

**1 Turn in your Bibles to Ephesians 5:15-21**

How many of you approached Thanksgiving Dinner Thursday thinking, “I am not going to over eat? I am going to eat sensibly—a little bit of everything and when I am comfortably full, I am going to stop. But how many of you had your good intentions fall away as the 2<sup>nd</sup> helping was being passed around—turkey, dressing, ham, potatoes, gravy, sweet potatoes, green beans, corn, cranberry salad, rolls, pies? By the time you finished, you knew you ate more than you needed...but who cares—It is thanksgiving! The rest of the afternoon was spent taking a couple of Tums and sitting around feeling kind of sick.

**Why does that happen?** Why do we fail to do what we know we should do and even want to do?

Why do we fail to eat in a controlled fashion? Fail to forgive when sinned against?

Fail to ask for forgiveness when we sin against someone? Fail to daily meet with the Lord in prayer?

Fail to listen to Jesus by reading His Word? Fail to serve others joyfully?

**Eph. 5:18**, “Do not get drunk with wine for that is debauchery, but keep on being filled with the Spirit.”

**God’s solution** to our inability to do His will and overcome sinful desires is to be filled with the Spirit.

**Read Eph 5:15-21** 15 Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. 18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, 19 addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart, 20 giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, 21 submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

**3 Answer 4 questions about the filling of the Spirit: Why? What mean? What results? How?****1. Why do Christ-followers need to be filled with the Spirit? 15-16**

**BECAUSE** *the possibility of being engulfed by the world’s way of living in rebellion is very real.*

15 **-Then**—therefore-in light of the darkness that is all around us, pit falls, traps, cultural push against Jesus

15 **-Look carefully how you walk**—diligently pay close attention to how you are living! Live w/precision!

\*Image: walking through a field full of stickers—choosing each step very carefully

15 **-Not unwise but as wise**—two paths one can walk on...unwise or wise:

**Unwise living:** 1. **1Cor. 15:33** Going with the flow of the world—doing what everyone else is doing,

2. **Pr. 14:12** Doing what we think is best or easiest or feels the best

16 **Wise living:** 1. **Ps. 90:12** **Make the best use time**=redeem, rescue from lost (danger of wasting):

Invest time: live purposefully: Jesus is part of ALL of your life Not sacred/secular

**Pr. 1:7** Fear the Lord, admit you don’t know, but Jesus does—**Col. 2:3**

2. **1 Pet. 1:13** Keep your eyes wide-opened: **‘the days are evil’**

**Gal. 1:4** “Christ gave himself for our sins to deliver us from this present evil age.”

**2 Cor. 4:4** Evil exists because God allows Satan to have a long leash--he is called "god of this age"

**Gen. 50:20** Evil exists because God allows pride & wickedness in the human heart to do evil things.

**Is. 45:7** Evil exists because God allows natural catastrophes to bring suffering & misery.

**Rom. 7:24** Even when Jesus saves us—we are left to deal with power of sin-miserable man that I am

**2Cor.11:23f** Even when Jesus saves us—we may be stoned, beaten, imprisoned, without food/clothes.

**2Cor.12:8f** Even when Jesus saves us—God doesn’t remove all the difficulties/sickness from us.

Instead God taught Paul some of the purposes of struggling with sin and suffering.

**Why do we need to be filled? Because the possibility of being engulfed by the world’s way is very real.**

**2. What does it mean for a Christ-follower to be filled with the Spirit? 17-18**

**To be filled with the Spirit: to experience the joyous, empowering & controlling presence of the Spirit.**

**Acts 13:52** Christ-followers were ‘filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.’

**Acts 4:8, 31** Christ-followers were empowered to witness in the face of opposition.

**Acts 7:55** Christ-followers were controlled by the presence of the Holy Spirit

- 17 **Don't be foolish (stupid, air-head) but understand the Lord's will** Lord's will: general/revealed  
**God's will:** Who marry? Where live? What job? Buy this or not? These are important but not stated  
**God's will is revealed:** vs. 18,  
**1 Thess. 4:3** Sanctification, **1 Thess. 5:18** Give thanks in all things. **Rom. 12:2** Be transformed,  
**1 Pet. 4:19** Suffer as a Christian,

18 **Two commands & Two images:** One negative—drunkenness and one positive—sailboat

- 1) **DON'T get drunk** (with wine—any intoxicating substance) **IMAGE: drunkenness**  
**WHY?** drunkenness leads to debauchery: being out of control==opposite of looking carefully (15)  
 Drunkenness also leads to a false happiness: **HAPPY HOUR!**

Where do people turn when they are frightened, discouraged, depressed or anxious?

There are people who can't whistle a happy tune because they are so tense and anxious about life.

But later in the day with a few drinks under their belt they can sing and laugh.

All of us long to be carefree, uninhibited, happy.

And the mounting tragedy is that people (even Christians) believe the only way they can find this child-like freedom is by drugging themselves with alcohol or other mind-benders.

Such behavior dishonors God & ultimately destroys people closest to you/eventually your own life

Paul says: There is a better way to cope with the evil days—be filled with the Spirit

- 2) **DO: Keep on being filled with/by the Spirit** **IMAGE: sailboat**

**Keep on:** present imperative—something that needs to keep on happening, not a one time thing!

**Being:** passive—something that is done to us, not something that we can do for ourselves!

**Filled:** empowered & controlled: sailboat's sail being 'filled with the wind' so the boat is moved!

**With or by the Spirit:** Spirit is the One who fills us & He is also the One with whom we are filled.

1. **Who is Holy Spirit:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Person of Tri-unity of God's being: God, the Father, the Son, the Spirit  
 HE is not a force=energy field, a thing/substance=it! He is a PERSON! He is GOD!

2. **What are some of the activities of the Spirit?**

**Jn. 16:14** -He glorifies Christ=points people to Christ,

**Jn. 16:8** -He convicts sinners of their sin=unbelief,

**Tit. 3:5** -He enables sinners to repent of their sin and trust Christ by making them alive,

**Rom. 8:9** -He indwells every Christ-follower at the moment of salvation,

**Rom. 6:1f, 1 Cor. 12:13** -He baptizes every Christ-follower into Christ's life & Church,

**Eph. 1:13** -He seals every Christ-follower into Jesus Christ and is given as a down payment

**1Cor.12:7** -He gifts every Christ-follower with a special, supernatural ability to serve

**Rom. 8:26** -He prays in/through Christ-followers as they pray.

3. **What is the evidence/result that a Christ-follower filled with the Spirit?** 19-21

*Christ-followers know they are filled with the Spirit when they joyously worship, give thanks, submit.*

**IS NOT...** 1. Being 'slain in the Spirit': fall backwards and go into a subconscious state \*INDIA

2. Making animal noises or receiving gold dust from heaven—see flecks of gold dust

- 19 **IS...** 1. **Worshiping Heart:** ADDRESSING one another in: Psalms (OT Psalms), hymns (popular music dedicated to God), spiritual songs (generic category of songs),  
 SINGING, PLAYING MUSIC to the Lord with ALL your heart!

Worship: is our heart-felt response to God's grace in our lives: being filled with the Spirit...

Worship: both a horizontal (encouraging/exhorting) and vertical (God-centered) dimension

Worship: diversity is good and demands harmony: unity in the midst of diversity

- 20 2. **Thankful Heart:** Always & in ALL things giving God thanks. Because God is over all things!  
**1Th.5:18** Always thank God in all things--Not all things are good—but God rules in all things!  
 \*Some people are just grumblers—pessimistic people—Are they to be thankful? YES!

- 21 3. **Submissive Heart**: submit: military: to arrange under, to put oneself under another's authority  
 To one another=mutual submission to each other as brothers and sisters in Christ:  
 To give preference to one other Christians (**Rom. 12:10**), you submit to that person.  
 To think of others as more important than yourself (**Phil. 2:3**) you must submit that person.  
 To forgive someone who sins against you (**Eph 4:32**), you must submit to that person.
- Acts 4. **Courageous Heart**: joyous confident courage in Christ that spills out in effective witness

**EVIDENCE/RESULT: Having Jesus control, direct, & enable everything you do.**

**John 14-17** Jesus prepared His disciples to live the Spirit-filled life.

**John 14:16-18** *And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. I will live in you (not just next to you) through the person of the Holy Spirit.*

4. **How can a Christ-follower be filled with the Spirit?** How can you do what can only be done for you?  
*Christ followers are Spirit-filled when they consciously yield to Jesus & trust Him to live in them.*

We are commanded to be filled, and yet it is something that is done to us by God. **So what must I do?**  
 The Spirit fills Christ-followers who consciously **yields to & trusts** Jesus to live in/through them.

1. **You must want to be filled/controlled by the Spirit.** (**Eph. 5:18**)

**Alcohol**: In the same way you want alcohol to influence you, you must want Christ to control you.

2. **You must trust Christ to fill/control you with His Spirit.** (**Eph. 5:18**)

**Sailboat**: As a sail must be up and available to the wind, you must trust Christ to fill you.

**Acts 6:5** says that he (Stephen) was "a man full of *faith* and of the Holy Spirit,"

**Acts 11:24** says that Barnabas was "a good man full of the Holy Spirit and of *faith*,"

**Romans 15:13**, "May the God of hope *fill* you with all joy and peace *in believing*, that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope."

3. **You must admit your need and ask the Lord to fill/control you with His Spirit.** (**Acts 4**)

**Acts 4:23-31** Christ-followers desperately sought the Lord, submitted to the Lord, and asked the Lord to empower them to do His will.

**No one stays Spirit-filled all the time**—But this should still be our aim, our goal, our great longing.

No one is always totally, joyfully submissive to God and empowered for service.

THEREFORE...every Christ-follower has a need to daily repent of sin and confess it to the Lord and trust Him to fill you with His Spirit.

**Be a Worshipping Warrior: Vigilant AND Worshipful**

**Be Vigilant** 15 Be careful how you live, be alert, be vigilant.

16 Use every moment wisely because evil is all around you.

17 Don't be stupid but live out God's will.

18 Don't be controlled by substances but be controlled by the Spirit.

**Be Happy** 19 Sing to each other in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs.

19 Sing from your hearts to the Lord with great joy.

20 Give thanks to the Lord for all things!

**See life with wide-eyes AND thank the Lord with a wide-mouth.**

**Carefully ANALYZE how you live AND joyfully EXALT in the Lord.** Clear head & passionate heart!

**Be CAREFUL how you walk in the world AND CAREFREE about the outcome of your life.**

**HOW? Be filled with the Spirit: Be controlled, empowered, and made joyously confident in Christ.**

## What is the Difference between the Baptism of the Spirit and the Filling of the Spirit

	<u>Baptism of the Spirit</u>	<u>Filling of the Spirit</u>
<b>When</b>	At salvation-Mk. 1:8 (Acts transitional)	At salvation and many other times-Accts 7:55
<b>How often</b>	Once-1 Cor. 12:13	On going basis-Eph. 5:18
<b>What it does</b>	joins believer to Christ-Rom. 6:1-6 Joins believer to Church-1 Cor. 12:13	Refreshes, empowers, directs believers-Eph. 5:18f
<b>Requirement</b>	Faith in Christ to save you	Choose to yield to and trust Christ-Eph. 5:18
<b>Experiential</b>	No—don't feel anything	Possible—may or may not feel something-
<b>Evidence</b>	Love for Christ/hate of sin, community	Joy, Courage, Empowerment,

## Biblical Guidelines for Drinking Alcohol is Based on the following Two Principles & Eph. 5:18

### **Everything you chose to do should be done ...**

1. To encourage you to treasure Christ and love people. **1 Cor. 6:12a**
2. With an awareness of the danger of being personally enslaved by it. **1 Cor. 6:12b**
3. With an awareness that God owns you—you are not our own boss. **1 Cor. 6:19**
4. To honor and show off God's glory. **1 Cor. 6:20, 10:31**
5. That doesn't hinder a Christian or a non-Christian from treasuring Christ. **1 Cor. 8:9-13, 10:32**

### **Christian freedom is a freedom to...**

1. Joyfully treasure and please Christ NOT the freedom to do certain things. **Gal. 5:1,5**
2. Live for the benefits of others NOT just do those things that please you. **Gal. 5:13-14**

### **Follow these four guidelines:**

1. Choosing to drink alcohol to drunkenness is sin. **Eph. 5:18**
2. Choosing to drink alcohol is not necessarily a sin. **Jn. 2:1-11, 1 Tim. 5:23**
3. Choosing to drink alcohol to relax, unwind..., instead of seeking to be Spirit-filled is sin. **Eph. 5:18**
4. If you choose to drink alcohol, it must be done in accordance with the above principles.

### **Church membership covenant...**

As members of BCC, we covenant together that as we have opportunity we will do good to all men, especially to those who are of the household of faith, that we will submit to God and resist Satan, and that we will abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul. As long as we continue in membership of this church we will gladly cooperate, making its testimony honoring to Christ...

We should all seek God's help in abstaining from all drugs, food, drink, and practices which bring unwarranted harm to the body or jeopardize our own or another's faith.

We should approach this with faith in Christ and His truth, not by adding additional rules/regulations.

Legalism is treating biblical standards of living as rules to be kept by our power in order to earn God's favor.

It is an attempt to use our own power to make ourselves moral.

Legalism is also the erecting of specific requirements of conduct beyond the teaching of Scripture and making adherence to them the means by which a person is qualified for full participation in the church.

It is an attempt to use our own power to make the church moral.

Unbelief unites these two forms of legalism—unbelief in regard to ourselves that it is God who works in us to will and to do his good pleasure (Philippians 2:12, 13); and unbelief in relation to others that God will make his will known and incline them to do it.

Whenever confidence in God's power for our lives & the lives of others grows weak, legalism creeps in. We compensate for loss of dynamic faith by increased moral resolve and add more man-made regulations.