

# THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

**Ephesians 5:18-21**

**Lesson #34**

**Spirit filled**

**03/25/2018**

God calls us all  
to be  
**hypocrites**  
to our old nature.

## *Ephesians 5*

“<sup>18</sup> And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but **be filled with the Spirit**, <sup>19</sup> speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; <sup>20</sup> always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father; <sup>21</sup> and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.”

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## What is the literary context of Eph. 5:18-21?

### **Ephesians 1-3**

Exposition	Prayer	Exposition	Prayer
1:3-14	1:15-23	2:1-3:13	3:14-21

Reconciled  
with God

Reconciled  
with one another

ch.4-6

### *Ephesians 4:1*

“I, **therefore**, the prisoner of the Lord, entreat you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called,”

**Before we talk & walk we need to listen & see.**

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### *Ephesians 4:22-24*

“that, in reference to your former manner of life, you **lay aside** the old self, . . . and **put on** the new self, which is in the likeness of God . . .”

**Turning away from the old self  
and living according to the new self.**

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## *Ephesians 5 (last week)*

“<sup>15</sup> Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men, but as wise, <sup>16</sup> making the most of your time, because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup> So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.”

### ***Walking in Wisdom***

- **Watch your step** - because it is critical.
- **Seize the day** - because the time is short
- **Stand your ground** - because the days are evil.
- **Find the way** - because God's will is clear.

5



### *Ephesians 5 (this week)*

<sup>18</sup> **And** do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, <sup>19</sup> speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; <sup>20</sup> always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father; <sup>21</sup> and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ."

### ***Walking in Wisdom***

- **Spirit filled** - because life is lived from the inside out.
  - Communicating with song to one another & God
  - Giving thanks
- **Subject to one another** - because we are one body. <sup>6</sup>

### ***What is the literary context of Eph. 5:18-21?***

#### *Ephesians 5*

<sup>18</sup> And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit or **(be filled in spirit)**, <sup>19</sup> speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; <sup>20</sup> always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father; <sup>21</sup> and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ."

- **This could be translated either way.**

1:17 "may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him."

4:23 "that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind."

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### ***What is the literary context of Eph. 5:18-21?***

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- **This could be translated either way.**
- **This is the only reference to "filling" related to "spirit" in Paul's teaching.**
- **The cross reference in Colossians may give us some insight.**

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#### *Colossians 3*

<sup>15</sup> Let the peace of Christ rule **in your hearts**, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful. <sup>16</sup> Let **the word of Christ** richly **dwelt within you**, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God."

- **The emphasis is on what Christ does within us.**
- **"The word of Christ" is parallel to "the filling of the (S)pirit".**

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#### *Colossians 3*

<sup>9</sup> For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be **filled with the knowledge of His will** in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, <sup>10</sup> so that you may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects,"

- **Here the filling seems to relate to our spirit.**

#### *Ephesians 3:19*

"and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, **that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God,**"

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### ***Paraphrase of Eph. 5:18-21?***

"Put off the old pagan life of drunken stupor where you act like animals, and put on a spirit full of joyful singing from the heart inspired by the Word of God within you. Show gratitude in every circumstance knowing that you have an inheritance in Christ. And submit yourself to fellow members of the church to showcase what Christ has done in reconciling all of us in one body."

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## An important comparison

"drunk with wine"

"filled with the Spirit"

### Signs of a "spirit filled" life and church

**Mutual Edification**

"speaking to one another"

**Joyful Worship**

"making melody with your heart to the Lord"

**Attitude of Gratitude**

"giving thanks for all things"

**Self-sacrificing Service**

"be subject to one another"

**Internalized Scripture**

"Let the word of Christ richly dwell within"

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## An important comparison

"drunk with wine"

"filled with the Spirit"

### The path to a "spirit filled" life and church

*Romans 12*

"<sup>1</sup> Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. <sup>2</sup> And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect."

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## Diverse kinds of singing in the church

- **Praise to God** - Singing addressed to God.  
"Holy, Holy, Holy"
- **Testimonials** - Singing bearing witness to how God has affected His people.  
"Wonderful Grace of Jesus"
- **Challenges** - Singing that calls God's people to act.  
"Softly and Tenderly"
- **Theological** - Singing that proclaims the faith.  
"Now Thank we all our God"

**The Psalter illustrates this diversity.**

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## Note what is not emphasized.

- **Mission** - World evangelism and discipling
- **Reform** - Cultural / political renewal.

### The emphasis is on:

- **Worship** - Our awareness of God's presence.
- **Community** - Our relationship with one another.

**The integrity of our relationships within the church is a witness to the authenticity of our message to the world.**



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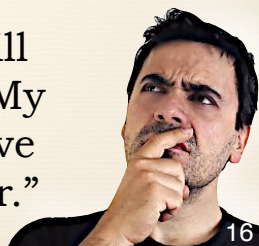
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### The emphasis is on:

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- **Community** - Our relationship with one another.

*John 13:35*

"By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."



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## What do we know about the "filling of the Spirit" from the New Testament?

1. It is **only** found in the writings of Luke (Luke, Acts).
2. The term "filled" (PIMPLEMI) is consistently associated with **energy to speak** prophetically, evangelistically, or in praise.

**Luke 1:41, 67** "Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, . . ."

**Acts 2:4** "And they were all **filled** with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues,";

**Acts 4:8** "Then Peter, **filled** with the Holy Spirit, said to them..."

**Acts 4:31** "And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all **filled** with the Holy Spirit, and begin to speak the word of God with boldness."

**Acts 9:17, 13:9** "but Saul, who was also known as Paul, **filled** with the Holy Spirit, fixed his gaze upon him."

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### But Luke uses two words (translated - to fill).

**PIMPLEMI** – This is a special filling which was repeated and may describe charismatic experiences today.

**PLEROO** – This is a term (translated “full” or “filled”) used to describe a state of mature behavior. It is not dynamic (like PIMPLEMI) but more a description of maturity of character.

**Acts 6:3** “but select from among you, brethren, seven men of good reputation **full** of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task.”

**Acts 7:55** “but being **full** of the Holy Spirit, he gazed intently into heaven and saw the glory of God.”

**Acts 11:24** “for he was a good man, and **full** of the Holy Spirit and of faith.”

**Acts 13:52** “and the disciples were continually **filled** with joy and with the Holy Spirit.”

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### The “BAPTISM” with the Spirit

*1 Corinthians 12*

“<sup>12</sup> For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. <sup>13</sup> For **by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body**, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

- “Indwelling”
- “new birth”
- at conversion
- not repeated

**How is this baptism related to the filling that is in Eph. 5:18?**

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### The “FILLING” (of, with, or by) the Spirit

The PIMPLEMI  
filling

- dramatic speech
- occasional
- involuntary
- not a sign of spirituality

The PLEROO  
filling

- steady maturity
- result of sp. growth
- intended for all
- a sign of spirituality

**The term used in Eph.5:18 is a form of PLEROO.**

No matter how you translate “spirit” in Eph.5:18 the idea is the same.

**The spirit filled life is a life shaped by the Word of God resulting in wisdom, joy, worship, gratitude, and selflessness.**

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### Mistaken ideas of the Eph.5:18 “filling”

- Confession of sin.
- Charismatic experience - speaking in tongues.

### How can we be “filled” in the spirit (Eph.5:18)?

- The spirit-filled life is a choice between two natures.
- It is all about being true to our NEW self in Christ by faith.
- It is something that we can “put on” but not without “laying aside” the old self.
- The filling is not a gift, but a sign of walking in the light.

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“Burn God’s words into your heart, His thoughts into your mind and His ways into your actions; and you’ll have a spirit-filled life.”

Alisa Hope Wagner  
(Christian writer)



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