

## **THE MARKS OF A SPIRIT-FILLED CHURCH**

(Part 1: Ephesians 5:18-21)

What does being filled with the Spirit really mean? Does it mean having dramatic, emotional and ecstatic experiences such as crying incessantly, falling to the ground, speaking in tongues or conveying a prophetic message? As we consider what Spirit-infilling truly means, let the Word of God be our final authority. Ephesians 5:18-21 defines and identifies the indispensable marks of the Spirit-filled church. All these marks teach us this foundational truth: **As the church of our Lord Jesus, our life and ministry must be marked by Christ-exalting virtues and by the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit.**

**1. The Spirit-filled church is marked by \_\_\_\_\_.**

Whereas drunkenness leads to debauchery which is wasteful, reckless, disorderly and destructive behavior, being filled with Spirit leads to being brought under the orderly, constructive, righteous, and loving control of God the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18). To be filled with the Holy Spirit means to yield and surrender ourselves completely to the total control, direction, leading and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

**a. Being filled with the Spirit is a divine \_\_\_\_\_.**

Being filled with the Spirit is not a mild suggestion or an option for Christians. It's an authoritative command from God that we must obey (Ephesians 5:18; Philippians 2:13). Nowhere in the Scriptures are we commanded to be indwelt, baptized and sealed by the Spirit (Romans 8:9; 1 John 3:24; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 1:13). But we are all commanded to be filled with the Spirit.

**b. Being filled with the Spirit is a present \_\_\_\_\_.**

The filling of the Spirit is not a one-time event but a repeated, continual and ongoing experience in the Christian life (Ephesians 5:18; Acts 2:4; 4:31). Our life as believers should be a day by day surrender and moment by moment submission to the control of the Spirit of God (Galatians 5:16-23; 1 Corinthians 3:1).

**c. Being filled with the Spirit is a personal \_\_\_\_\_.**

God is the personal source of the filling of the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18). This is a work of God, not man. To be filled with the Spirit then is to let the Word of God reside, fill, permeate, control and govern every area of our lives (Colossians 3:16). It is when the Word of God dwells in us richly that the Spirit of God fills us completely.

**d. Being filled with the Spirit is a blessed \_\_\_\_\_.**

The instruction to be filled with the Spirit is addressed to the whole church, to all the people of God without exception (Ephesians 5:18). Being filled with the Spirit is not a special privilege for some elite Christians. This is a blessed privilege for all believers who must not settle for a mediocre and sub-standard level of Christian living. The Spirit-filled life is the normal Christian life which is blessed with victory over sin, divine joy and strength and Christ-exalting harmonious relationships (Romans 8:12-17; Ephesians 5:19-6:20).

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