

The World has lost the power to blush over its vice; the Church has lost her power to weep over it.

Leonard Ravenhill

Prayer Study #305

STAYING FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT AND WALKING IN THE FULLNESS

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of those things, which are done by them in secret. But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. Therefore He says: "Awake you who sleep, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light." See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and 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 God.

Ephesians 5:8-21 New King James

Do not be drunk with wine, which will ruin you, but be filled with the Spirit

Ephesians 5:18 New Century Version

Don't destroy yourself by getting drunk, but let the Spirit fill your life.

Ephesians 5:18 Contemporary English Version

Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, let the Holy Spirit fill and control you.

Ephesians 5:18 New Living Translation

And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but ever be filled and stimulated with the [Holy] Spirit.

Ephesians 5:18 Amplified

STAYING FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT

Ephesians 5:18 tells us to be continually filled with the Holy Spirit. Paul wrote these words to the Ephesians where the main religion was the pagan worship of Artemis. The worship service of these pagans incorporated the drinking of vast amounts of wine. Paul is warning people who most probably came out of Artemis worship that getting drunk was not godly, and drunkards could not think rationally and would fall into all kinds of fleshly sins. On the other hand, being filled with the Spirit is to be controlled by the Spirit, and those controlled by the Spirit live a righteous life pleasing to God the Father.

The editors of the New King James Bible explain this filling of the Spirit this way: “Unlike the indwelling of the Spirit, filling is a repeated experience. This is underscored by the use of the present tense (‘be filled’) as well as by biblical examples of Christians who were filled more than once (Acts 2:4; 4:31). Just as important, we must observe that filling is a command to be obeyed, not an option.

“The next most important question is, *How can someone be filled with the Spirit?*” The prerequisites are simply confession of sin and yielding to God. The former means to agree with God about the person’s sin; the latter means primarily dedication of self to God. The believer who chooses to obey in these areas is filled with the Spirit and enabled to manifest Christ-like character.”

I might add that a close reading of Ephesians 5 and 6 will also show us the way of being continually filled with the Spirit. These include **practicing regular praise and worship**-which we will deal with in more depth in a latter handout in this series on the Holy Spirit-(Ephesians 5:19-*speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord*), **being thankful in all things** (Ephesians 5:20-*giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ*), **submitting to one another and honoring Christ’s authority over us** (Ephesians 5:21-*submitting to one another in the fear of God*), **being responsible in family relationships** (Ephesians 5:22-6:4-*Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle*

or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. For we are members of His body, of His flesh and bones. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband. Children obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother, which is the first commandment with promise: that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth. And you fathers do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.), **being responsible in work relationships** (Ephesians 6:5-9-Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men, knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free. And you, masters, do the same things to them, giving up threatening, knowing that your own Master also is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.), **arming oneself with God's armor and His word** (Ephesians 6:11-17-Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.), **and praying continually** (Ephesians 6:18-praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints-).

WALKING IN THE FULLNESS

“This I say then, walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.”

Galatians 5:16

1. First, we must accept and receive Christ and thus allow the Spirit to indwell us: Ephesians 1:13-14: *In Him you also who have heard the Word of Truth, the glad tidings (Gospel) of your salvation and have believed in and adhered to and relied on Him, were stamped with the seal of the long-promised Holy Spirit. That Spirit is the guarantee of our inheritance [the firstfruits, the pledge and foretaste, the down payment on our heritage], in anticipation of its full redemption and our acquiring [complete] possession of it-to the praise of His glory. AMP*

2. Next, we seek the baptism in the Spirit and allow the Spirit to fill our spirit, soul and body and renew our minds. Romans 12:1-2: *THEREFORE, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God-this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is-his good, pleasing and perfect will. AMP*

3. After receiving the Christ, and, even more so after the baptism of the Spirit, we are going to be tested. The Pattern Son, Jesus, was lead into the wilderness by the Holy Spirit to be tempted by the devil. After our own baptism, we will be tested in two ways. First, the kingdom of darkness will try to fill our mind with negative and unclean thoughts in order to stop us from walking in the power of the Spirit. Secondly, the Holy Spirit will reveal thoughts, words, actions, or attitudes, which need changing in a test between our spirit and God’s Spirit. If we walk in the flesh or in the soulish nature, we will grieve the Spirit, and next week we will be talking about how we grieve the Spirit.

Matthew 4:1: *THEN JESUS was led (guided) by the [Holy] Spirit into the wilderness (desert) to be tempted (tested and tried) by the devil. AMP*

James 1:2: *Consider it wholly joyful, my brethren, whenever you are enveloped in or encounter trials of any sort or fall into various temptations.*

1st Peter 4:12: *Beloved, do not be amazed and bewildered at the fiery ordeal which is taking place to test your quality, as though something strange (unusual and alien to you and your position) were befalling you. AMP*

4. Then we resist satanic attacks, just as Jesus did, with the Word of God and with praise. James 4:7: *So be subject to God. Resist the devil [stand firm against him], and he will flee from you.* AMP

1st Peter 5:8-9: *Be well balanced (temperate, sober of mind), be vigilant and cautious at all times; for that enemy of yours, the devil, roams around like a lion roaring [in fierce hunger], seeking someone to seize upon and devour. Withstand him; be firm in faith [against his onset-rooted, established, strong, immovable, and determined], knowing that the same (identical) sufferings are appointed to your brotherhood (the whole body of Christians) throughout the world.* AMP

Ephesians 6:17: *And take the helmet of salvation and the sword that the Spirit wields, which is the Word of God.* AMP

5. Finally, we grow up and mature. To the degree that we cooperate with the Holy Spirit in resisting Satan with the Word of God, we grow up and obtain spiritual maturity. Bill Gothard reminds us, “Jesus went to the wilderness in the fullness of the Spirit, but He returned in the power of the Spirit.” Luke 4:14: *Then Jesus went back full of and under the power of the [Holy] Spirit into Galilee, and the fame of Him spread through the whole region round about.* AMP

Colossians 1:28-29: *Him we preach and proclaim, warning and admonishing everyone and instructing everyone in all wisdom (comprehensive insight into the ways and purposes of God), that we may present every person mature (full-grown, fully initiated, complete, and perfect) in Christ (the Anointed One). For this I labor [unto weariness], striving with all the superhuman energy which He so mightily enkindles and works within me.* AMP

The fullness comes through going through these 5 steps and thus finally walking in maturity. Mature saints are not sissies or wimps. They do not walk in fear. They do not murmur and complain. They know that trials and tribulations will come, but they also know that He promised never, no never, no never to leave or forsake them (Hebrews 13:5), and that He works all things together for good to those who love Him and are called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28) Furthermore, they know the power of His Word, and they speak the Word, claim the Word, and live the Word every day that they live.

Until Then
Stuart Hamblen
1958

My heart can sing when I pause to remember
A heartache here is but a stepping stone
Along a trail that's winding always upward,
This troubled world is not my final home.

The things of earth will dim and lose their value
If we recall they're borrowed for awhile;
And things of earth that cause the heart to tremble,
Remembered there will only bring a smile.

This weary world with all its toil and struggle
May take its toll of misery and strife;
The soul of man is like a waiting falcon;
When it's released, it's destined for the skies.

CHORUS

But until then my heart will go on singing,
Until then with joy I'll carry on-
Until the day my eyes behold the city,
Until the day God calls me home.