

*You Shall Receive Power: Leaning into the Forgotten God*  
**So What Does it Mean to Be Filled with the Spirit?**

**Ephesians 5:14-21**

*Grace Fellowship Church, Pastor Brad Bigney, May 28, 2017*

**I. So What Does it Mean to Be Filled with the Spirit?**

To be filled with a person means to come under the influence of that person. You become so aware of their needs, their wants, their desires and their passions that you actually start to think like they think and want what they want, which leads you to do some of the very things they do.

When you come under the influence of somebody else there are two things you're always doing: you're always trying to please them and you're always listening to their advice and adopting their values

That's what it means to be filled with the Spirit.

**II. How Would it Change the Way You Live Your Life?**

**A. You'll Waste Less of Your Time, Money, and Energy**

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

The word 'drunk' that's used in that verse means soaked or saturated so that you're dominated by it. The word 'dissipation' means to be spilled out or wasted.

When you're drunk your energy and resources are wasted and you're very inefficient, but to be filled with the Spirit is the opposite of all that. To be filled with the Spirit is to be efficient, self controlled, and focused.

Unlike drunkenness that exhausts you and wears you out, being filled with the Spirit will refresh you and keep you going.

God won't give you more to do in a day, week, or month than you can possibly do. If you have more to do than you can possibly get done, it means you're doing a lot of things God didn't give you to do.

When you're filled with the Spirit you don't live exhausted and on the ragged edge of burnout.

**B. You'll Start Seeing More of Reality Not Less**

Alcohol depresses parts of the brain and diminishes its function so that a drunk person sees less of reality than they did before, which may make them feel happy, but it's based on a lie and a loss of reality.

Being filled with the Spirit is the exact opposite of being drunk, because he says in **v. 15** to see then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise. He says in **v. 17** to understand what the will of the Lord is.

Being filled with the Spirit increases your awareness and alertness to all that is going on. You start to see more not less. Your world gets bigger and brighter so that you live in the land of reality, not denial or delusion.

The Holy Spirit gives you a heightened understanding of the truth of who God is and what He's doing in our world that enables you to triumph over your troubles.

### **C. God's Word Will Be More Alive to You than Ever Before**

The Spirit of God loves to make God's Word shine for you in a way that overcomes your feelings and blocks out your fears.

The Holy Spirit picks up where Jesus left off explaining the Bible to us in a way that makes our hearts burn with the truth! See **John 16:12-15**.

In almost every encounter with his disciples after the resurrection Jesus opened the Scriptures in a way that made it come alive for them!

**Luke 24:25-27** "Foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?' And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself."

Jesus gave them an in depth Bible study showing the disciples who He really was and it had an effect on them.

**Luke 24:32** "And they said to one another, 'Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?'"

To have the truth of God's Word burn in your heart means the Word of God becomes rich to you, it gets louder, and starts to drown out other voices.

When you're filled with the Spirit, He takes the truth of God and makes it shine for you so that what was bothering you, threatening you, and what was trying to control you gets overshadowed by the brilliant truth of God's Word and you have a hope and courage that are way beyond anything you can muster in your own strength.