

XXV. The Holy Spirit in Biblical Perspective

Led by the Spirit

“Filled with the Spirit”

Ephesians 5:15–21

Dr. Harry L. Reeder III

October 9, 2016 – Morning sermon

This is God’s Word. God’s Word is the truth. Ephesians 5:15–21 says [15] *Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, [16] making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. [17] Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. [18] And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, [19] addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, [20] giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, [21] submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.*

The grass withers, the flower fades, God’s Word abides forever and by His grace and mercy may His Word be preached for you.

We are in a whole year commitment to Romans 8:14 which says [14] *For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.* The negative to this verse is also in this same chapter where it says that if you’re not led by the Spirit then you do not belong to Christ. Who is the Holy Spirit and what does He do? To be led by the Spirit of God is not a second blessing of Christianity but it is the essential work of God’s grace that you become a Christian, walk as Christian and grow as a Christian. I believe Romans 8 is the greatest chapter on the ministry of the Holy Spirit and also the sermon of Jesus known as the Upper Room Discourse where He develops the Person and ministry of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer in John 13 through John 17.

I am using the rest of the year to handle the issues surrounding the Spirit of God that are constantly coming to me as a pastor. The first one I dealt with was blasphemy of the Holy Spirit. That is a very specific sin and it is the sin of an unbeliever. It is not just any unbeliever but the unbeliever who has continually been exposed to the Gospel and the Word of God in the power of the Spirit of God but then rejects the Spirit of God, His message, work and call and declared profane, set aside and as the writer of Hebrew says, insulting the Spirit of grace so there no longer remains a sacrifice of sin for this unbeliever because of this rejection. In other words, it is called the unpardonable sin in the Gospels because the Holy Spirit is the only One who can bring you to Christ, who is the only One who can forgive you of any and all of your sins. So if you profane the Spirit alone who can bring you to Christ who alone can save you then that becomes an unpardonable sin because it keeps you from the only One who can redeem you. Blasphemy of the Spirit has another element to it that some who commit it the day of grace is closed even before the door of death shuts it. It is because God hardens their heart or those terrible words in the Bible that say ‘God gave them over to the desires of their heart.’

After we covered blasphemy of the Spirit we went to baptism with the Spirit. It is not baptism of the Holy Spirit because the Spirit doesn’t baptize anyone. It is Christ who baptizes all of His people with the Holy Spirit after He brings them to Himself. So if one is baptized with the Spirit and He is within you working in your life then that led us to what it means to walk with the Spirit. What we don’t want to do is grieve or quench the Spirit. Now every believer can, does and will grieve or quench the Holy Spirit. Quench is to pour water on or dampen the Spirit’s

work in your life. It's obvious that the Spirit isn't a power because you can't grieve a power. The Holy Spirit brings power but the Spirit is a Person who you can grieve or quench His work when you turn away from those things which He uses and purposes which He ordains in order to serve yourself. In other words, when you give room for the old man to get back on the throne of the heart that begins to grieve and quench the working of the Spirit.

In place of that, God calls you to be led by the Spirit, to keep in step with the Spirit, to walk with the Spirit. When that happens then that produces the fruit of the Spirit – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. So this leads us to what we'll cover in this study. Our next study will deal with the anointing of the Spirit but in this study how do I walk with the Spirit as I'm being led by the Spirit to produce the fruit of the Spirit? The key is what the Bible commands us which is to be *filled* with the Spirit. Let's look at it chronologically.

All who know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior this is what happened; you were born dead in your sins. God sent by the Spirit people to you with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Some planted, some watered and some cultivated. Then the Holy Spirit came to you and gave those dead ears the ability to hear and those blind eyes the ability to see. The Bible identifies this as the calling of the Spirit as He began to bring you from death unto life. He was calling you to Himself and faithful is He who calls you. He brings it to pass as He brings you from death unto life to being born again.

Ephesians 2:4–10 says [4] *But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, [5] even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—[6] and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, [7] so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. [8] For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, [9] not a result of works, so that no one may boast. [10] For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*

You are born again by the Word of God and the Spirit of God. That is why Jesus told Nicodemus that he could not come into the Kingdom unless he was born again (John 3). You may come but no man can come unless the Father draws him. So the Holy Spirit brought you from death unto life, gave you eyes to see, ears to hear and then you were baptized with the Holy Spirit.

He baptized you with the Holy Spirit for five reasons. Number one was to fulfill the promise of the Father. In the Old Testament there was prophecy after prophecy where God said He was going to a new thing – He would send a Redeemer, a Messiah – and through Him He would pour out His Spirit upon His people. He would put His Spirit within them, baptizing them with the Spirit and they will be His people and He would be their God. He will write His law upon their hearts. He would give them a new heart and pour His Spirit upon them.

The second reason you were baptized with the Spirit was to fulfill the promise of Jesus who secured the promise of the Father. From the throne Jesus poured forth His Spirit into your life so He could send you out to make disciples of all the nations and Jesus is with us always even to the end of the age. So how can Jesus who is at the right hand of the Father interceding for me be in me also? It is by the Spirit of God.

The third reason we are baptized with the Spirit is He gave us His presence and sealed us in Him and He in us. Christ sealed us with the Holy Spirit in Him. The same Holy Spirit that

was with Jesus from the womb of Mary all the way to His ascension in glory now from glory pours forth His Spirit to us. His presence is with us so that we are sealed in Him.

Fourthly, He did it to give us power. Acts 1:4–8 says [4] *And while staying with them he (Jesus) ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; [5] for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”*

[6] *So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” [7] He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. [8] But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”* God put His Powerplant, the Person of the Holy Spirit within you to receive His power.

The fifth reason you were baptized with the Spirit was so that you would die and Christ would be preeminent. By the Spirit you will put to death the deeds of the flesh. In fact you’ll put yourself to death. Galatians 2:20 says [20] *I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.* That is the Holy Spirit within you so that now it is not about you but increasingly more and more about Him, the preeminence of Christ.

So because the Spirit is within you, you are being led by the Spirit, called to keep in step with the Spirit and walk with the Spirit, you are now in a war. This is a lifelong war. Within you there is the old man that keeps wanting to get back on the throne of your heart and that’s why it says in Galatians 5 that the Spirit wars against the flesh and the flesh wars against the Spirit. Daily the flesh is wanting to take control and daily the Spirit is saying kill the flesh and pursue Jesus. It is not about you but about Jesus and there is your joy and there is your freedom. This war won’t be reconciled until you’re perfected in the presence of Jesus.

This war is inevitable and irreconcilable but it’s not an even match. Galatians 5:16 says [16] *But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.* Here is an illustration for this. I was at an evangelistic event where this pastor had a heart to see people come to the Lord and throughout his talk he was pleading with people to come to know Him. He concluded his message by saying ‘I’ve told you how much God loves you and how He gave His Son for you. God has cast a vote from heaven for you and Satan has cast a vote against you and now I’m going to give you the opportunity to cast the deciding vote.’ I thought that was pretty ingenious presentation but theology kicks in and my problem with it is that when God votes and Satan votes there is no tie.

When the Spirit is at work you will not carry out the desires of the flesh. I John 4:4 says [4] *Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.* And greater is He that is in you than the world that is still in you. If you don’t rely on the Holy Spirit that old man is going to win. Romans 7:18–20 says [18] *For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. [19] For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. [20] Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.* If you rely on Him that war goes forward in the presence and power of the Holy Spirit which is at work there so that you don’t do the weeds of the flesh but you will produce the fruits of the Spirit.

How do you produce the fruits of the Spirit? You do it by being filled with the Spirit. Ephesians is the key text to this. You have before you a lifelong, life changing, life saturating,

and life transforming relationship with Christ through His Spirit when you are filled with His Spirit. What does it look like when you are filled with the Spirit? Before we look at Ephesians 5 I want to start by looking in Ephesians 4. I don't want to take anything out of context here. In Ephesians chapter 1 through 3 we learn who we are in Christ and the blessings we have that are secured in Christ. Ephesians 1:3 says *[3] Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.*

In the span of three chapters in Ephesians Paul says 28 times 'In Christ, In Him, Him in you' etc. He tells us what it means to be in Christ and Christ in you. Now that you know who you are in Christ, you can be who you are and do what you are because you know who you are. A man who disciplined me early on in my Christian life told me that the Christian life is know-be-do. **Know** who you are in Christ. **Be** who you are in Christ. Now do what you **do** for Christ, who made you what you are. We have the tendency to think we are what we are in Christ because of what we do instead of we are what we are because of what He did. When you know who you are in Him you know what those blessings are that He has secured for you.

After we see who we are in Christ from Ephesians 1 through 3 this is what it says in Ephesians 4:1-2, *[1] I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, [2] (now a list of the concise statement of the fruit of the Spirit) with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, [3] eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.* Notice that he didn't say walk in a manner worthy to be called but in a manner worthy of the calling which he explained in chapters 1 through 3, now live in that manner. Then he goes on to tell you about putting on the new man and putting off the old man. Then he gets to Ephesians 5 and starts summing up this new life in Christ that you live because of who you are in Christ.

Ephesians 5:15 says *[15] Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise.* Another translation says here to walk circumspect. This means to walk carefully. What does that mean? You are living out a war and the good news is that Jesus won the war. The bad news is that He has defeated Satan, sin, hell and the grave but He hasn't destroyed them yet. He will destroy them when He returns.

A couple of decades ago our troops caught a leader and brought him down ultimately to his death (Saddam Husain) and usually when you win a war a treaty is signed and every one goes home but that's not what happened. We defeated the armies and the leader but then comes partisan guerilla warfare, where bombs are hidden, there are snipers and ambushes and the war continues. When Jesus came out of that grave He went to heaven winning the victory but Satan and his evil empire still strikes back. Satan has incendiary devices hidden everywhere to try and take you down in any way possible. Some of those bombs are hidden in just two clicks on your computer from you. Some of those bombs are in your office, in your neighborhood, on your team or even in your classroom being planted by teachers, but we don't retreat. We take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ and go into the battle with the weapons of the Spirit, keeping step with the Spirit but we're always careful.

Carelessness is not a sign of faith. We need to be careful and one of the things you do when you're careful is in the next verse. Ephesians 5:16 says *[16] making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.* The Christians I have followed that have been effective schedule hours and minutes in their life not just days, months and years. They buy back the time with Jesus Christ. They don't leave any moment idle to give Satan room to get in. To be filled with the Spirit is to fill my time with the things of the Spirit.

Ephesians 5:17 says [17] *Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.* How do you understand the will of the Lord? The secret will of God you won't know until it unfolds in your life. The revealed will of God is right in His Word that you can know and from the revealed will of God you are ready to handle the secret will of God. Deuteronomy 29:29 says [29] *The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.* You will know the secrets things of God when you encounter it. I encounter it having been framed and formed with the revealed will of God.

I will give you an illustration of this. I asked Cindy if we could go to this reunion that they asked me to do a devotion at because I knew I probably wouldn't see some of these people again before I die. I had it all timed out so that I wouldn't miss the Lord's Day and so I could get at least four hours of sleep. All went as I had planned and right as we were leaving Cindy reminded me to pay for the parking ticket. I put my parking ticket in the machine which went in and then I put my credit card in but it didn't go in all the way so I pushed it in and somehow it went into the black hole of the machine. This machine ate my credit card. I went to talk with the hotel and they told me they would have to get someone from the bank to come down and look at the machine. I couldn't leave because I needed the credit card to get some gas for me to get home. They said they would get it but told me I would just have to wait. Forty nine minutes later I received my credit card. I didn't know I was going to have that experience. That was the secret will of God bringing something into my life but I do know from the revealed will how I was supposed to deal with it – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. I needed some big time help from the Spirit.

In life God's secret will is going to come at you in a broken world and as it comes count it all joy my brethren when they need your credit card. James 1:2–4 says [2] *Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, [3] for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. [4] And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.* Now I have God's revealed will to put the channel markers down as to how I'm supposed to respond to His secret will and I need to stay within the channel markers. How do I do that? I have to know His Word and I need the Spirit of God because the flesh was ready to take over.

So in the next verse he gives a negative and a positive. He gives two commands. Ephesians 5:18 says [18] *And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit.* What are the weeds of the flesh from Galatians 5? The narcotic or medication of the day would have been wine and when you do that control is lost and the flesh comes out. Galatians 5:19–21a says [19] *Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, [20] idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, [21a] envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these.*

The positive command in this verse of being filled with the Spirit leads to Ephesians 5:19–21 which says [19] *addressing (1) one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing (2) and making (3) melody to the Lord with your heart, [20] giving (4) thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, [21] submitting (5) to one another out of reverence for Christ.*

So what is the evidence of the intoxication of the world that cuts loose the flesh? It is debauchery, dissipation, death and chaos. What is it when you know God's Word and will in your life? You are filled with the Spirit and that leads to speaking to one another in psalms,

hymns and spiritual songs, singing to God the Father, thanksgiving to God the Father in everything and submitting to one another in the reverence of the Lord.

The marks and the means of being filled with the Spirit are right here in Ephesians 5. Being filled with the Spirit is not looking for an experience. The literal translation of this text is to keep on being filled with the Spirit. It is in the present ongoing tense. Being filled with the Spirit is not a once in a lifetime experience. It is a lifestyle. It is a lifelong experience that you are seeking. It literally means to keep on being filled with the Spirit. As this becomes a lifestyle it then begins to be seen in how you speak, sing, praise, give thanks, are content and submissive to others.

He has not only given the outworking of the Spirit but He has given the mechanism. Those five things listed in Ephesians 5:19–21 are things we do in worship, the assembling of one another on the Lord's Day. We do all of those things in gathered worship and that's why the writer of Hebrews says in Hebrews 10:25 *[25] do not neglect to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.* Not only does the Spirit give you the ability to speak, sing, make melody, give thanks and submit yourself to one another in the fear of the Lord, but the Spirit works in that arena.

How do you make your life a statement of worship with the fruits of the Spirit? You can't do it but the Spirit can do it. Where does the Spirit do it? The Spirit does this with His Word in the context of the worship of His people. We say we want to be filled with the Spirit but worship is not a priority. Gathered worship is where the Spirit of God works that you will know the will of God and live out the will of God.

This Spirit filled life is inside out. It is what you hear, speak, do and sing. It is life-saturating, life-permeating, life-penetrating. Where is all this put together in one place? It is when God says 'Here is what pleases Me when you worship – greet one another, sing hymns, psalms and spiritual songs, give thanks to the Lord, confess My Word.' It's all there and that is where the Spirit of God works. When you disassemble He fills you so that your life is worship. Romans 12:1 says *[1] I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.* God saved you that you might glorify Him and enjoy Him forever.

He has given you the Spirit of God with the Word of God because the Spirit always works with the Word. Here is Jesus in all of His glory, the Fountain of Grace and He has these two conduits coming down to you. Put no confidence in the flesh for My words are Spirit and life. He brings us together and in that gathered worship there is the fountain of reading, preaching, singing, the Lord's Supper, fellowship and confessing. He does this through His Spirit and filling you up is not getting more of the Spirit in you but it's getting more of you by the Spirit to Jesus. You have the Power plant within you. You don't need more of the Spirit. You need to give more of yourself by the Spirit to Jesus and worship recalibrates you and reorients you. Worship calls you to repentance of the flesh and self back to Jesus because He tells you how much He loves you. He sets you free to serve Him. The hymns, His Word, preaching, the Lord's Supper, fellowship and all of that declares it as the Spirit of God is working through all of it.

As you go home from worship all of what we do in gathered worship is replicated in your family and then you take it into your community. Now the world sees someone who is led by the Spirit, knowing the Word and will of God, living it out in their daily lives with all they come in contact with. When the brokenness of the world hits us they see something different because we're not under self but under the Spirit and His control. Now they see something

different in us and through us. Go on being filled with the Spirit and know the Spirit works with the Word.

If you continue reading in Ephesians you will see that those who go on being filled with the Spirit will have different marriages. Husbands won't tyrannize their wives or treat them as personal gratification as long as they meet their needs but you will have husbands who love their wives as Christ loves the church and will lead their wives with a servant's heart. There will be wives who don't buy into the world's egalitarianism but they will be a completer of their husband. They don't conquer him or compete with him but they complete him by the way they were made. Now you have one flesh relationships. There is the Spirit-filled life.

In Ephesians 6 we see parents who don't exasperate their children but show the priority of Christ in their life and they don't discipline out of anger but out of love for their children. We have Spirit-filled parents that are led by fathers who raise them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Then we see children who experience the covenant promise of 'I'll be a God to you and to your children after you' as they obey their parents and learn to honor and respect their parents. That leads people in the work place and can you get any more antithetical workplace than a master slave situation? He says Christian masters and Christian employers are different. Christian servants and Christian employees are different. That Spirit-filled life permeates and penetrates everything. It is life saturating and lifelong.

The takeaway is being "filled with the Spirit" is an intentional lifelong commitment to hear, speak, sing and live God's Word from Christ, by God's Spirit in Christ and for God's glory to the preeminence of Christ. Do you want to be filled with the Spirit? Gather for worship and then leave to worship. At home every day get up and worship. At night open up in family worship. Be ye filled with the Spirit.

So if you have been reading this and are not there yet. The chronology I did at the beginning was called, born again, baptized with the Spirit, walking with the Spirit, led by the Spirit. I don't think you are reading this by accident. I think the Spirit called you and if He called you He said "Come" and the church says "Come" and Jesus says "Come." Jesus can give you a free life for where the Spirit of God is there is liberty in Jesus. If you want to pray with me contact me here at Briarwood at (205) 776-5200.

Those of you who have already come to Christ, the Spirit of God has sealed you. The Spirit is within you. Christ is in you. Keep step with the Spirit. Go on being filled with the Spirit of God. You don't need more of Him. He is calling you to give more of you to Jesus by His Word for His glory and there is joy. Let's pray.

Prayer:

Father, thank You for the time we could be together. Please speak to the hearts of Your people and those who You are calling to be in Christ. Oh, Spirit of God work. O Jesus we love You because You first loved us. There is no way that we need more of the Spirit or more of Your love for it is now beyond comprehension but we need to love You more. We need to give more of us to You. Holy Spirit enable us for I pray this in Jesus' Name, Amen.

Power Point

INTRODUCTION/REVIEW

Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit Baptism with the Holy Spirit

Grieving/Quenching the Holy Spirit
Fruit of the Holy Spirit

FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Means and the Marks

1. What it is not...

2. What it is...

- Speaking
- Singing
- Making
- Giving
- Submitting

LIFE TAKEAWAY

Being “filled with the Spirit” is an intentional lifelong commitment to hear, speak, sing, and live God’s Word from Christ, by God’s Spirit in Christ, and for God’s glory to the preeminent Christ.