

# **“Being Filled With The Holy Spirit”**

## **Ephesians 5:1-21**

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**Teaching Aim:** To encourage every Christian to be an imitator of God, living as children of light and not as children of darkness. To have each Christian live in such a way as to demonstrate “*the fruit of the Spirit*” in his or her life. To understand the difference between “*the baptism of the Holy Spirit*” and being “*filled with the Holy Spirit*.” To recognize the importance of being led by the Holy Spirit on a daily basis!

### **DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD’S WORD (*BIBLE STUDY*)**

#### **Part I: Being an imitator of God (Eph. 5:1-7)**

1. What does it mean for a Christian to be “*an imitator of God*” (vs. 1)? (See Eph. 4:24,31-32) What are some ways that you’ve seen children imitate their earthly fathers? How might Christians imitate God today? (See Eph. 4:24,32)
  
2. In your own words, describe what Paul meant in **verse 2** when he wrote, “*walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma*”? (vs. 2)? (See John 15:12-13; Eph. 5:25) What kind of behavior makes a Christian’s life pleasing to God? (See Rom. 12:1,2)
  
3. Contrasting self-sacrifice, **verse 3** looks at the self-centeredness of sexual sin. “*Fornication*” (*Gk – pornea*) refers to any sexual act outside of the marriage relationship. “*Uncleanness*” can refer many things including pornography via computers, magazines, or any other activity that makes a person unclean. “*Covetousness*” here refers to sexual sin. According to **verse 3**, is coveting sexual sin an acceptable way for the Christian to live? Why do you think so many Christians struggle in this area?
  
4. Why are Christians not to be involved in filthiness (*cussing or dirty language*), foolish talking (*trash-talking*), or off-color jokes (vs. 4)? How might careless words negatively affect other people and the witness of the local Church? What has Jesus got to say about this kind of “*idle talk*”? (See Matt. 12:35-37) John Piper said, “*God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him.*” What did he mean? How can our words of thanksgiving bring glory to God? (See Rom 8:28)

5. Does **verse 5** teach that those who have committed sexual sin, are unclean, covetous or idolaters will not be allowed to enter the kingdom of heaven? What did Paul teach? (**See 1 Cor. 6:9-11**)
  
6. According to **verses 6 & 7**, is it possible for Christians to be deceived by the ungodly? What are some ways that Christians can fall prey? How will God respond to the ungodly people responsible for leading Christians astray? According to **verse 7**, how should Christians respond to temptation? (**See Isa. 52:11; 2 Cor. 6:17-18**)

## **Part II: Walking as children of light (Eph. 5:8-14)**

1. What do darkness and light symbolize in the Bible (**vs. 8**)? In what way were “*we once darkness?*” How do Christians bring to the world “*light in the Lord?*” With light comes visibility; according to **verse 9-10**, what will people see in the Christian who walks in the light? How do Christians walking in the light contrast unbelievers who walk in darkness?
  
2. What should the Christian response be to evil (**vs. 11**)? Why is confronting evil not a popular thing to do today? What time of the day do most sinful acts (*sexual sin, gambling, stealing, barroom brawls, etc*) occur (**vs. 12**)? Why do people do these acts under the cover of darkness? Is sin limited to physical acts or do we sin with our minds as well? (see **Matt. 5:21-22**) Who ultimately exposed the sin of the Pharisees? How did He do it? (**See Matt. 23:13-36**)
  
3. **Verse 14** is often thought to be part of a 1<sup>st</sup> century Christian hymn. In light of the context of the preceding verses, what is Paul most likely referring to with this quote? (See **Isa. 60:1-3; Eph. 2:1-5**) Is it possible for a born-again Christian to sin? Is it possible for the regenerate Christian to live his or her entire life in a lifestyle of sin? Why or why not?

### Part III: Do not be drunk on wine, but filled with the Spirit (Eph. 5:15-21)

1. To walk (*or to live*) circumspectly is to live carefully (vs. 15). Why is it important for the Christian to live carefully in the world today? (See **1 Pet. 5:8**) What did Paul mean when he said to, “*redeem the time*” (vs. 16)? The days were evil in Paul’s day; who was the emperor of Rome at the time of this writing? Do you still see evil at work in our own day? If so, how?
2. Have you ever heard the quote, “*Only one life ‘twill soon be past, only what’s done for Christ will last?*” How should this quote relate to your life today? What are some practical steps you can take to better understand what the will of God is for your life (vs. 17)? (See **Rom. 12:1-2; 1 Thess. 4:3-8; 1 Thess. 5:16-19**) Why is it important for us to be awake and alert spiritually?
3. Is it a sin to drink wine? (See **Psa. 104:15; Mk. 2:22; Jn. 2:1-11; 1 Tim. 5:23**) Is it a sin to be drunk on wine or on any other substance for that matter (vs. 18)? (See **Prov. 23:20-21; 31:4-5; Is. 5:11-12; 28:7-8; 1 Cor. 5:11; 1 Pet. 4:3**) When does the Bible teach that drinking wine is a sin? (See **Prov. 23:29-35; 1 Cor. 6:9-12; Rom. 14:13, 20-21; 1 Cor. 8:9**)
4. Rather than being drunk on wine, what is the believer to be filled with (vs. 18)? Is the filling of the Holy Spirit a onetime event or is it something to be sought every minute of every day? How does being “*filled with the Spirit*” differ from “*the baptism of the Holy Spirit?*” (See **1 Cor. 12:13**) How does the filling of the Holy Spirit differ from “*the sealing*” of the Holy Spirit?” (See **Eph. 1:13-14**)
5. Please fill in the following blanks listing some ways that a Christian is filled with the Holy Spirit: (NOTE: Listen carefully to today’s sermon to get the answers.)
  1. Start by getting right with God, **c**\_\_\_\_\_ all known sin. (**1 John 1:9**)
  2. Let the **w**\_\_\_\_\_ of God dwell in you richly spending much time in prayer. (**Col. 3:16**)
  3. Choose to **d**\_\_\_\_\_ to yourself and to live for **C**\_\_\_\_\_. (**Gal. 2:20**)
  4. **Y**\_\_\_\_\_ yourselves completely to the moment by moment leading of the Holy **S**\_\_\_\_\_. (**Rom. 12:1-2**)
  5. Depend on the **p**\_\_\_\_\_ of God to help you accomplish what you could never do on your own in ministry and in life.

6. According to **verses 19-21**, what behaviors describe the Christian "*filled with the Spirit?*" Have you ever experienced being filled with the Holy Spirit? What was it like? When did it happen? How did the filling affect your walk with Christ and your witness to others?
  
7. Is being filled with the Holy Spirit something you want to make as a priority in your life? What are some practical steps you can take to draw closer to God and be filled with the Holy Spirit on a regular basis? (See **Jam. 4:7-10**)

**MINER'S CORNER: *Manna for life!***

- Children often imitate their earthly father's character; in a similar manner, Christians are to imitate their heavenly Father's character allowing His communicable attributes to become part of their everyday lives.
- A lifestyle of sexual sin is not appropriate for the follower of Jesus Christ.
- The words of a Christian should be uplifting; filled with thanksgiving and exhortation.
- Christians are to walk in the light, not darkness; our lives should be open books that reflect the love of Christ to the world around us.
- Christians are not to be drunk on wine which leads to dissipation (mental and physical impairment), but are to be filled with the Holy Spirit which leads to a fine tuned and vibrant spiritual life.