



## The Building Block of Spirit-Filled Living

### Week of August 8, 2021

#### Intro Discussion Question(s):

- *What have you learned most in your study of God's Word this week?*
- *What do you think it means to be filled with the Spirit?*

#### Read Bible Study Summary:

The series of Building Blocks for Healthy Relationships from Ephesians 4-5 has been building to the final Scriptural component, Spirit-filled living. In fact theologians in the NIV Application Commentary state that Ephesians 5:15-21 is a summary climax and a further development of what it means to 'live a life worthy of the calling you have received,' in which Paul instructed his church in Ephesians 4:1. Believers should seek more and more of the Holy Spirit and walk before outsiders in hopes that they may see the life-changing power of the gospel. But, how do we do that? Let's read Ephesians 5:15-21 to find out.

#### Main Scripture

- ***Read Ephesians 5:15-21***

#### What is Spirit-filled living?

##### 1. Living Wise in the Spirit (5:15-17)

- ***"Be very careful, then how you live--not as unwise but as wise."*** - Everyday we are faced with choices and decisions. There are opportunities to do good or to do evil. We can build our relationships up or tear them down, depending on what we decide to do with our opportunities. Sometimes we miss opportunities to do good because we are not allowing The Holy Spirit of God to fill us, speak to us and make us wise. King Solomon asked God for wisdom and a discerning spirit above all things, and God granted it to him in abundance. As you read Proverbs 4, you can see the importance of living wise in the Spirit.
- ***Read Proverbs 4:5-13***
  - *5 Get wisdom, get understanding; do not forget my words or turn away from them. 6 Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you; love her, and she will watch over you. 7 The beginning of wisdom is*

this: Get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding. 8 Cherish her, and she will exalt you; embrace her, and she will honor you. 9 She will give you a garland to grace your head and present you with a glorious crown." 10 Listen, my son, accept what I say, and the years of your life will be many. 11 I instruct you in the way of wisdom and lead you along straight paths. 12 When you walk, your steps will not be hampered; when you run, you will not stumble. 13 Hold on to instruction, do not let it go; guard it well, for it is your life.

- **Ask Questions**

- In what ways have you experienced the Holy Spirit give you wisdom as a Christian? How has the Spirit helped you avoid foolishness, and understand what the Lord's will is in your life?
- The proverb says to "guard it (wisdom) well". What does it look like to guard the wisdom that the Holy Spirit gives you?

## 2. Living Dependent on the Spirit (5:18-20)

- **Substance over substances (v. 18)** - Verse 18 says, "be filled with The Spirit", singular, not "the spirits", plural! The Holy Spirit is Substance. He is Significant. He is the One who fills your life with meaning and purpose so you don't need the crutch of alcohol or other substances. We receive the Holy Spirit when we become a follower of Jesus. So, being filled with The Holy Spirit is not you getting more of the Spirit, but allowing The Holy Spirit to get more of you! In other words, the building block of Spirit-filled living happens when we open up our hearts and seek the Holy Spirit to fill up every area of our lives: our morality, relationships, work life, entertainment life, hobby life, financial life, physical life. Spirit-filled living, therefore, is being willing to submit everything in dependency to the Lordship of Christ.

- **Dependence Leads to Worship (v. 19)** - The Holy Spirit allows worship to be a part of our everyday life and to be a part of our relationships! In other words, worship is *vertical* and *horizontal*!
  - Worship is looking up to God in awe and wonder and praising him in word and deed for who He is in all His glory, majesty, and splendor in every season and circumstance.
  - We also help each other when our lives are a song of praise to the Lord. Perhaps you've been going through a really hard time in your life and yet you've chosen to trust the Lord and continue worshiping Him through it all! Someone who sees your joy even in the midst of a trial will be encouraged to stay strong in their faith.
- **Dependence Leads to Gratitude (v. 20)**
  - Spirit-filled living also helps us to be grateful in all circumstances! We can give thanks to him in every trial and storm because we know He is still God and He is going to get us through. And, we know the end of the story: Christ's ultimate victory over this old world.

- **Ask Questions**

- How has your worship of God affected your dependency on the things of this world?
  - Have you ever witnessed someone worship the Lord through a trial or storm? In what ways was it an encouragement to you?
  - Think about your daily life. Are you known for ongoing thanksgiving or complaining, murmuring, and pouting? Why? In what ways can you ask the Spirit to help you grow in gratitude?
- **Read Romans 8:5-6** - 5 Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. 6 The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace.

## Closing

- **Ask Question** - *What is the greatest challenge you are facing right now? Is there some way our group can help you specifically?*
- Pray together over those requests.