

## Sermon Discussion

### 21 November 2021

Read Ephesians 5:15-21

#### Dig Deeper

In v. 15, the word order and usage in the Greek text suggest that “**carefully**” modifies “walk” rather than “look.” We could translate the clause “*See to it that you walk (live) carefully.*” Careful living is essential to being wise (skilful) and to pleasing the Lord (v. 10). The wise person is one who views and sees things the way God does.

“**Be filled**” in v. 18 is a passive command. It amounts to letting the Holy Spirit who indwells us control us completely. We do this by trusting and obeying Him as His Word directs. The wine that fills a person controls every area of his life as long as that person consumes it. Likewise, the believer who allows the Spirit to influence and direct his thinking and behaviour will experience His control as long as he maintains that relationship to the Spirit (*see Luke 1:15; Acts 2:12-21*).

Starting in v. 19, Paul referred to four of the many results of Spirit filling. All four deal with praise, and all are **public rather than private** activities.

In addition to communicating with one another using:

“**Psalms**”- Old Testament psalms that the Christians and Jews used in their worship.

“**Hymns**”- songs that directly spoke about God’s attributes.

“**Spiritual songs**”- a general term that probably covers all other kinds of vocal praise.

Christians should also use these means to communicate with the Lord. “*Singing*” refers to vocal praise, and “*making melody with your heart*” implies inaudible praise.

Third, we should thank God the Father for all things.

The fourth result of fullness with (control by) the Spirit is willingness to submit to other people, specifically believers. The opposite would be dominating others and exalting oneself over them.

1. Before listening to the sermon, what was your understanding of "baptism in the Holy Spirit"? How has your understanding changed, if at all?
2. Has your own Christian life included one or more events that you could call "a large step of growth" in some area or another in the Christian life? Or has it rather been one of small but continuing steps in fellowship with God and His church?
3. What does it mean to be filled with the Spirit? How will a person who is filled with the Spirit show it?

4. Do you think it would be right to seek for an experience of filling with the Holy Spirit in your own life now? How might someone go about doing this?
5. If we think of the various ways in which we can grow in the Christian life (study of the Word, prayer, love for God, love for other Christians and for non-Christians, worship, use of spiritual gifts, etc.), in what areas do you think you need to ask God for more growth in your own life? Would it be appropriate to ask him for a new fullness of the Holy Spirit to accompany growth in those areas?

### **Application & Prayer**

- If you have been saved by faith in Christ's death and resurrection through the grace offered lovingly by God, rejoice and thank God through prayer/praise that His Spirit has baptised you into His body.
- As we try to create and shape a culture here at Bethany that loves God, loves people, and makes disciples, which corporate behaviour or trait do you think we should grow towards that would demonstrate our being Spirit-filled? Come up with a practical suggestion in growing towards this trait or behaviour.
- Reflect on the implications of Ephesians 5:15-21 for your own life today. Consider what you have learned that might lead you to praise God, repent of sin, and trust in His gracious promises.