

Champions/Women of Destiny

LESSON 8



Do You Know Who You Are?

Read Ephesians 5:15-21; Romans 12:1-21

Terms to Remember

Submit: Willingly yield or surrender; obey, be subject to.

Ordinance: Law or rule; authorities who govern over us.

Reasonable service: A response of worship to God; yielding our lives.

I remember when I was a teen my mom had asked me where I was going as I was preparing to leave the house. I boldly turned to her and said “**out!**” She quickly grabbed me by the neck and said, “**Boy, do you know who you’re talking to?**”

My mom’s statement implied that I must not understand who SHE was positional and personally. The reason we have a difficult time understanding and following God’s will is due to the fact that we often don’t know who WE are.

It is God’s will for every Christian to submit himself or herself to the Holy Spirit. When Christians are filled with the Holy Spirit, their behavior is affected. Spirit-filled believers are controlled by someone else, and do not act as the old sin nature would dictate. They *understand* “*who’s talking to them.*”

This lesson is to provide the second basic understanding of living out God’s will, and that is, **living filled with the Holy Spirit**. Living filled with the Holy Spirit is not a secret formula for super-spiritual saints. It is not magical or mystical. Rather, it is a way of life available to every Christian (Eph.5). **A Christian who is controlled by the Holy Spirit will understand and do God’s will.**

Living Filled with the Spirit

It is God’s will for you, as a Christian, to be filled with the Holy Spirit (Eph. 5:18). When Paul wrote to the Ephesian Christians, he instructed them to understand God’s will (Eph. 5:17). Then he connected that command with the one following it: be filled with the Spirit (v.18).



Let’s look at 4 truths from Eph. 5:18 about this part of God’s will.

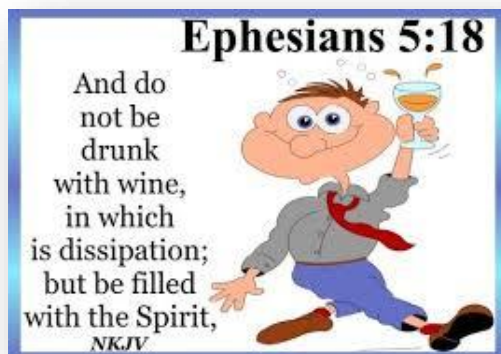
1. **Be filled** simply means to be controlled by something or someone. In this case, it means **we should be controlled by God the Holy Spirit, not our own desires.**

2. Although the English translations of this verse don't indicate it, the Greek word for "be filled" means "**keep on being filled** or (controlled)." It is an ongoing, never-ending process. Now, this doesn't mean we receive more of the Holy Spirit as we progress in our Christian lives. Instead, it means we are to continually yield our lives to Him. **We don't need to ask God for more of the Holy Spirit; we need to give Him more of ourselves.** In order for anything to be FILLED, it must first be EMPTIED of whatever was previously in it.

3. **Be filled** is a command...not an option. Although Christians have the Holy Spirit indwelling them, **the Spirit does not control them until they voluntarily choose to obey this command.**

4. Paul compares this concept of control with being drunk. A drunken person has chosen to yield control of his/her behavior to alcohol. **When Christians yield their lives to the Person of the Holy Spirit, who indwells them, He produces changes in their behavior.**

Think about it, you probably know someone who is bolder and "badder" when they drink than when they're sober. Why? Because an abundance of alcohol changes behavior. Those who were timid are now tough. Those who were scared are now not afraid of anything. Some of you have seen how alcohol changes behavior- it is the same with the Holy Spirit. HE changes our behavior.



Let's make sure we understand what **control** means in the Bible. God has given us a free will. We are not **I-Robots**. **To be controlled by the Spirit means we are yielded to Him.** *We allow Him to will and to do of His good pleasure (Phil. 2:13) in our lives.*

So how do we obey this command to be filled with (or controlled by) the Holy Spirit? The key is knowing and obeying God's Word. Read Colossians 3:16. In this

verse, Paul mentions the same behaviors he describes in Eph. 5:19, following the command to be filled with the Spirit. But in Colossians, the command is to **let the word of Christ dwell in you richly**. When we read or hear the Word and apply what God says to our lives, we have yielded to Him; His Spirit is in control.

For example, Bill has had his driver's license for almost a year. His parents allow him to use one of the cars on Friday nights. Bill is a growing Christian. He's also a good driver, and the teens he associates with are not the type who would get him into trouble. Curfew for Bill is 11 p.m. On some Friday nights, Bill would like to extend the fun with his friends beyond 11 p.m. He knows his parents are always in bed by 10:30. Bill is tempted to rationalize that it would be COOL to stay out until midnight, as long as he and the car get home safely. If he comes in quietly, he figures his parents will never know he was out past curfew. In Bible study, Bill has been learning about yielding his will to God's and allowing the Holy Spirit to control his daily life. Bill has been reading his Bible and praying regularly. He thinks about what is right and his own desires and decides to yield to the Holy Spirit and make the right decision – he's going home on time!

Living Transformed

Romans 12 outlines some areas that God transforms in our lives as we are filled and controlled by the Holy Spirit.

1. **Body** (v. 1) You live in it and have to take care of it, but your body is not your own. It belongs to God. When you became a Christian, your body automatically became the dwelling place for the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 6:19-20). But God wants you to offer it also as a living sacrifice for Him. The word “present” in Romans 12:1 refers to a one time, once-and-for-all commitment to use your body to honor God. In other words, you determine to obey Him.

Of course, making a once-for-all commitment doesn't mean you will be in perfect harmony with God's will from now on. Why? **Living sacrifices often crawl off the altar from time-to-time.** That's why we have to investigate the rest of chapter 12. We are not just to yield our bodies, but also our mind, will, and everything to God.

2. **Mind** (vs.2-3) God wants to transform your mind, or change your way of thinking. As you read, study, memorize, and meditate on God's Word, the more your thoughts, behavior and ways of looking at life are transformed. Not only will you think differently, you will also see yourself as God sees you. **You will not overvalue yourself in sinful pride or undervalue yourself in false humility.**

3. **Spiritual gifts** (vs.4-8) A spiritual gift is a God-given ability for service. God gives every Christian at least one spiritual gift (1 Cor.12: 7). Here, in Romans 12, Paul lists some of these gifts and tells his readers how to use them. Other lists are found in 1 Corinthians 12:28-30 and Ephesians 4:11. God wants you to use your gifts under the Spirit's control to build up other Christians and help them grow in their faith.

4. **Life-style** (vs.9-21) These verses illustrate a life-style of love. **When you allow the Holy Spirit to control your actions and attitudes, you will demonstrate God's love in practical ways.** Your relationships with both believers and non-believers will be transformed.

Memorize Romans 12:1-2 in whatever Bible version you desire.

A Few Thoughts

Paul described some of the results of being filled with the Spirit in Ephesians 5:19-21, as well as several other passages. Are you experiencing them now? What areas of your life do you realize are not controlled by the Holy Spirit? Ask the Holy Spirit to take control of those things in you.

Now watch this Supplemental Video about your lesson:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XEOpGng_b5M

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Lesson 8 Quiz



Click here if you are taking your quiz online, then send the email you receive to your mentor to grade and discuss: <https://forms.gle/yGuzrQWW8LM5mDSV6>

Student name _____

1. In your own words, define “being filled with the Spirit.”

2. True/False. Being filled with the Spirit happens only once.

3. True/False. Any Christian may be filled with the Spirit.

4. Multiple Choice. How will a person who is filled with the Spirit act? (you may circle more than one)
 1. Complain about the homework teachers assign.
 2. Thank God for church.
 3. Obey parents and teachers.
 4. Try to selfishly take control of a planning event.

5. What’s the problem with a living sacrifice?

6. Fill in the blanks. Your body is _____ your _____. It belongs to _____.

7. How is your mind transformed?

8. List three specific ways you can demonstrate a life-style of love to believers (Rom. 12:9-16).
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9. List three specific ways you can demonstrate a life-style of love to believers according to Romans 12:17-21.
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Quote the memory verse from Romans 12:1-2 to your mentor.