



Ephesians 11 Filled with the Spirit



TEXT: EPHESIANS 5:15-20

THE IMPERATIVES

¹⁵Be CAREFUL how you live

→ *Are you INTENTIONAL, PRECISE, CAREFUL? Do we have purpose + priority? Do we know what matters to God?*

¹⁷Don't act THOUGHTLESSLY, understanding the will of the Lord

→ *Is it AUTO-PILOT or MEASURED (2 Cor 10:5)? Why do we still do those things we know don't work? How regularly do we stumble upon teachable moments?*

¹⁶Make the most of every OPPORTUNITY → Danger is that we miss opportunities to GROW/LEARN, mature, be moulded, to SERVE, LOVE, MODEL, WITNESS, SHARE GOSPEL TRUTH (Eph 2:10).

→ *How good are you with interruptions? Are you too busy? What about when a doorway opens (work colleague in crisis, child asks leading question)?*

¹⁵Don't live like FOOLS, but like those who are WISE → We all have FOOLISH moments; let's make them the EXCEPTION, not the RULE

→ *Is your house built on sand or Rock? Are your fantasy thoughts worldly + defiled or godly + pure? Is your tongue like a raging fire or sweet like honey? Do you re-act in anger or pro-act in love?*

→ *How do you score on each of those? Any room for growth? How does being filled with the Spirit become so crucial?*

v18b is the HINGE

* Everything CHANGES if we live a life FILLED.

* What you are FULL of will CONTROL you.

* If you're full of wine ... or FEAR or INSECURITY or ANGER, it will CONTROL you.

* So, let's be FULL of the HOLY SPIRIT.

→ *What are you full of? Does it control you? How does it control you?*

→ *What does control mean? Is God in control? Is the Holy Spirit controlling you?*

WHAT DID JESUS SAY? Luke 24:49, Acts 1:8, John 14:16-17

WHAT DID JESUS DO? Luke 4:1,14

WHAT DID PAUL SAY? Eph 3:16, Rom 5:5.

STORY OF ACTS: Acts 2:1-4, Acts 4:31

Acts 11:24 → *Barnabas was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and strong in faith.*

→ *How good would it be to be marked like that? How did they know? What were the hallmarks, indicators, characteristics of one full of the Holy Spirit?*

The Holy Spirit in our lives

1. In CONVERSION → We are BORN AGAIN, He takes RESIDENCE in our hearts.

2. BAPTISM → Filled with His POWER ... fully immersed.

3. 'BE BEING' filled → Not one time only, but CONTINUOUS, because we LEAK.

→ *What's the difference between born again and baptised with the Holy Spirit? Do you leak? How? Where are you on that continuum? How can we pray for you?*

TO BE FILLED

a) First, there must be an EMPTYING.

b) Then, there must be the AVAILABILITY of the thing you are to be filled with.

c) Finally, there must be a FILLING PROCESS.

"You can't be full of the Holy Spirit if you're FULL OF YOURSELF."

* Could be SELFISHNESS ... BUSYNESS ... INSECURITY ... ANGER / FRUSTRATION ... BITTERNESS / UNFORGIVENESS.

* Inevitably, any filling starts with the prayer, "EMPTY ME!"

→ *PAUSE! What are you full of? Is there an emptying required? Take a moment to pray a prayer of consecration, of repentance, surrender, to let go.*

Where do you find the Holy Spirit?

a) Hopefully, in CHURCH → Or conferences, events, New Wine, etc.

b) WORSHIP → He INHABITS, MANIFESTS, REVEALS ... As we get exposed to strong, repeated, emerging themes of faith, hope, love and power, He highlights and reinforces them, and thus fills us up with them.

c) WORD (John 6:63) → Creates desire, answers questions, shows us His heart

d) WOODED PATH / SPECTACULAR VIEW → How did Jesus renew His power? He RETREATED often to pray, sometimes all night, before key moments / decisions.

e) MISSION → When you NEED His power and presence most is where you tend to FIND it most. Lack often precipitates His infilling.

→ *Where do you find the Holy Spirit? How do you find Him in the Word? How do you find Him in worship? Are there any special places or activities?*

FILLING

Luke 11:9-13 = ASK, SEEK, KNOCK → He answers the asker, rewards the seeker, fills the hungry

John 7:37-38 = Thirst, come, believe, DRINK (John 4:14, Psalm 36:8-9) → OPEN yourself up and let Him POUR HIMSELF in ... "You can lead a horse to water ..."

→ *"When you come, you have to drink ... Not think or strive or do or shout, even sing." Do you know how to drink? How do you receive? What gets in the way? Does it ever result in a physical or emotional reaction for you?*

SPIRIT-FILLED is the difference between WELL-INTENTIONED and EMPOWERED Christianity ... Between reading Eph 4-6 + saying 'I WISH!' and actually having the STRENGTH TO DO IT.