

“The Power To Live The Life Jesus Wants Us To Live”

Ephesians 5:18-21

Sermon Series: “The Walk”

Introduction: Do you ever struggle with knowing what you ought to do but not actually doing it? Do you ever want to feel full spiritually but feel empty? Do you ever desire to experience the presence of God but feel like you are by yourself? Do you ever struggle with focusing on yourself instead of others? Do you ever create problems in relationships by doing and saying things that you should not or by not doing and saying things that you should? Do you believe that God has more for your life but also know that you are not experiencing it? I have or do struggle with all of those things from time to time. What is the answer? Where do we get the power to live the life that Jesus wants us to live? The answer is through the Holy Spirit.

Main Idea: We live out what Jesus expects of us by living out of what Jesus has done for us through the filling of the Spirit in us.

1. What we are filled with inwardly determines how we live our lives outwardly (v. 19-21).

Let's begin by looking at the results of being filled with the Spirit before we examine verse 18. Verse 19 gives three examples of what happens to us outwardly when we are filled with the Spirit. Also, it is no coincidence that this section precedes the long section regarding family (5:22-6:4). This truth appears consistently through Scripture. Another key example is Galatians 5:16-25, which teaches us that either the flesh will be in control and sin will come out of us or the Spirit will be in control and the character of Jesus will come out of us.

A. Being filled with the Spirit puts a spiritual song in our hearts (v. 19).

B. Being filled with the Spirit causes us to be thankful (v. 20).

C. Being filled with the Spirit causes us to have a submissive attitude (v. 21).

D. Being filled with the Spirit causes us to function properly in our family relationships (5:22-6:4).

2. We are empowered to live out what Jesus expects of us by being filled with the Spirit (v. 18).

Let's break down and examine this verse so we can understand it and apply it to our lives. **The verse is commanding every Christian to not get drunk but to constantly live under the control of the Holy Spirit.**

A. Background: Who is the Holy Spirit?

-He is the person of God in our lives.

-He is the presence of God in our lives.

-He is the power of God in our lives.

The Holy Spirit is so important that Jesus told his disciples before He went to heaven that it was to their advantage that He left and the Spirit came (John 16:7).

B. Context: Remember that the first three chapters are doctrinal (what Jesus has done for us) and the last three chapters are practical (what He expects from us in response). Jesus has

forgiven us and made us alive spiritually. He now expects us to walk in obedience to Him so there are several commands in the second half of Ephesians. Verse 18 is a command that gives us the power to obey the other commands.

C. Meaning of Key Words:

-**“Dissipation” means “wild living” or “senseless waste.”**

-**“Filled” (with the Spirit): It basically means to be controlled by.** John MacArthur demonstrates that the Greek word, *pleroo*, that is translated, “filled” has three significant meanings: to be carried along by the power of God, permeation, and to be controlled by. It is important for us to see those connotations instead of looking at the meaning as something along the lines of filling up an empty bucket.

D. Commands: There are two commands in the verse, a negative and a positive one. We are commanded to not get drunk and commanded to be filled with the Spirit. That would imply that it is as sinful to not be filled with the Spirit as it is to be drunk.

E. Comparison and Contrast: There is a comparison between being drunk with wine and being filled with the Spirit in the sense of an analogy. Both represent something outside of us coming in and taking control of us. However, there is also a clear contrast between the two. One is harmful and the other is helpful. One is sin and the other is from God.

F. Nuances from the Greek text: I generally do not get too technical in sermons, but this is a case where it really helps us to understand the meaning. The command in the Greek is second person plural, present, and passive tense. Here is the significance. Second person plural means that it is commanded for every Christian. Therefore, this is the normal Christian life. Present means that it is an ongoing action. It is not a one time thing, but we are to be continually filled with Spirit that we received at salvation. Passive means that the Spirit is doing that action instead of us. Therefore, our posture is surrender. That is how we are filled.

Conclusion: Are you trying to do life in your power of God’s power? Do you need to come to the end of yourself and surrender to the Lord and live in the power of the Spirit? How can we do that?

- 1. Become a Christian so you will be indwelt by the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13-14).**
- 2. Surrender fully to Jesus (Romans 12:1).**
- 3. Confess all known sin (1 John 1:9).**
- 4. Ask in faith for the Holy Spirit to take control of you.**