

Ephesians 5:18-21

18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, **but be filled with the Spirit**,
19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord;
20 always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father;
21 and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.

Last week we dealt with **Relational Holiness**—Today we look at the biblical concept of **Relational Power**

The premise that we were working from last week was this: ***If Jesus is the founder, head, and center of the church, then the church ought to look like Him.***

The premise we are working from today is this: ***We cannot possibly look like Jesus relationally unless we tap into the power of God continually***

Last week we spoke about the fact that we have been made holy (through the cross) so that we can now live holy (in the world)

The motivation for this comes from our identity—We have a new identity in Jesus

- **Holy and beloved**
- We are accepted, adored, adopted, and alright with God

Everything comes out of this identity

- That is the impetus

But in addition to **identity and impetus**, we have **power and enabling**

- For the NT believer, God's commandments are His enablements
- That enabling is found in the person of the Holy Spirit
 - Unless we are **filled with the Spirit**, we cannot live like Jesus

We mentioned this and prayed concerning this at the end of the message last week

- But it will be helpful for us here to develop a slightly more articulated understanding of how the Holy Spirit affects the way we live

First of all: The importance and necessity of the Holy Spirit

John 16:7 (Jesus speaking)

I tell you the truth: ***it is to your advantage*** that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.

How radical is that: The presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives is of more advantage than the physical presence of Christ on earth!!??

- At least that's what Jesus said—and I believe Him (even when I do not fully get it)

- But we do need to get how valuable, important, necessary, wonderful the HS is

Look at what part of this important activity of the Holy Spirit is:

John 16:13-14 (Jesus speaking)

13 But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will **guide you into all the truth**; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.

14 **He will glorify Me**, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you.

John 15:26 (Jesus speaking)

26 When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, **He will testify about Me**,

27 **and you will testify also**, because you have been with Me from the beginning.

There is to be this shared goal and work between the believer and the Holy Spirit that indwells him or her (a partnership)

- To **testify of** (witness concerning), and **glorify Jesus**

This is the substance and goal of life: **To witness about and glorify Jesus**

- We do this through a two pronged approach:
 - What we say and what we do
 - Proclamation and demonstration
 - Cf. After Pentecost, (1) Peter preached, **and** (2) he and the disciples were recognized as having been with Jesus (Acts 4:13)
 - They talked about Jesus **and** patterned their lives after Jesus

What Jesus says about this is that it is impossible without the power of the person of the Holy Spirit

- In fact, He forbid them (us—the Church) to even try, without the power source
- Acts 1:4-5, 8

4 Gathering them together, He (Jesus) commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, "**Which**," He said, "**you heard of from Me**;

5 **for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.**"

8 "**... you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.**"

commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait **and you shall be My witnesses**

As we spoke about last week, we witness for Jesus when we do relationships like Jesus

- That is part of what it means to **be His witnesses**

What is clear is that we must have the power of the Holy Spirit working through us to do this

In Scripture we see that there is the initial filling (or baptism with) the Holy Spirit (as above)

- This is for every believer
- Some argue about the timing of this
- The **ἐν** and **ἐπὶ** experience(s) (in and upon)
 - **you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you**
 - Contrast with John 20

And then there are subsequent fillings as needed

- As seen in the book of acts
- What we see is that the filling and work of the Holy Spirit always has some sort of positive **relational outcome** (Cf. God is relational)

Examples from Acts:

- Acts 2:1-4 (The initial filling/baptism with the Holy Spirit)
 - **Relational Outcome:** Love and Unity (2:42-47)
- Acts 4:5-21 (A moment of need and a subsequent filling)
 - **Relational Outcome:** Freedom from fear (v. 19-20)
- Acts 4:29-31 (A moment of need and a repeated filling)
 - **Relational Outcome:** Unity and sharing (v. 32-35)
- Acts 7:51-60 (Extreme moment of need and repeated filling)
 - **Relational Outcome:** Extreme forgiveness (v. 60)

The Holy Spirit is available to the believer at any time...

- ... but when we need the Holy Spirit is when we seek to live **abnormally/otherworldly/supernaturally/godly** relational lives as witnesses and representatives of Jesus
- The Holy Spirit is given for us to be **on mission**—proclaiming and demonstrating
- If we choose to live **normal** relational lives, we have **no need** for the power of God and so we will not receive the power of the Holy Spirit
- Much worse, if we choose not to obey Scriptures relational commands, we will **grieve and quench** the Holy Spirit.
 - That is to limit the power and work of God in your life.

Ephesians 5:18-21

18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, **but be filled with the Spirit**

- The Greek verb used for the words '**be filled**' is **πληρωω** (pronounced *play-rah-oh*)
 - It means to fill, fulfill, complete

- It is in the **imperative mood**, which means it is a command.
- It is in the **present tense**, which means it is a continuous thing, not a once for all experience.
- It is **plural**, which means it is for every believer.
- It is in the **passive voice**, which means the subject (you) is receiving the action. Meaning, it is not our doing, but it is done to us by the Father.

The things listed in **verses 19-21** are the results of being filled with the Holy Spirit:

Affections fixed on Jesus

19 **speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord;**

- You were made to worship
- If you don't worship God, you're gonna worship someone/something (even unwittingly)
- Worship (in all its forms) exalts God and humbles us
 - **The higher we lift God, the lower we are—the better we do relationships**
 - The root of broken relationships is the exaltation of self

Thankfulness because of Jesus

20 **always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father;**

- An attitude of gratitude frees us to live generous lives
- Not bitter lives

Mutual Submission in the fear of Jesus

21 **and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.**

- This means that we are able to be humble before one another because of who Christ is
- Not who we are or they are
- **It comes from our identity**
- Our identity as servants—of Jesus and others
- willingly serving others and being under them rather than dominating them and exalting themselves¹

These things are ONLY achieved by **the filling of the Holy Spirit!**

What this makes possible then is revolutionary:

- Instead of our **actions, reactions, and attitudes** concerning relationships being PEOPLE DRIVEN, they are SPIRIT DRIVEN:
 - No acting out of insecurity
 - No reacting from fear
 - No needing the approval of people
 - No necessity to perform
 - No need to get even

So, all these relational challenges set before us in the Scriptures are actual possibilities because they are not dependant on us, but on the power of God!

¹John F. Walvoord, Roy B. Zuck and Dallas Theological Seminary., The Bible Knowledge Commentary : An Exposition of the Scriptures (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1983-c1985), 2:640.

We need to **choose to seek** the filling of the Holy Spirit and then **pursue walking** in those things.

How?

- Asking
- Luke 11:9-13

9 So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

10 For everyone who asks, receives; and he who seeks, finds; and to him who knocks, it will be opened.

11 Now suppose one of you fathers is asked by his son for a fish; he will not give him a snake instead of a fish, will he?

12 Or if he is asked for an egg, he will not give him a scorpion, will he?

13 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?"
- Surrender
- It is silly to ask if you are unwilling to yield
- We can reframe the concept: How much of you does the Holy Spirit have?