:18 / Col.3:16). When filled with the Holy Spirit we will be directed by the word.

All of this has to do with the spiritual war that every believer is in even though they may not be aware of being in the fight with the enemy (enemies there are three of them- world/flesh/devil). Many churches are not teaching and training their members in the art of being in the battle against the enemies. There is an attitude that it’s not important to learn much about the enemy or that these enemies are not much of an influence to our Christian life. I would agree that we shouldn’t spend an over abundant amount of time on the subject of the enemies, but we also shouldn’t be ignorant of “his” (their) devices- (2 Cor. 2:11) “Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.” Once one is committed to being filled with the Holy Spirit, the fight is on but the victory is ours that trust and believe in Jesus Christ our Lord.

What does it mean to be filled and walk in the Holy Spirit with His power and presence guiding and directing each step in our Christian life? It doesn’t mean that we will not be tempted by the enemies as before, but through the Holy Spirit we have the choice and power to say no to the temptations from all these enemies. When we are filled and walking in the Holy Spirit we are consciously and willingly yielded and guided by Him from the word of God through our spirit.

- The world may want us to be friends, but the Spirit will help us to say NO!
- The flesh may tempt us to be or do _____, but the Spirit will empower us to die to it!
- The devil may try our faith by a lie, but the Spirit will assure us through the truth!

To walk in the Spirit is just to decide to take each step (action / decision) yielded and controlled through the Holy Spirit and His word. It’s simply knowing what the Holy Spirit says and obeying Him as He speaks the things of Jesus to us by the word and His Spirit – (John 16:12-14) “I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. 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. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew *it* unto you.”

So when we are filled and walking in the Holy Spirit we are actually hearing from and following our Lord Jesus Christ. His power and presence is given to us by the Holy Spirit that He has sent unto us to comfort and lead us through this life as we follow Him. Our desire is that we would see our churches “people” are filled and walking in the Holy Spirit. It would transform many ministries and churches across America both personally and collectively. Be filled today!

Bro. Mickey - SCM