

## SERMON OUTLINE

**SERMON TITLE:** How to Have a Spirit-Filled Life

**SERMON REFERENCE:** Ephesians 5:18

**LWF SERMON NUMBER:** #1733

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) When God saved us, He gave us a faith with an engine in it.
  - i) There are many people who are pushing their faith rather than letting their faith carry them.
  - ii) They are grateful for salvation, but they think that it is such a difficult thing being a Christian.
- b) Ephesians 5:18
  - i) Are you being filled with the Spirit right now?
    - (1) This is not the same thing as the Holy Spirit indwelling you.
      - (a) He indwells all Christians.
    - ii) This verse literally says, “Be ye being filled.”
- c) Being saved is not a matter of what we do for God, but what God does through us by the fullness of the Holy Spirit.

2) THE REASONS FOR BEING SPIRIT-FILLED

- a) Our obedience:
  - i) Ephesians 5:18
    - (1) God commanded it.
  - ii) Ephesians 5:18 is not a suggestion, it is not a request, but it is a command by Almighty God.
  - iii) “Be filled” is in the imperative mood.
    - (1) When something is imperative it means that it is necessary.
      - (a) The Christian who is not Spirit-filled is living in rebellion against God.
    - (2) It is in the present tense.
    - (3) It is also plural in number.
      - (a) “Be ye being filled” is not a command just for the pastor or the missionary, but for every person and as many as the Lord shall call.
        - (i) Every Christian ought to be Spirit-filled.
    - (4) It is passive in voice.
      - (a) He doesn’t say “get filled” but “be filled.”
        - (i) It’s not what we do; it is what He does in and through us.
  - iv) The first part of this verse says, “Be not drunk with wine.”
    - (1) We ought not to be drunk with wine.
    - (2) But it is a greater sin not to be filled with the Spirit.
      - (a) The Bible teaches that the sins of omission are greater than the sins of commission.
      - (b) It is a greater sin to fail to do what we ought to do than to do what we ought not to do.
        - (i) If we’re doing what we ought to do, then we cannot be doing what we ought not to do.
      - (c) The greatest issue in the church is carnality.
    - (3) If a person is filled with the Spirit, then he is not going to be drunk.
    - (4) Being drunk is the devil’s substitute for being Spirit-filled.

- (5) Parenthetically, this does not lessen the command to not be drunk with wine.
- v) Being filled with the Spirit is a command to obey and a blessing to enjoy.
- b) Our obligations:
  - i) We don't have the strength in ourselves to do what the Bible commands us to do.
  - ii) In our worship life, we need to be Spirit-filled.
    - (1) Ephesians 5:19-20
      - (a) God is a Spirit, and they that worship Him must do so in spirit and in truth.
        - (i) John 4:24
      - (2) The only way we can truly worship God is to worship Him in the Spirit.
    - iii) In our wedded life, we need to be Spirit-filled.
      - (1) Ephesians 5:22
        - (a) A wife is to respect, love and submit to her husband as if he were the Lord Jesus.
          - (i) Gladly and happily we're to submit.
        - (b) A wife cannot submit to her husband without being Spirit-filled.
          - (i) It is not in human nature to do that.
        - (c) This does not mean that a wife is inferior to her husband.
          - (i) Men and women before the Lord are equal.
      - (2) Ephesians 5:25
        - (a) The husband is to love his wife as if he were the Lord Jesus.
          - (i) The Lord Jesus loves the church sacrificially.
            - 1. He died for the church; He gave Himself up for the church.
          - (ii) A husband should love his wife so much that he is willing to die for her, and he shows it by the way he lives for her.
        - (b) The only way we can do what Jesus has done is for Jesus in us to do it.
          - (i) Husbands are to let the Holy Spirit of God love their wives through them.
          - (ii) If Jesus is enthroned in the husband's life and he is Spirit-filled, then his wife will receive far more love.
        - (c) Everything God commands us to do, we can do.
          - (i) We can do it through His power.
    - iv) In our work life, we need to be Spirit-filled.
      - (1) Ephesians 6:5-7
        - (a) The word "servants" here literally means "slaves."
      - (2) We are to serve our boss as if he were the Lord Jesus.
      - (3) Human nature is to get by with as little as we can and get as much as we can.
        - (a) But we should be giving of ourselves and serving.
      - (4) By nature, we are selfish, but we can do this by being Spirit-filled.
  - v) In our war life, we need to be Spirit-filled.

- (1) Ephesians 6:10-11
- (2) We're in a battle, and we have a real enemy.
  - (a) He wants to bring devastation to our homes, our health, our happiness, our future and our faith.
  - (b) We are no match for this enemy.
    - (i) He is stronger than us, he is powerful, he is cunning and sinister beyond belief.
- (3) 1 John 4:4
  - (a) The only way we're going to win in this warfare is to be filled with the Holy Spirit of God.
- vi) In our witness life, we need to be Spirit-filled.
  - (1) Ephesians 6:18-19
  - (2) We can share truth, but only the Holy Spirit can impart truth.
    - (a) We are dependent upon Him.
- c) Our opportunities:
  - i) Ephesians 5:14-18
  - ii) We are living in evil days.
    - (1) If it were true in Paul's day, then how much more true is it in our day?
  - iii) There has never been a greater day, a greater age, or a greater opportunity to share the Gospel of Jesus than right now.
  - iv) There is more hunger for the Gospel than ever before.
  - v) There is more openness to the Gospel than ever before.
    - (1) As the night grows darker, the saints grow brighter and the hungers grow more intense.
  - vi) People are looking for an answer, and the answer is Christ.
  - vii) The key is to be Spirit-filled so that we might reproduce ourselves.

### 3) THE REQUIREMENTS FOR BEING SPIRIT-FILLED

- a) Being Spirit-filled is a command, and everything that God requires of us, He teaches us what to do.
- b) The Holy Spirit is a person.
  - i) John 14:26
  - ii) Don't depersonalize the Holy Spirit.
    - (1) Don't think of being filled with the Spirit as if you are some kind of vessel and He is some kind of a liquid.
- c) The Holy Spirit is a person, and we are a temple.
  - i) 1 Corinthians 6:19
- d) There must be a complete commitment to Him.
  - i) We have opened up the door of the temple, we have welcomed Him in, and we have given Him the key to every closet and to every room.
    - (1) Is there any area in your life that is off limits to the Holy Spirit?
    - (2) Have you given to Jesus Christ the keys to every area of your life?
      - (a) Your financial life?
      - (b) Your business life?

- (c) Your date life?
    - (d) Your social life?
  - ii) To be filled with the Spirit means that we are committed to the Lord.
  - iii) Sometimes we want to be filled with the Spirit for the wrong motive.
    - (1) Proud self wants to be filled with the Spirit in order to be a superior Christian.
    - (2) Lazy self thinks that being filled with the Spirit will make things easier.
    - (3) Ambitious self thinks being filled with the Spirit will make him a better Bible teacher, a great singer, a great preacher, etc.
    - (4) But the Holy Spirit has one ministry, and that is to exalt the Lord Jesus Christ.
  - iv) When the burning ambition of your heart and life is to exalt the Lord Jesus and you have given Him the key to every room, then you are filled with the Holy Spirit.
- e) There must be a continual control.
  - i) Ephesians 5:18
    - (1) This verse literally says, “Be ye being filled.”
      - (a) The question is not, “Have you been filled?”
      - (b) The question is, “Are you being filled?”
    - ii) Why does this passage say to be not drunk with wine and be filled with the Spirit? Why does God use this particular sin of drunkenness?
      - (1) He does it by contrast.
        - (a) Being filled with the Spirit and being drunk with wine are antithetical.
        - (b) On the day of Pentecost, the apostles were accused of being drunk with wine.
          - (i) Acts 2:12-15
            - 1. They were drunk on the Holy Spirit.
        - (2) He does it in comparison.
          - (a) Being filled with the Holy Spirit is a lot like being drunk in that everything about the person has changed.
            - (i) A man who is drunk or under the control of another substance is changed in the way he walks, talks and thinks.
              - 1. He is dominated by the influence of intoxication.
            - (ii) When a person is filled with the Holy Spirit, he is controlled by the Holy Spirit.
              - 1. His walk, his talk, his generosity, his courage are all changed by the Holy Spirit.
          - (b) A person gets drunk by drinking, and he has to keep drinking to stay drunk.
          - (c) To be filled with the Holy Spirit, we need to continually be dependent upon Him.
  - f) There must be a conscious claiming.
    - i) We must claim this fullness.

- ii) We received the Lord Jesus by faith.
  - (1) Colossians 2:6
- iii) We simply thank the Lord for filling us and claim the filling by faith.

#### 4) THE RESULTS OF BEING SPIRIT-FILLED

- a) There are three basic results of being filled with the Spirit, and they show in all of our relationships of life.
  - i) It is easy to tell whether or not we are being filled with the Spirit because we will see it in our relationships.
- b) In our relationship to God, there will be a spirit of adoration.
  - i) Ephesians 5:18-19
  - ii) We constantly want to be praising God.
  - iii) There is a burning, blazing, passionate emotional love in our hearts for the Lord Jesus Christ.
    - (1) We cannot help but praise Him.
- c) In our relationship to circumstances, there's a spirit of appreciation.
  - i) Ephesians 5:20
  - ii) A Spirit-filled person is humbly grateful.
    - (1) A flesh-filled person is grumbly hateful.
  - iii) When we are filled with the Holy Spirit, we are thanking God for what He is doing.
    - (1) In all things at all times.
- d) In our relationship to other people, there is a spirit of accommodation.
  - i) Ephesians 5:21
  - ii) Submission is not for wives but for Christians.
  - iii) The fullness of the Spirit is only to those who are under the control of the Spirit and submitted to the purpose of the Spirit.

#### 5) CONCLUSION

- a) If we will learn how to walk with God in faith, then He will be filling us.
  - i) In our relationship with God, there will be adoration.
  - ii) In our relationship to circumstances, no matter what happens, we will be able to thank the Lord.
  - iii) When we're with our brothers and sisters in Christ, we will be seeking to serve them and accommodate them.
- b) Is the Holy Spirit filling you right now?
  - i) There must be complete commitment.
    - (1) Give Him every key.
  - ii) There must be continual control.
    - (1) Keep on receiving; keep allowing Him to fill you.
  - iii) There must be a conscious claiming where you say to the Lord that you claim by faith the promise that is yours.
- c) But before you can be filled with the Holy Spirit, you must first receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior.

- d) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- e) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
  - i) Romans 3:23
  - ii) Romans 10:9-10
  - iii) Romans 10:13
  - iv) Acts 16:31
  - v) John 3:16