

Title: Filled With The Spirit

Text: Ephesians 5:15-21

Divide into Two sermons  
 (1) Vs 15-17  
 (2) Vs 18-21

In chapter 4 verse 1 it told us to walk worthy of the calling that we have received. In Chapter 4 verse 17 it says to walk not as the Gentiles or unbelievers walk, but to walk differently. In chapter 5 verse 2 it says to walk in love, just as Christ also loved you, and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God." Then in Vs 8 it says to "walk in light and not in darkness." To have a different life style than moral impurity.

Now, in chapter 5 verse 15, the final time in telling us how to walk, Paul says.....( Read Vs 15-21).....

PRAYER

This whole context centers around that phrase in Vs 15 to be careful how you walk. KJ says "walk circumspectly." This comes from a Greek word which is really a mathematical word meaning "correctly"...

And it is used that way in the Bible. For example, in the Gospel of Luke chapter 1, when Luke said to Greek ruler, Theophilus, about the account of Christ. He said that you could trust it because what I have recorded, here, is "correct". The same idea. I have carefully put down exactly what the Lord Jesus did.

The term is used also in Matthew 2:8 when Herod sent to the wise men Bethlehem. He said, "God and make a careful search for the child; and when you have found him, report to me." Herod wanted everything to be correct and accurate.

You find the same kind of thing used in Acts 18:26 when Priscilla and Aquila told Apollas, a well-known preacher, but only knowing the Baptism of John and having heard nothing of the resurrection of Jesus, Priscilla and Aquila took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately. Same word. Walk accurately...walk correctly. Not as unwise men, but as wise. Obviously, it is based on the wisdom of God. Being careful how we walk.

( ) Now, there are three things that are being said in these verses about how to walk carefully in this world. One, is by redeeming the time...

Secondly, is by recognizing God's will in your life. And third, is by responding to the Holy Spirit's control. In order to walk in the manner that God wants you and me to walk in this world, there are <sup>two</sup> ~~three~~ things that we should do...

(1) And we must start off by recognizing that we must redeem the time.

Va 16 says "making or redeeming the most of your time", "because the days are evil." Literally it is a Greek word which comes out off the market place and put together with the word "out Off" it means "to buy'out-off". It was used to buy~~ing~~ slaves out-off the slave market.

<sup>So</sup> ~~And~~ according to the Bible we are to buy out off <sup>"</sup> the realm of time, those key times, those special seasons. As a matter of fact, when we look at the meaning of "time" it is not chronological sequences. Like ~~now~~ it so many minutes after the hour of <sup>7:00</sup> 11:00. That is not the word for "time"; ~~it~~ is the word for "seasons." It can be translated "opportunty". It is a specail kind of time.

In other words what <sup>Paul</sup> is saying is: that we must be very careful how we use those special times and those special oppontunties that God brings to the believer. Because the days are evil.

Buy up the time...making the most of every opportunity...I wander if we do that as a believer?

<sup>and</sup> According to God's Word we need to be filled with the Spirit in order to do that. ~~I was in a department store~~ <sup>I WAS</sup> ~~remained~~ of this principle onece, when I found myself in a ~~depar~~ department store, with my wife, during a store wide ~~sale~~ sale. Everything in the store was on sale. I mean everything was marked down to rock bottom prices. It seemed like one big final effort before inflation took over. And everybody was trying to make the ~~most~~ most, quote, "of the opportunty."

And these were long lines of people waiting to purchase two and three and four items. One man was waiting in line to purchase three different suits. And his wife was loaded down with blouses and pants. And I just looked at him and ask: Are you going to buy all of that?" And he said, "Man, this only comes along once in a life time."

What if you gain weight, or loss weight....you know....But, he is going to buy it all up.

I kind of liked the spirit of it all, even though it seemed like foolishness. By the way, if you are wondering what I did. I decided that it would be a test of discipline to walk through the entire store, examine all the clothes, and walk out buying nothing....And that is exactly what I did. But, I didn't get away with nothing. I had to buy my wife something....

Redeeming the time...Dear friends, we are all doing this and we don't ever apply it to spiritual things. God gives you special times and special opportunities and He wants you to use them. To buy up the opportunity. To redeem it. In other words, this is a simple message to believers saying, "if you are walking with the Lord, it <sup>should be</sup> not a part of your life style to waste time."

It doesn't mean that you are wasting time if you are playing games with your children or having recreation or simply resting. But, ~~sometimes~~ it means that ~~because we are not~~ using the opportunities and the special times that God gives to us.

For example, look over at Colossians 4 where this same idea is used. And I believe we have here a clear example of what it means if you are filled with the spirit and you are walking carefully, you are going to redeem the time. And here is an example of how to do that.

Colossians 4 verse 5 and 6...."Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders"..meaning, unbelievers..."making the most of the opportunity"..... There it is again. Making most of the opportunity. Buying up the time. "Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned, as it were, with salt, so that you may know how you should respond to each person."

The same ideas are here as in Ephesians 5. Conduct yourselves with wisdom. He says walk carefully, not as unwise but as wise. And it is towards outsiders. Because we need to redeem the time that we have. Being careful how we talk. So that our speech is gracious and seasoned with salt. Knowing how we should respond to every person. Because it is a great opportunity.

Have you ever put your head on the pillow at night and reflect over the day as a believer and remembered that there were some opportunities to share Christ with non-believers that you simply did not take?

And some how a little voice of conscience hits us that maybe we weren't as ~~filled with the Holy Spirit~~ <sup>aware of God's direction</sup> as we wanted to be?

But, when you are filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>we</sup> speak ~~we~~ boldly. Not obnoxiously. But boldly. Free to share. Because you know that this ~~person~~ maybe the last time that your path crosses with this individual.

I Had a little experience a few weeks ago on a trip that I was taking with the Army Reserves. I was flying back to Fort Sill, Oak. And I was seated by a 10 year old boy. This was his first time on ~~the~~ an airplane. And he was a little nervous. And he talked a mile a minute. Well, right in the middle of taxiing down the runway in preparation to take off, he turned to me and ask: "ARE YOU A CHRISTIAN?".....I loved it....."Are you a christian

I mean..he didn't ask quietly....It was loud! ARE YOU A CHRISTIAN?... And I turned to him and said: "Yes, I am. I love Jesus. Do you love Jesus?" And he said, "Yes"....Well, anyway, we talked for a few moments and he calmed down. But, it is interesting. After we took off, a lady seating across the aisle, who heard the little ~~boy's~~ boys question, wanted to talk about the christian faith. So, I had the opportunity to share with her.

Friends, God opens doors. And a lot of the time when you look at an opportunity, you think, "Well, what is that?" "They simply pass by." A word here, I word there.

And yet, God says to redeem every opportunity. Make the most of it. Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders. Why? Because the days are evil.

As a matter of fact. That is the argument of Ephesians 5. The reason for this careful use of time is because the days in which we live are evil. It is not saying that Paul's day was any worse than any other period of time in history. It is saying that the days that anyone lives are always evil. In other words, evil often reduces the opportunity. Therefore, whatever opportunities that God gives to you, you should buy up....

Why? Because they may not always be there.

Are these days evil? You had better believe it. But, as a christian what an exciting time to live. Our world is frustrated with what is <sup>going</sup> going on.

50, Instead of worrying about the evil, thank the Lord for the opportunity of sharing the one thing that can really over come the evil. NAMELY..Jesus..

Yes, there is evil everywhere. Yes, people are frustrated. And yes, a lot of people don't know what to do. But, Praise God....That is the atmosphere of real revival. That is what I call the opportunity for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. For you and I know that the only thing that will satisfy the longings of one's heart is spiritual things.

So, what should christians be doing? Taking advantage of the time. Christian who are <sup>living as God wants us to live</sup> filled with the Spirit don't set by and ~~do~~ <sup>do</sup> nothing. Christian who are <sup>living as God wants us to live</sup> filled with the Spirit are excited about the opportunities. ~~xxxx~~ Inspite of the evil, inspite of the pressures, inspite of the problems, they are excited about what God can do.

And I believe that ought to characterize <sup>our life, our walk</sup> a spirit filled christian in a ~~very discouraging~~ time.

May God give us wisdom. Do not be unwise but wise. Redeem the time. (2) Secondly, in order to walking carefully, we not only need to redeem the time, but to recognize God's will. Coming back to Ephesians chapter 5, <sup>please</sup> Notice Vs 17...."So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is."

By the way, the little word "be" in Vs 17 where it says "do not be foolish"....is the Greek word meaning "to become!" So, this indicates that it is possible for christians to fall into the trap ~~of~~ of becoming foolish.

In other words it is a major problem that we face when things are going bad, the days are ~~xxx~~ evil, we fall into a trap of becomeing foolish.

And the connection, here, is very strong. Vs 17 says, "SO THEN".... Or, literally, "on account of this thing"...WHAT THING"

It is the last phrase of Vs 16..."THE DAYS ARE EVIL"...Because the days are evil, on account of that, ~~xxx~~ / don't become foolish. It is indicating that christian often go that way.....

Often when things are <sup>Not</sup> going right, when the pressures are great, often when the evils in society are so great, and it looks like it is hopeless and no one has any solutions, often what happens is that a lot of christians become foolish. Instead of understanding what the will of the lord is. Instead of buying up the opportunities, they blow it.

They ~~also~~ <sup>also</sup> fall into the trap of the discouraged, the depressed, the defeated, instead of remembering that Greater is ~~He~~ that is in you, then ~~He~~ that is in the world.

Friends, these are great and exciting days if we take advantage of them. The Bible says in I Corinthians 2:14..that the "natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness to him."

Don't become foolish by not understanding the things of the Spirit of God. That is why he said in Vs 17 "Understand"....That is the main principle. "Understand the will of the Lord"...

~~WHAT IS THE WILL OF GOD?...~~ <sup>slow</sup> ~~And~~ what does it mean to understand ~~it?~~ <sup>God's Will?</sup>  
Does it mean just to hear it and know it?....NO!!!!....The word "understanding" ~~here~~ is a word for "APPLICATION". Literally it means "to set or bring together."

It means to bring together what you know are the facts from the Bible and put it together with the experiences of your life.

That is the principle of how to live in <sup>This</sup> sinful, discouraging, and depressing world.

How do I live triumphantly? How do I have victory? How do I make the most of the oportunties? I must understand the will of God.

OK WHAT IS THE WILL OF GOD? Matthew 7:21 says that everyone who doesn't do God's will will not be in heaven. And not everyone who says, "Lord, Lord," will be in heaven either. Only those who do the will of the heavenly Father." So, it must be a very serious matter.

In Matthew 18:14 Jesus said, "It is not your Father's will that one of these little ones perish." So, it is obviousely God's will that people come to know Christ. UNDERSTAND THE WILL OF GOD..

Romans 12:2 says, "Don't be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. That you may prove what the will of God is."

I can prove what the will of God is by renewing my mind in the Word. Obviously the Word represents His will.

The Bible, also, says in I Thess. 5:18, "in everything give thanks, for this is God's will for you."

Was there anything that has already happened today that you didn't give thanks for? ~~You are out of the will of God.~~ UNDERSTAND THE WILL OF THE LORD, "In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God" *lost wallet*

I would call that the "determinate will of God." That everything..all things..are being caused by him, working through him, and shall be unto Him. Therefore, I have no other choice put to thank Him. Because I know that what will happen this day, is what God, almighty, intended to happen.

*and of course, the other side*  
~~And the second part~~ of that is that nothing will happen this day that God, almighty, didn't know was going to happen. Therefore, I can thank Him...  
RIGHT?...He knows what you are going to have for lunch. Did you know that?... I don't know what I am going to have, yet. But God knows whether I am going to eat it, or not, and what I am going to have.

In everything give thanks. I may need that food when I eat it....Do you know what I mean?...IN EVERYTHING, DEAR FRIENDS.....That is the will of God.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A SPIRIT FILLED CHRISTIAN?....Some one who is Spirit filled is understanding that a part of what God's will is, is for me to praise Him and thank Him in everything that is happening. To have a certain rest and confidence in a sovereign God. Not worrying about the evil days. They have always been evil. They were evil in Paul's day. They are evil in our day. So, I buy up the opportunity. And I realize that God has given me a certain amount of time. It is known to him. My death is under divine appointment. Hebrews 9:27.."It is appointed unto man once to ~~die~~ die." Nobody dies by accident or co-indences. Everybody dies on time...Regardless of the means. God has given me a certain amount of time And He wants me to buy up the opportunities that He has given me. And if I understand the will of God, I realize that everything that happens in my life is according to His will.

I just thank Him. Whether it is in category "good", or category "bad," in my view. It is all in category "good" from God's view. All things work together for our good, says Romans 8:28.

But the Bible also says in I Thess. 4:3, "This is the will of God, even your sanctification, that you abstain from sexual immorality."

Why should I run around to conferences trying to tell me what the will of God is when I have I Thess 4:3. Stay away from sexual sin, says God. That is my will. In Everything give thanks. That is <sup>God</sup> my will. Seek to win people to Christ, That is <sup>God</sup> my will. *Reclaim The Time - Do as God's Will*

*And Finally*  
~~I can find out what the will of God is.~~ This is the will of God that you believe upon him who He has sent. It was the will of God the moment I believed in Christ and accepted him as Lord and Saviour. That was the will of God.

I Peter 2:15, there is an interesting application of the will of God. In I Peter 2:15 we read: "For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men."

And <sup>Peter</sup> he is talking there about submitting and being obedient. And it says by doing right, by a submissive attitude in my heart, I am going to put to silence foolish men. They will have no cause of rebuke or challenge about my life style or my principles of living. Because I live the way I talk *Living The Christian Life*  
Filled with the Spirit.....Redeeming the time.....recognizing the will of God.

*Vs 14-21*  
(3) But there is a third way that we walk carefully. Not only by redeeming the time and recognizing God's will, but, also, by responding to the Holy Spirit's control.

Ephesians 5:18 says, "Do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit."

*Note*  
~~If~~ you are a christian, the Holy Spirit of God is already in <sup>your life</sup> you  
Don't take my word for it, take the words of Jesus. The Lord Jesus said to the disciples, ~~following that~~ day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit would be in them. And do you know how long He will stay? Jesus said that He will be in your forever....



The Holy Spirit of God will never leave my life as a Christian.. For ever and ever, I have the Holy Spirit of God living within me. My body, according to I Cor. 6:19, is the temple of the Holy Spirit of God. I will never get anymore of the Holy Spirit than I currently already have. The moment I became a Christian God's Holy Spirit has come to live in my body. <sup>Now</sup> And I don't completely understand that. But it is true. And if you are a christian, he also lives in you. The Bible says that the Spirit of God dwells in each and every believer. In fact, Paul goes so far as to say in Romans 8 that "if you do not have the Spirit of God, then you don't even belong to Him."

It is very clear. Every Christian has the Holy Spirit. But, you know, friends, that does not mean that the Holy Spirit has you. There is a ~~difference~~ difference. It is one thing to say that you have the Holy Spirit. It is anyother thing to say that the Holy Spirit has you, or is controlling you.

Now, ~~know~~ <sup>NO</sup> matter what book you have read....and there are many books. How many of you have read a book on the "filling of the Holy Spirit?".....

Some of you have. And the rest of you, ought to....There are plenty of books. Just go to your local christian books store, there are many, many books on the subject. And depending on who you read, it is interesting what they say. Some of them connect all the verses throughout the Bible and put together an unbelievable formula which is hard to understand.

But, I just want to say, without trying to put anyone down, that the formula for having the control of the Holy Spirit is right here in Ephesian 5. You don't have to go anywhere else. I know that the Bible has a lot to say about the Holy Spirit and we ought to study it all. But, when the Ephesians got this letter from the Apostle Paul, everything that they needed to know was right there in that letter.

Now, what does it mean to be filled with the Spirit? To be controled by God's Holy Spirit?

The text says "to be filled". That is a present tense. That means a constant filling of the Holy Spirit.

~~There was some teaching in the past and it is for some of you by who~~

cont

There was some teaching in the past, and it is in some of you who have used the Schfield Bible. Dr. Schfield taught that there is one baptism but many fillings. He thought that some <sup>Here</sup> ~~who~~ when you sing or you preach that was when <sup>you were</sup> I was filled with the Holy Spirit. Much more than washing dishes or cleaning out the garage. Do you know what I mean?

But the text says "be constantly filled" with the Holy Spirit. It just isn't on ~~that~~ special occasions. The way this text <sup>reads</sup> ~~reads~~ is that it is the normal christian life. *To Be Filled with The Spirit*

Why is it that in this day and age a so called "Spirit filled" person seems abnormal and different. Maybe it is because the majority of us have become satisfied with a state of carnality. And failed to do anything about it because it is easier that way. Itm is more comfortable. You feel secure of heaven, so wahy get to involved in the here and now.

I don't know all the reasons. But, I tell you that the normal is to be filled with the Spirit. That is not the abnormal. That is suppose to be the normal for every believer.

Also, this is not a suggestion. It is a command to all believers. It is commanded to us. Therefore, if you are not filled with the Holy Spirit you are disobedient to a specific command of God.....~~WOW!!!~~ / WOW!!!!

There is one other thing that I would like to strengten out. <sup>This</sup> ~~The~~ filling is not like a cup. Some people always picture this like a cup. Like you are filling up a cup. So, some people conclude that my cup is a ~~quarter~~ quarter full. Others say, "Well, my cup is half full." And no one ~~wants~~ wants to say that they are all the way. Because it sounds so pridefull.... Right?.....Well, friends, that way of thinking is all wrong....wrong.....

The point is..that you are either filled with the spirit, or you are not...There is no half way or quarter way . It is eiether you are...or... you are not. Do you understand?

You say, I don't like that. Maybe some of us are <sup>becoming</sup> ~~become~~ more spiritual. NO! NO! NO!...That is not what the Bible teaches. YOU ARE EITHER PRESENTLY CONTROLLED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, OR YOU ARE PRESENTLY CONTROLLED BY YOUR OLD SIGNATURE... *Is that B or R?*

or

You say, How do I know? I am glad you ask. Here it is. Notice in Vs 18 there is a relationship to drunkenness. I am not going to ask how many of you have been drunk.... *But There is an example of drunkenness*

Vs 18 says, "Do not get drunk with wine, for that is dis'si'pation, but be filled with the spirit."

The word "but" ~~and~~ means there is a strong contrast, here. <sup>Now</sup> ~~and~~ Being filled with the Spirit isn't really like being filled with wine. It is simply an illustration. That is where a lot of christians in talking about the Spirit filled life get mixed up. Because they see people acting funny under the influence of wine, and they think you are to act funny and wired when you are controled by the Spirit. *The word "but" is a word of strong contrast.*

There is a point to the illustration. But don't get the idea that being drunk is the same thing as being filled with the Spirit. NO WAY. IT IS JUST AN ILLUSTRATION.

*→ The illustration is a person being controlled by some outside substance*

*(1D) OK* What is the illustration? Three times in the Bible, being filled with the Spirit is placed with being drunk. In Luke 1..in Acts 2..and in Ephesians 5. Whatever being filled with the Spirit means, it is in connection with what it is like when people are ~~drunk~~ drunk.

And there is a neat little connection here. The word "wine" would go in connection with the word "spirit." So, if you want to know what the Spirit is doing to you when you are filled, you have to see what the wine is doing to you when you are drunk.

The word Spirit is not in connection with the word "drunk". It is in connection with the word "wine". Very important.

Turn, please, to Proverbs 23. Proverbs chapter 23. Now, everybody has there own little views as to whether they should or should not take a little drunk, now and then. And for whatever reason. And some people say that the Bible never teaches anywhere that you cannot have a little wine every now and then. Well, my friend, if you believe that, you are wrong....PERIOD...You are wrong. What is true is that the word "wine" in the N.T. is used of every stage and every phrase of the wine process from the moment of the grape on the vine, until the moment of intense frumentation.....

So, the point is..just by the word "wine" you don't really know what stage of the wine it is in. That is a true statement.

But, to say that the Bible no where condemns the usage of wine in a certain stage, you are wrong. And here is an example.

In Proverbs 23: 29 we read....(READ Vs 29-35)

What a picture of an alcoholic.....

The point is for all of you who have at one time or antoher questioned the problem of wine, the Bible teaches that wine in a certain stage is always wrong for the godly ~~r/~~ righteous person. Always... The question and argument is always over what stage the wine is in.

And dear friends, I believe that if you are a committed spirit filled believer, you are going to stay away from the stuff.

If for no other reason, I would stay away from it as a testimony to my opposition to what it has done in the lives of people. Stay away from it.

But, let's get back to something more serious, as it relates to being filled with the Holy Spirit. When that alcohol <sup>in the</sup> ~~processed~~ wine begins to be absorbed by the individual, all of a sudden, he acts in a way that he doesn't ususally act. He see things that he doesn' normally see. His mind begins to think of ~~the~~ things that he doesn't normally think of. ~~That is what this text is saying.~~ He doesn't even know what is happening around him. But, he always wants more. That is the picture of an alcoholic.

~~Let me remind you of something.~~ Being controlled by the Spirit is similar. WHAT DO <sup>we</sup> MEAN?

Just as wine is an outside force beginning to control your personality, what you think, what you do, what you see. Just as wine does that, so also does the Spirit of God. When God's Spirit is controlling you, all of a sudden you begin to see things that you never saw ~~before~~ right out of that book called the Bible. They were always there. But, you see, <sup>and</sup> ~~The~~ carnal christian does not see as the spirit filled christian see. There is a limitation upon his growth because of it. The Bible even says that the person who is carnal doesn't even subject himself to the Law of God (Romans 8). He is always fighting against God's Word.

*But* The Spirit filled ~~man~~ <sup>carnal</sup> man is the one who comes to the Word and is submissive to it. What ever it say, that is the way he acts. And he changes his life accordingly. ARE YOU SPIRIT FILLED? IS THE SPIRIT CONTROLLING YOU LIKE WINE CONTROLS THE DRUNK? Do you also, *like the Alcoholic*, want another drunk at the Spirit's fountain?

Or, do we want another drunk at the bar of carnality? I ask you, where does *your* heart lean? Where do your desires go?

Do you want to sow to the flesh? If you *do*, the Bible says you will reap corruption. Do you want to sow to the Spirit? The Bible says you will reap things of everlasting life.

Where do we want to go? What is our motivation? What *are* we trying to

*do?*  
 (2D) Then Paul gives us four results of what it means to be filled with the Spirit. Come back to Ephesians 5, again.

When it says to be filled with the Sprit, that is a command. Following that command, we have four principles that are related to that command. These four principles discribe what it means to be filled with the Spirit.

(1E) One, Paul says in Vs 19, "Speaking to one another ~~in~~".....Not ~~to~~ yourself or to the air. But to one another. It means that you when you are spirit filled have a desire to minister to other believers. No question about it. That is the difference between carnality ~~and~~ and spirit filled.

Those christians who are carnal will want to isolate themselves. They don't want to get involved with other christians. They stay away from believer But, the spirit filled believer always cares about others. The spirit filled believer wants to spent time with other christians.

"Speaking to one another" how?...Paul says "in Psalms and hymns and spiritual songs."

I think this has been greatly mis-understood. First ~~af~~ all he doesn't say "singing". He says speaking. This is ~~not~~ talking about content, rather than the music. The verbal content of what we say to one another. And if you are <sup>*being Controlled by the Spirit*</sup> ~~spirit filled~~ that verbal content among christians will be characterized by PSALMS...HYMNS...AND SPIRITUAL SONGS.

Now ~~let's look at them...~~ *what Does That mean*

(1f) Psalms! We know what that is. We have a whole book of them. 150 of them in the Book of Psalms. And like many of you already know, the Psalms will comfort ~~the~~ the heart. When you read and study them they bring comfort to our hearts. And you and I know, in times of need, when you are down and depressed, there is nothing more beautiful than opening the Psalms and reading those wonderful words of comfort.

And I remind you that David wrote those Psalms under the inspiration of the Spirit. And many times David was depressed when he was ~~filled with~~ *controlled by* the Spirit. Just because you are down doesn't mean that the Spirit isn't controlling you. God may use that down time to bring out beauty that could never be brought out in those so called up times. <sup>!!</sup> Sometimes it takes those down times for us to care about people and to have a sensitivity to where people are. The Bible is simply saying that if you want to know what it is like to speak to people when you are filled with the Spirit then study the Psalms. Think of the times it Praises and worships the Lord. "BLESS THE LORD, O MY SOUL. AND ALL THAT IS WITHIN ME, BLESS HIS HOLY NAME."

(2f) And Hymns? What are hymns? Basically it means any song or words that are written that give praise to God....PRAISEING THE LORD...

Matthew 26:30, as all the disciples are in the upper room and Jesus is going out to ~~the~~ the cross, the Bible says that they sang a hymnnnnnnnn. A Song of PRAISE, and went out.

The <sup>illustration</sup> ~~one~~ I love the most is in Acts 16:25. Paul and Silas are in jail. Their feet and their hands are in ~~stocks~~ *chains*. And at midnight there was an earthquake. And what are they doing? The Bible says that they were singing hymns of praise to God.....SONGS OF PRAISE TO GOD INSPITE OF THEIR CONDITION. *A Spirit filled church will praise God in all circumstances*

(3f) Spiritual songs... <sup>NOW This</sup> The phrase "spiritual songs" is an interesting phrase because the word "song" is simply our word "ODE." And "ode" was a poem. It could be set to music. But it was basically just a poem. It may be sacred or secular. Here it is called "SPIRITUAL ODE"...A spiritual poem...spiritual word.....

Or, words that are controled by the Holy Spirit. I Cor 2:13 speaks about this. Of christians comparing Spiritual with Spiritual. Saying words that are truely from God. Rather, then men.

You know, after reading all of this, I realized what our problem is. A lot of the time when we talk to each other, we are just taking off the top of our heads. We are just giving human wisdom and human viewpoints about a given situation.

But when someone is "spiritual", when they are speaking to someone they are giving God's truth. And sometimes that is going to hurt. Sometimes it is going to hurt to tell someone what God's truth is. But, when we speak the truth in love...when we lay aside falsehood and lieing, when we finally start ministering to one another, it is ~~obvious~~ obvious how all of this is connected. And here Paul is saying, "speak to one another with the words of God."

→ You can summarize Psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with that one truth. Speak to each other with the truth of God's <sup>own</sup> wonderful words. Nothings ministers like the word of God

Even when someone losses a loved one, I Thess. tells us to comfort one another with these words that the Lord is going to come again. And that the dead in Christ are going to rise first.

It is not enough to give human symphy. It is not enought just to say, "well, I am sorry to hear that you lost so and so. But don't worry everything will turn out all right."

It is the Word of God that builds. It is the word of God that comforts. And when we are spirit filled our minds and hearts have been renewed in the Word. And that is the direction of our talking to each other. We are interested in what the Bible has to say about that area of concern. We are interested in how the Word of God meets my need. WHAT DOES GOD HAVE TO SAY?

That is the spirit filled attitude. *This is what will happen when you are filled or controled by the spirit*

2E) But there is also the matter of singing to the Lord. According to Vs 19 it says "Singing and making melody"...The word "singing" is a different word than the word "song". Here it means "stricking a string instrument."

According to Vs 19, it says "singing and making melody with your Heart." And this means more than just singing words. It has to do with MOTIVE.

Listen to me, the Christian who is filled with the Spirit has that atmosphere of joy inside towards the Lord himself. Singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord. It isn't singing so that you can be heard by others Oh, that might happen. But it means that you are singing on the inside..WHY?.. BEcause there is that joy, that happiness, of knowing the Lord...

But, don't say that you are spirit filled when there is no joy in your heart towards the Lord. Don't try to make people think you are really walking in the spirit when inside there is nothing but grief, and bitterness.

(3 ) A third <sup>result</sup> thing is <sup>Giving</sup> saying Thanks to God. According to Vs 20 when you are filled with the Spirit you will "always give thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

In the "name of Christ" refers to the character of Christ. What we know about him, I give thanks for all things.

I have already mentioned that as being the "will of God". If I am filled with the Spirit, I gave thanks for all things.

People say, "how could you give thanks for what just happened." I mean that was a flat tire. Your car spind out and ~~crashed~~ crushed into a pole."

Yay! that is right. Praise the Lord. Wasn't it exciting?"

<sup>you</sup> He says, "You must be nuts saying that."....NO! I AM FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT".... No..you don't want to say that. Because it sounds like pride.

But, then on the other hand that is the real reason. It isn't because you are so neat and great and you have been able to handle things...OH! NO!! It is because the Holy Spirit quickened my mind in a moment when I was ready to blow my top and reminded me of scripture that cause me to say: PRAISE THE LORD!!!

And sometimes I do that even when the great feeling of joy is not there. Because I believe that the feeling comes when you are obeying God.

And I look at a difficult situation and I am pressured to react differently.

But, just like wine controls the alcoholic, so the spirit of God controls the spirit filled person. So, instead of blowing your top, the one who is under the control of the Spirit....SAYS....PRAISE GOD.... *I Know He has A Reason*



I don't understand it all, but I know He is soveriegn. And I know He is in control. *The Answer to stress*

*result*  
(4) And one final things. And this leads into our next series of messages. *vs 21*  
And that is if you are filled with the sprit you are constantly submitting to one another in the fear of Christ.

Paul is going to apply that in marriage, in family, and in business. And that is where we are headed in our study.

But, let me say this: It is not a quality of the one who is filled with the spirit to have his own way. It is not that. Anyone who is afriad of giving up his rrights, your authority, your possessions, anything like that, you are fearing that, and you are hanging on.....YOU ARE RESISTING THE HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD.

*SOFT*  
First of all, everything that we have God owns. I don't have any rights I gave them to the Lord a long time ago. And either do you.

When you are filled with the Sprit there is no longer any hesitation. We automaticaly submit and subject ourselves. And notice, it is to one another.....in the fear of the Lord....

We submit to ~~us~~ others because we have submitted to the Lord.

And that is the key.....Have you submitted to the Lord? Have you given the Lord your life?...*your heart, your all - your pocketbook -*

Control by HS

- (1) speaking to one another in love
- (2) Joy in our hearts
- (3) giving thanks for all things
- (4) And - being subject to one another