



Ephesians 5:18-21

WALK IN WISDOM FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT

I don't know of a more important verse in the New Testament for the Christian than Ephesians 5:18—honest, no exaggeration. This verse tells the believer how to live an authentic, empowered life. It begins with a negative command: "Don't get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation" (which means excess, existing hopelessly out of control). When you're drunk with alcohol, you lose control. You also lose self-respect and the respect of others. A positive command follows: "But be filled with the Spirit." ... "Be filled" is a command, which means I play a part in it. I cannot be filled with the Spirit while at the same time conducting my life in the energy of the flesh. I cannot be filled with the Spirit while I am resisting God's will and relying only on myself.I need to walk in conscious dependence on the Lord on a daily basis.

—Chuck Swindoll

How do we live in this difficult, spiritually-dangerous world?

Walk in unity. Walk in newness of life (holiness). Walk in love. Walk in the light. Walk in wisdom (the Spirit-led application of biblical knowledge to the specific situations of daily life).

Don't live like a fool...

But live wisely, redeeming the time

Don't be foolish...

But understand the will of the Lord

Don't be drunk with wine...

But be filled with the Spirit

And do not be drunk with wine
in which is dissipation

But be filled with the Spirit

speaking to one another in psalms, hymns, spiritual songs

singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord

giving thanks always for all things to God the Father

in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ

submitting to one another in the fear of Christ.

THE FOOLISH LIFE — DRUNK WITH WINE (5:18a)

- **THE COMMAND**

The danger is _____.

The issue is _____.

- **THE RESULT**

Drunkenness leads to _____ (cf. Luke 15:13).

Without the Spirit, we can neither love God or keep His commandments. —Augustine

Dissipation. Greek, *asotia*, (*a*, no + *sozo*, to save), "unsavedness, wastefulness." It is an excessive, reckless, uncontrolled life.

Drink is not a stimulant, it is a depressant. It depresses first and foremost the highest centers of all in the brain. ...They control everything that gives a man self-control, wisdom, understanding, discrimination, judgment, balance, the power to assess everything; in other words, everything that makes a man behave at his very best and highest. The better a man's control, the better man he is.

—D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones

The city of Ephesus was filled not only with the worship of Artemis (Diana) but also with the cult of Dionysus. ...[Dionysian festivals] varied from place to place but it seems that one common feature was the emphasis on fertility and sex...[and] wild, frenzied dancing and uncontrolled ravings in connection with wine drinking...

—Cleon L. Rogers

THE WISE LIFE — FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT (5:18b-6:9)

- **THE COMMAND**

The issue is _____.

Present tense

Plural subject

Passive voice

Note: At the moment of salvation, a believer is regenerated by the Spirit (John 3:5-6; Titus 3:5), indwelt by the Spirit (Rom. 8:9-17), sealed by the Spirit (Eph. 1:13-14), and baptized/immersed by the Spirit into the body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:13). This happens all at once. The filling of the Spirit, however, occurs on a repeated basis as a believer yields more and more of him/herself to the Spirit's work.

- **THE RESULTS:** The Spirit-filled believer/church is empowered to accomplish the specific task and mission it is called to (cf. 1 Sam. 16:13; Luke 1:15; Acts 4:8, 31; 6:3; 7:55; 9:17; 11:24) and is characterized by...

_____ joyfully.

_____ always.

_____ to one another.

These actions are not only the results of the Spirit's filling but also appear to be avenues by which we can align our lives to His work in our hearts and thus experience His filling more and more.

If we don't obey this command, we cannot obey any other— simply because we cannot do any of God's will apart from God's Spirit. Outside of the command for unbelievers to trust in Christ for salvation, there is no more practical and necessary command in Scripture than the one for believers to be filled with the Spirit. —John MacArthur

*Believers are to be filled **by** the Spirit and thus also filled **with** the Spirit. —Andrew Lincoln*

The Word-filled Christian is the Spirit-filled Christian [Col. 3:16]. —H. A. Ironside

The baptism of the Spirit means that I belong to Christ's body. The filling of the Spirit means that my body belongs to Christ. —Warren Wiersbe

Spirit-filled Christians are people whose lives are characterized by singing, thanksgiving, and mutual submission. —Peter T. O'Brien

Psalms. Greek, *psalmos*, "a song designed to be sung with the accompaniment of instrumental music" (Hodge).

Do you wish to be happy? Do you want to know how to spend the day truly blessed? I offer you a drink that is spiritual. This is not a drink for drunkenness that would cut off meaningful speech. This does not cause us to babble. It does not disturb our vision. Here it is: Learn to sing psalms! Then you will see pleasure indeed. Those who have learned to sing with the psalms are easily filled with the Holy Spirit. —Chrysostom (AD 347-407)