

You Shall Receive Power: Leaning into the Forgotten God
Being Filled with the Spirit, Part 1

Ephesians 5:14-18

Grace Fellowship Church, Pastor Brad Bigney, May 21, 2017

Ephesians 5:14-21 gives us two simple commands that are tied together concerning what the Bible means when it talks about being filled with and led by the Holy Spirit.

I. Wake Up and Start Living for What Matters Most v. 15-17

The word 'awake' in **v.14** is in the imperative tense – it's a command.

Paul has a concern that they might still slink around in the shadows and live in a stupor, half asleep, and unaware of the light and life that they have now in Christ.

Notice the two areas in which Paul thinks they need to wake up to what matters most:

A. You've Got to See What God Sees in This World

Ephesians 5:15-16 "See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil."

The word 'see' in **v. 15** is the Greek word 'blepo.' It's a much more intense form of looking that conveys the idea of watchfulness or readiness, because of your serious contemplation or spiritual perception and insight.

He's calling you to begin to see the world around you the way God sees it.

You'll never be able to see the world this way until you understand how to obey the second command in this passage.

B. You Better Know What God Wants for This World

Ephesians 5:17 "Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is."

The will of God is made known to us in the Word of God. Paul's talking about knowing what God's Word says about every area of life and how to apply it so that you can live for what matters most, because the days are evil.

God knew you'd need the supernatural help and power of someone living within you to be able to see the world the way He does and to understand the way His Word and His will apply to every area of your life.

II. Be Filled with What Helps You Most v. 18

Ephesians 5:18 "And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit."

A. He Commands Us to Be Filled with the Spirit

He commands us not to be drunk, but to instead be filled with the Spirit.

Every Christian is commanded to be filled with the Spirit and it's a command you can't obey on your own.

This command is also never done, but it's something that needs to become a continuous pattern in your life. You'll have to understand from the Bible how to be filled with the Spirit and then you'll have to choose to put those things into practice regularly.

B. So How Can You Be Filled with the Spirit?

Two ditches to avoid:

- (1) One ditch says, "There's nothing you can do to attain this." You are absolutely passive in all this because it's just something that hits you. You think you can hope for it, wait for it, and maybe ask God for it, but there's nothing you can do to be filled with the Spirit.
- (2) The other ditch treats this like a formula where you push certain buttons and walk through certain steps thinking you can make this happen anytime you want.

Put yourself in position where you can be filled! Here are two ways to do that:

1. Learn to Accept and Even Delight in Your Child-Like Weakness

Luke 10:21 "At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure."

Jesus had an explosion of joy because the Father reveals Himself to spiritual little children who are weak, helpless, and know they have nothing.

The people who receive the most from God are the people who are most aware of their own spiritual bankruptcy and what they don't have.

2. Slowly, Carefully, and Prayerfully Keep Filling Your Life with God's Word

Colossians 3:16-17 "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."

To be filled with the Spirit and to be filled with the Word is the same thing. To be saturated and filled with the truth of God's Word is to be saturated and filled with the Spirit.

Don't seek after God's Spirit apart from God's Word! The Spirit of God is the Spirit of truth. He loves to make God's Word come alive in your life, but you have to give Him something to work with!