

April 22, 2026

This is an extension of John 17:17 teaching on sanctification.

Being Filled with the Spirit and its Practicality in Life

1. It is found not as a doctrine (Eph 1-3) but as a practical aspect of Christian living (Eph 4-6).
2. Being filled is the positive aspect of dealing with sin, temptation, and living for Christ. It is the pursuit.
3. Picture it as the pursuit of health, rather than the avoidance of disease.
 1. What things must I do to be physically healthy (offense)
 2. Rather than, what do I not do to avoid disease (defense)
4. **Galatians 5:16**, But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

The Analogy-Paul gives us a picture of what it means to be filled with the Spirit by contrasting it to being drunk with wine (Eph 5:18, Acts 2:13).

1. The day of Pentecost (Acts 2.13). Peter explains their behaviour (Acts 2:14-21).
2. Zacharias, the father of John the Baptist. (Luke 1.15).

What does it mean?

- To be drunk means to come under the influence or control. We use it often in relationship to alcohol as Paul does in Ephesians. But, we also use it in relationship with power; to be drunk with power.
- To be under something's influence means that our faculties, our mind, our feelings, our wills and our actions are all under another influence
- We use it also as 'full of life,' or 'full of the idea.' Or, being 'consumed by rage, jealousy, or envy.' Whatever it is we are 'filled' with, becomes the controlling influence in our life.
- The Apostle Paul is telling us that this should be our relationship with the Spirit. We should be under His influence and control.
- To be filled with the Spirit means to be controlled by Him in that sense: we are filled with him and he controls our thoughts and minds, our emotions, our feelings, our desires, our words, our actions, our everything.
- The issue for the believer is therefore, control. Who or what is controlling you? The flesh, the world, the devil, or the Word, the Spirit, and the Son of God.

Examples of this ‘Control.’

- John the Baptist (Luke 1:15)
- Elisabeth (Luke 1:41)
- Zacharias (Luke 1:67)
- Jesus (Luke 4:1-2).
- Day of Pentecost and the disciples (Acts 2:4)
- Peter (Acts 4:8)
- Stephen (Acts 6:8, 10)
- Barnabas (Acts 11:24a)
- Paul (Acts 13:9, 9:17)
- Disciples at Lydda (Acts 13:52)

Don’t dismiss the Spirit as an influence, power, or energy. He is a Person of the Godhead.

- Much the same way when we fell in love with our wives. She captivated our thoughts, our actions, our desires, etc.
- The very thought of our wives control our actions.

What are the results of the filling of the Spirit seen through the effects of alcohol?

1. It acts as a stimulate on the outside of a man, but inwardly is a depressant.
2. It can lead to joy/happiness; wipe away the cares of this world.
3. It can lead to fellowship; loose lips.
4. Turn to alcohol when we are depressed or to escape.
5. Drink to celebrate
6. Scripture

1. Psalm 104:15

What are the effects of the control of the Spirit?

1. Believers are taught truth by the Spirit (the disciples come to a greater and greater understanding of the truth because of the filling of the Spirit).
2. Believers have great joy in the Spirit (**Philippians 4:4**).
3. Believers were empowered to teach and proclaim God’s truth.
4. Believers are emboldened by the Spirit and loses his nervousness (Acts 4:19-20)
5. Believers are fruitbearers (**Galatians 5**)
6. Believers are thankful and express gratitude.
7. Believers love one another.