

1/12/20

Life In The Spirit

Eph. 5:18, #2

One day a middle-aged woman had a heart attack and was taken to the hospital. While on the operating table she had a near death experience. During that experience she saw God and asked if this was it. God said no and explains she had another 30 years to live. So when she recovered she decided to stay in the hospital and have a face lift, liposuction, breast augmentation and tummy tuck, figuring if she had another 30 years, she was going to make the best of it! She even had someone come to change her hair color. As she was walking out of the hospital after the last operation she was killed by an ambulance speeding up to the hospital. So she arrives in front of God and complaining, "I thought you said I had another 30 years?" God replied, "I didn't recognize you."

* The flesh is all about self, bad to the bone!

As we continue in our series on marriage and the family, we want to look at the believer's walk in the Spirit, which is evidence of wisdom, the essential for marriage to work.

1. The power of the Holy Spirit is what is lacking in the lives of many Christian, as well as Christian marriages to bring them to an end of themselves.
2. From 1970 to the 2020 there has been much teaching on marriage and the family, seminars and books, even an abundance of counseling, but much of

it has been influence by the worldly psychology under the guise of "Christian Psychology" that is a contradiction to the word of God.

3. Tragically many Christians, churches and Pastors have and are attempting to make their marriages work by worldly methods rather than the power of the Holy Spirit to obey to word of God!

The section of walking in wisdom runs from verse 15-21 where Paul gives seven specific marks that are to characterize the believer's walk in wisdom.

The first three are directly related for the benefit of the salvation of the unbeliever by the living example of the believer. vs. 15-17

1. To walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise. vs. 15
2. To walk redeeming the time, because the days are evil. vs. 16
3. To walk understanding what the will of the Lord, being wise as oppose to unwise. vs. 17

The last four are directly related for the benefit of the spiritual maturity of believer, not to say that they aren't of benefit to the unbeliever. vs. 18-21

1. Walking, being filled with the Holy Spirit. vs. 18
2. Walking, speaking to one another in songs, making melody in our heart to the Lord. vs. 19
3. Walking, giving thanks. vs. 20
4. Walking, submitting to one another. vs. 21

The key verse of this section is verse eighteen, it is both the connecting link and transition from the benefit of the unbeliever to the believer in order to be able to be Christ-like in his or her marriage and in the running of the home. Eph. 5:21-33

The fourth mark that is to characterize the believer's walk in wisdom is being filled with the Holy Spirit, it is the very source of the other six.

* We are trusting worldly methods, marketing, etc.

Walking in the Spirit is characterized by a three-fold perspective. Eph. 5:18

- I. Being filled with the Spirit is in sharp contrast to being drunk with wine: The negative. vs. 18a
 - II. Being filled with the Spirit is compared to being drunk with wine: The positive. vs. 18b
 - III. Being filled with the Spirit is a command: The imperative. vs. 18c
- I. Being filled with the Spirit is in sharp contrast to being drunk with wine: The negative. vs. 18a-b**
- * "And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation."
- A. The whole of Scripture gives testimony to the lack of wisdom when a person becomes drunk with wine.

1. The Old Testament tells us of many incidents under the influence of being drunk.
 - a. Noah laid naked and his son Ham gazed at him. Gen. 9:21-22
 - b. Lot's daughters got him drunk and laid with him. Gen. 19:32-35
 - c. Nadab and Abihu the sons of Aaron drank wine and offered strange fire to the Lord and were consumed. Lev. 10:9
 - d. David got Uriah drunk hoping he would go home and sleep with his wife to cover up her adulterous pregnancy. 2Sam. 11
 - e. Absalom murdered Amnon for raping his sister Tamar, while Amnon was intoxicated. 2Sam. 13
2. The Proverbs equally instruct and warn of the ills and corrupting of one's character.

* "Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has contentions? Who has complaints? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes? Those who linger long at the wine, Those who go in search of mixed wine. Do not look on the wine when it is red, When it sparkles in the cup, When it swirls around smoothly; At the last it bites like a serpent, And stings like a viper. Your eyes will see strange things, And your heart will utter perverse things. Yes, you will be like one who lies down in the midst of the sea, Or like one who lies at the top of the mast, saying:

“They have struck me, but I was not hurt; They have beaten me, but I did not feel it. When shall I awake, that I may seek another drink?” Prov. 23:29-35

3. The New Testament agrees.
 - a. The practice is a characteristic of the old life without Christ. 1Cor. 6:10; 1Pet. 4:3
 - b. The Lord struck some dead for being drunk at communion. 1Cor. 11:21, 30
 - c. The practice is identified as one of the works of the flesh, denying entrance to the kingdom of God. Gal. 5:21
* No drunkard will inherit the Kingdom of God! He is talking to Christians!
 - d. The practice is prohibited completely for an overseer. 1Tim. 3:3

- B.** The Scriptures tell us drunkenness doesn't fit our new nature. 1Thess. 5:4-8
1. We are not in darkness. vs. 4
 2. We are sons of light not darkness. vs. 5
 3. We are not to sleep as others, but watch and be sober in mind. vs. 6-7
 4. We are armed with faith, hope and love. vs. 8
 5. The god of wine in the Roman world was Bacchus, worshipped in sacrifices leading to perversion and orgies filled with revelry and drunkenness.
* Modern College life and spring break!

C. The contrast is illuminating:

WINE

HOLY SPIRIT

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Depressant. | 1. Stimulant. |
| 2. False concept of self. | 2. Reality of self. |
| 3. Breaks down morals. | 3. Upholds morals. |
| 4. Loss of control. | 4. Complete control. |
| 5. Foggy mind, distorted vision. | 5. Clear mind, proper vision. |
| 6. Sensual. | 6. Spiritual. |
| 7. Things get worse. | 7. Things get better. |

* Alcohol attacks the higher senses of the brain to destroy perception, reason and the will to resist, not to speak of the thousand of brain cells lost forever in one drinking night!

D. The consequences of drunkenness are costly.

1. The cost, “In which is dissipation.” vs. 18b
 - a. The root word of dissipation “asotia” means to save, the letter “a” in front of a Greek word negates the word.
 - b. The text means unsaving, uncontrollable, wasteful of destructive in quality.
2. The word is used of the prodigal son of riotous living wasting all his possessions, not being born again, but lost. Lk. 15:13
 - a. Pleasure triumphs over purity.
 - b. Self triumphs over self-control.
 - c. Dishonor triumphs over honor.
 - 1) In the energies of our sinful nature we always think of ourselves, not others!

- 2) In thinking of ourselves, we often bring destruction on ourselves and others especially with our words, being deceived by sin that promises so much, but delivers so little!

Illustration

One day a woman was at the register and after folding the items the woman wished to purchase, the man said, “Cash, check or charge?” As she fumbled for her wallet he noticed a remote control for a television set in her purse. “So, do you always carry your TV remote?” he asked. “No,” she replied, “but my husband refused to come shopping with me, and I figured this was the most-evil thing I could do to him legally.”

* That is not being filled with the Spirit, but flesh!

Application

1. The person under any false stimuli, be it self-centeredness, alcohol, drugs, is not being filled with the Holy Spirit, being very unwise and destructive to the marriage and stumbling young Christians.
 - a. The family is the nucleus of society, so whatever is going on in our families will be manifested in our society on a larger scale!
 - b. If your home represented society, what would it look like?

* “Wine is a mocker, Strong drink is a brawler, And whoever is led astray by it is not wise.”
Prov. 20:1

2. The man who is supposed to be the head of his home and the leader of his family is adding problems, pain and endangering the stability of his family, if he is getting intoxicated, involved in drug or just walking in the flesh, the woman also.
 - a. “It is not for kings, O Lemuel, It is not for kings to drink wine, Nor for princes intoxicating drink.” Prov. 31:4
 - b. “It is not to be the practice of those who are elders of bishops, overseers, it disqualifies them.” 1Tim. 3:3a
3. The person who is under the influence of wine is more depressed, not benefitting the marriage, it is a depressant and drugs are delusional.
 - a. “Give strong drink to him who is perishing, And wine to those who are bitter of heart.”
Prov. 31:6
 - b. The idea that God made marijuana and all other drugs, therefore there is nothing wrong with using them is as illogical as saying God made poison, so we should be able to drink or eat it!
 - c. The problems and destruction to society in the U.S. by prescribed pharmaceutical drugs is as great as illegal drugs and there is high percentage connection to the mass shootings related to mental health and those on prescription drugs.
4. The destruction to one’s personality to be faithful and dependable in marriage and family is costly.
 - a. Ten billion dollars were lost due to employees absenteeism in the U.S. due to alcohol, 80,000 deaths per year conservatively, as well as two

of all traffic fatalities, homicides and four of all suicides are alcohol related. The cost for arrests, trials and jailing of drinkers costs more than 100 million dollars a year. (1989)

- b. Excessive alcohol consumption cost the U.S. \$223.5 billion in 2006 alone, and nearly half of that burden was borne by the government, in a new study conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
- c. In 2008 the alcohol treatment care costs in the U.S. totaled \$47.3 billion. (Alcohol Cost Calcu)
- d. In 2017, 16-24 year olds comprise 42% of drivers killed in alcohol-related crashes. Zebra
 - 1) Isaiah said, “Woe to those who rise early in the morning, That they may follow intoxicating drink; Who continue until night, till wine inflames them!” Is. 5:11
 - 2) Habakkuk says, “Woe to him who gives drink to his neighbor, Pressing him to your bottle, Even to make him drunk, That you may look on his nakedness!” Hab. 2:15

Being filled with the Spirit is in sharp contrast to being drunk with wine, which inflames the flesh!

II. Being filled with the Spirit is compared to being drunk with wine: The Positive. vs. 18c

* “But be filled with the Spirit.”

- A. The meaning of “be filled” “pleroo” has to be interpreted by the context.

1. The word is used in non-literal ways to fulfill a divine command or chain of things.
 - a. To fulfill the law by loving one another. Rom. 13:8
 - b. To fulfill prophetic saying, most common in Matthew.
 - c. To complete or finish, as the ministry given to Archippus. Col. 4:17
 - d. To fill up a specific measure such as the number of martyrs. Rev. 6:11
2. The word is also used in a literal way for what fills takes possession or control.
 - a. Sorrow filled the hearts of the disciples. Jn. 16:6
 - b. The disciples were filled with joy. Acts 13:52
 - c. Paul said he was filled with comfort. 2Cor. 7:4
 - d. The believer is to be filled with the Spirit, the third Person of the Trinity. Eph. 5:18
3. The Greek grammar is unique in the instrumental case, rather than the genitive.
 - a. The Holy Spirit is the divine instrument who exerts this control and could be translated “Be controlled by the Spirit” (Wuest, Vol. III, Riches p. 104, Nuggets: 34)
 - * Just like a car has to continually be filled with gas to be empowered!

- b. The believer is to allow himself to be controlled by the Holy Spirit to walk in the Spirit like a drunk is controlled by alcohol!
- B.** The comparison of wine and the Spirit does not imply nor teach a person can lose control literally by being filled with the Spirit.
1. On the day of Pentecost the disciples were accused of being full of new wine, but were under the control of the Holy Spirit and in complete control of their person. Acts 2:13
 2. The false doctrine of “being drunk in the Spirit”, laughing in the Spirit, flying like birds and acting like animals that is taught as evidence of being filled with the Spirit is an insult to God, dishonors the church, being a works of the flesh.
- C.** The comparison between wine and the Holy Spirit does have a literally parallel.
1. As a man under the influence of alcohol yielding to its affects, so a believer under the influence of the Spirit is to yield to the affect and desires of the Holy Spirit
 2. As an alcoholic cannot quench his thirst, so a believer is to thirst continually after the Holy Spirit.
 - a. The Psalmist says, “As a deer pants after the water brooks, so pants my soul after You, O God.” Ps. 42:1

- b. Jesus said, “Blessed are those who thirst and hunger after righteousness for they shall be filled.” Matt. 5:6
3. As an alcoholic lives from day to day, dependent on the alcohol, so a believer is to live from day to day, dependent on the Holy Spirit for his or her power to be Christ like in life and their marriage.
 - * God through Malachi rebukes and exposes their insincerity and self-deception, “And this is the second thing you do: You cover the altar of the LORD with tears, With weeping and crying; So He does not regard the offering anymore, Nor receive it with goodwill from your hands. Yet you say, “For what reason?” Because the LORD has been witness Between you and the wife of your youth, With whom you have dealt treacherously; Yet she is your companion And your wife by covenant. But did He not make them one, Having a remnant of the Spirit? And why one? He seeks godly offspring. Therefore take heed to your spirit, And let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth. For the LORD God of Israel says That He hates divorce, For it covers one’s garment with violence,” Says the LORD of hosts. “Therefore take heed to your spirit, That you do not deal treacherously.” Mal. 2:13-16

Illustration

A couple drove down a country road for several miles, not saying a word. An earlier discussion had led to an argument and neither of them wanted to concede their position. As they passed a barnyard of mules, goats, and pigs, the husband asked sarcastically, “Relatives of yours?” “Yep,” the wife replied, “in-laws.”

* The abuse, neglect and destruction that goes on in a marriage not filled with the Holy Spirit can only be circumvented by being filled with the Holy Spirit, much like the laws of aero-dynamic circumvents the law of gravity over an airplane.

Application

1. Being filled with the Spirit keeps me on track, stable, focused and committed to the will of God to be all that I can be “in Christ” for my marriage, presenting my body a living sacrifice. Rom. 12:1-2

- a. As a wife to submit herself to her own husband, as unto the Lord. Eph. 5:22
- b. As a husband loving his own wife, as Christ loved the church. Eph. 5:23
- c. Isaiah says, “But they also have erred through wine, And through intoxicating drink are out of the way; The priest and the prophet have erred through intoxicating drink, They are swallowed up by wine, They are out of the way through intoxicating drink; They err in vision, they stumble in judgment.” Is. 28:7

2. Being filled with the Spirit in our marriages does not mean we are perfect or not fail each other. Eph. 4:30-32

- a. Not grieving the Holy Spirit in us. vs. 30
- b. Putting away all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor and evil speaking with all malice. vs. 31
- c. But rather being kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave us. vs. 32
 - 1) The command is in proportion as God did to us!
 - 2) We have to be as graceful with each other as Christ has been and is with us.
 - 3) We have to not keep a ledger, but forgive as Christ has forgiven us! 1Cor. 13
 - 4) We can not blame God for our failures or use our disobedience to the Scriptures as acceptable service by God, for He is not the author of confusion. 1Cor. 14:33
 - 5) Our weapons are not carnal but mighty through God, bringing our thoughts into captivity. 2Cor. 10:3-5
 - * It has been said, we can not stop birds fighting over our heads but we can certainly stop them from building a nest on them!

3. Being filled with the Holy Spirit will enable us to do in our marriages what we could not do on our own or for ourselves.

- a. “Looking unto Him Who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all we can ask or

think, according to the power that is works in us.” Eph. 3:20

- b. “Not by might, not by power, but by My Holy Spirit, says the Lord.” Zech. 4:6
- c. “Wives are to be an example to their husbands by their lives and Husbands are to dwell with their wives according to understanding, honoring their wives as the weaker vessel, knowing that they are heirs together of the grace of life, so that their prayers be not hindered.” 1Pet. 3:1, 7
* Sin breaks fellowship with God. Ps. 66:18; Is. 59:1-2

Being filled with the Spirit is compared to being drunk with wine to be Spirit controlled!

III. Being filled with the Spirit is a command: The imperative.

- * “But be filled with the Spirit!” vs. 18c
- A. Being filled with the Spirit is in the imperative.
 - 1. This is not an option, but a necessity.
 - 2. The promise is that if we walk in the Spirit, we will not fulfill the lust or desires of the flesh. Gal. 5:16
 - 3. The Spirit guides us, teaches us and empowers us! Jn. 14-16
 - 4. The Spirit who dwells in us yearns to jealousy, being selfless. Ja. 4:5

B. Being filled with the Spirit is in the present perfect.

- 1. This is to be going on continuously.
 - a. Literally, “keep on being filled”.
 - b. Jesus said, “He that believes in Me, as the Scriptures have said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” Jn. 7:38
* John said this was referring to the Holy Spirit! Jn. 7:39
- 2. This is what will quench our thirst and the void so often tried to be satisfied.
 - a. Through material possessions.
 - b. Through sex and pleasure.
 - c. Through pride.
 - 1) Hell and destruction... Prov. 27:20
 - 2) Jesus said, “Whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water, springing up into everlasting life.” Jn. 4:14

C. Being filled with the Spirit is for every believer.

- 1. We are sealed with the Holy Spirit. Eph. 1:13
- 2. We are engaged to Jesus by the Holy Spirit, implying ownership. Eph. 1:14
- 3. We are not to grieve the Holy Spirit, not to pain Him by disobedience. Eph. 4:30
- 4. We are to be controlled by the Holy Spirit, every believer. Eph. 5:18

- a. The 120 at Pentecost were filled with the Holy Spirit, the Baptism of the Spirit. Acts 2
- b. Peter was filled again. Acts 4:18
- c. Paul was refilled as he set his eyes on Elymas the sorcerer.
 - * Too often individuals and married couples are not being filled with the Spirit continuously by asking Jesus!

Illustration

A woman accompanied her husband to the doctor's office for a checkup. Afterwards, the doctor took the wife aside and said, "Unless you do the following things, your husband will surely die." The doctor then went on to say, "Here's what you need to do.

Every morning, make sure you serve him a good healthy breakfast. Meet him at home each day for lunch so you can Serve him a well-balanced meal. Make sure you feed him a good, hot meal each evening and don't overburden him with any stressful conversation, nor ask him to perform any household chores. Also keep the house Spotless and clean, so he doesn't get exposed to any threatening germs." On the way home, the husband asked his wife what the doctor said. She replied: "You're going to die." Me, myself and I, the Trinity of darkness!

Application

1. There is no one who can afford not to be filled with the Holy Spirit in their marriage for it is the fiercest battleground of spiritual warfare. Eph. 6:9
 - a. The enemies greatest attack will be in the covenant of marriage. Gen. 3
 - b. The strategy is to distract and destroy the head and his counter-part, his wife in their covenant relation to God to not obey His word, "Has god said?". Gen. 3:1c
 - c. The method is either to ensnare them individually or against each other.
 - d. Men never allow your children to disrespect your bride, to divide or pit one against the other!
 - e. Particularly in blended families and we will deal with this in parenting. Eph. 6:4
 - f. The way you are filled with the Spirit or baptized is by faith, asking Jesus.
 - * "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will *your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!" Lk. 11:13, Acts 1:5, 8
2. There is no time a believer can trust his flesh to substitute the Spirit in marriage, the simple reason is the flesh lusts against the Spirit and the Spirit against the flesh, so you cannot do the things you wish. Gal. 5:17
 - a. The imagination and intent of man's heart are only evil continually. Gen. 6:5

- b. Our hearts are deceitful and desperately wicked. Jer. 17:9
 - c. The natural man loves himself more than any other person and sin-nature still resides in the believer until death, if we deny it we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 1Jn. 1:8
3. The Holy Spirit is the other comforter, like Jesus, the third person of the Trinity, bringing about the third-fold cord that is not easily broken, strengthening the marriage. Eccl. 4:12; Jn. 14:16
- a. Our yielding to be filled with the Holy Spirit daily is to be yielding to Jesus, being the way for our marriage daily. Jn. 14:6
 - b. Our victories over the snares of the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye and the pride of life by being filled with the Spirit will teach us to not trust in our flesh at all. 1Jn. 2:16-17
 - c. “Let him who thinks he stands, take heed lest he fall.” 1Cor. 10:13
4. The obedience to be continuous filled with the Holy Spirit will be most evident by a persons commitment to attend church regularly and consistently. Heb. 10:25
- a. The husband who does not go to church is being disobedient to Christ, hurting his family.
 - b. The man is the head and God holds him responsible for the spiritual atmosphere and leadership in the home.
 - c. Husbands and wives who say they are Christians and do not go to church are a contradiction and a bad example to their

- children, young Christians and the unbeliever, being carnal and disobedient.
- d. The husband and wife who are not being fed spiritually in church and serving will be unaccountable to the standard of God’s word and find it easier to compromise and hurt their marriage.

Being filled with the Spirit is a command to all Christians!

Conclusion

Remember the key mark of wisdom in your life for marriage is being filled with the Holy Spirit.

- I.** Being filled with the Spirit is in sharp contrast to being drunk with wine which inflames the flesh!
- II.** Being filled with the Spirit is compared to being drunk with wine to be Spirit controlled!
- III.** Being filled with the Spirit is a command to all Christians!