

“Marriage & The Bible”
How To Correct It
Be Filled With The Holy Spirit
Ephesians 5:14-21
Pt. 4

Introduction - How to correct it? “*Ye must be born again?*” vs 14. “*Ye must be Spirit filled,*” vv. 15-21. All Christians are filled with the Spirit. So Paul says, vs. 18. “*Be filled with the Spirit.*” There are four things I want to look at together with you:

1. The Contrast
2. The Command
3. The Conditions
4. The Consequences

I. The Contrast, vs. 18 “Be not....”

- Paul may have been thinking of the Bacchanalian cult.
- “But” contrast being drunk and Spirit-filled, illus., Acts 2.
 - Loss of self-control
 - False joy
 - False confidence
 - Draws attention to self

II. The Command To Be Filled, vs. 18

What does it mean to be filled with the Spirit?

First, it’s not the same as being indwelt, sealed, or baptized in the Spirit. None of these are commanded in scripture. Nor is it getting more of the Spirit. It’s the Spirit getting more of you.

“We Christians are to be progressively sanctified, or made righteous in holiness as we daily abide in Christ and obey His word. Abiding and obedience are the keys to a successful spirit-dominated life. We are as much sanctified as we are possessed by the Holy Spirit. It is never a question of how much you and I have of the Spirit, but how much He has of us.” - Billy Graham

So to be Spirit-filled is to be Spirit-controlled.

Illus.- Luke 4:28 - “*They were filled with wrath.*”

Acts 13:45 - “*The Jews were filled with envy.*”

There are four truths you need to know about this filling:

1. It's in the “*imperative mood*” so it's not optional, it's obligatory. It's God's will for every Christian.
2. The verb, “*be filled*” is in the “*plural*” form. Same as “*be not drunk.*” It's not a privilege reserved for some super saints.
3. It's in the “*passive voice*” which means the object has something acting upon it. So it's “*let the Spirit fill you.*”
4. It's in the “present tense.”

“It is well known that, in the Greek language, if the imperative is aorist it refers to a single action, while if it is present the action, while if it is present the action is continuous. Thus, when at the wedding in Cana Jesus said, ‘fill the jars with water’ (Jn. 2:7), the aorist imperative shows that he meant them to do it once only. The present imperative ‘be filled with the Spirit’, on the other hand, indicates not some dramatic or decisive experience which will settle the issue for good, but a continuous appropriation. - John Stott

In Acts, Peter chp. 2, also 4:8 & 31.

III. What Are The “Conditions” for Being Filled With the Spirit?

There are four conditions:

1. A desire to be filled. Jesus said in John 7, “If anyone thirst...” Matt. 5:6, “Blessed are they....”
2. You must “denounce” sin in your life. See Eph. 4:29-32. Confess and forsake your sin.
3. “Dedicate” yourself fully to Christ. How? Col. 3:16, “Let the word of Christ...” So obedience to the word!
4. Depend daily on the Spirit. How? Prayer!

IV. The Consequences of Being Filled, vv. 19-21

1. A New Joyfulness, vs. 19

- The inflow of joy will bring an outflow of songs!
- Ill. - Acts 16, Paul & Silas in prison.
- Note - The Spirit's joy is threefold in nature:
 1. It's inward - "in your hearts" - myself
 2. It's outward - "to one-another" - others
 3. It's upward - "to the Lord" - God

2. A New Thankfulness - vs. 20

- I Thess. 5:18, "*In everything give thanks for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.*"

3. A New Submissiveness, vs. 21

- Illus. - "Fear" of God!