

Ephesians 5:18

Personal Greetings to Pastors and Staff and all of you, the TBC FAMILY of BELIEVERS

- **The song WE WILL REMEMBER brings back many God given memories from our years serving the Lord here at Tokyo Baptist Church.**

- **For example, the time that Judi and I attended a special luncheon sponsored by the NIGERIAN EMBASSY, hosted by the Ambassador and his wife.**

- **After the lunch we briefly talked to the Ambassador and Judi said to him, "My husband and I are both ambassadors, too!" If you are a Believer in Christ, the Bible says in 2 Corinthians 5:20 "You are Christ's ambassador."**

IMPORTANT QUESTION

Are you an ambassador for Christ?

ANOTHER IMPORTANT QUESTION

AS AN AMBASSADOR FOR CHRIST, IS THE HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD DIRECTING YOUR LIFE, RIGHT NOW!?

The focus of the message today is the question IS THE HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD INVOLVED DAILY IN YOUR MARRIAGE AND IN YOUR JOB AND IN ALL OF YOUR DECISIONS AND IN YOUR DAILY LIFE? Romans 8, verses 9-14 says every believer in Christ has the Holy Spirit.

So, the question, the important question is "Right now, at this moment, is the Holy Spirit of God FILLING YOUR LIFE AND DIRECTING YOUR LIFE, right now?

Ephesians 1:13 "When you believed in Christ, He identified you as His own by giving you the Holy Spirit."

Listen now, to these important statements about…

- **Small Group Bible Study**
- **Knowing Scripture**
- **Memorizing Scripture**
- **Weekly TBC worship**
- **Information and knowledge about God's Word**

YOU MAY HAVE ALL OF THE ABOVE BUT IF YOU DO NOT HAVE THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, YOU WILL BE MEEK AND WEAK AND TIMID AS A BELIEVER

Important point

THE JOB OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IS TO BRING THE TRUTH OF THE WORD OF GOD OUT OF THE BIBLE INTO EVERYDAY LIFE. THIS MEANS THE WORD OF GOD IS ALIVE AND IS UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

So, the main focus of my message today is asking you, ARE YOU LIVING YOUR DAILY LIFE AS A BELIEVER UNDER THE DIRECTION AND INFLUENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

You see, the Bible is clear in telling you and me, that God has provided us, you and me, as a believer in Christ an inexhaustible, free, readily available, SOURCE OF SPIRITUAL POWER to live life daily as a Christian.

DO YOU HAVE THIS SPIRITUAL POWER?

So, the important question is ARE YOU FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT?

Daily life examples…

- **Do you look at pornography…..1 Corinthians 6:18 commands, "Run from sexual sin."**
- **Do you gossip, tell lies, use your words and your speech to hurt other believers? 1 Peter 3:10-11 says "If you want to enjoy life and see many happy days, keep your tongue from speaking evil and your lips from telling lies. Turn away from evil and do good. Search for peace and work to maintain it."**
- **Are you filled with pride? Proverbs 11:2 "Pride leads to disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom."**
- **Do you live in fear? The Bible says FEAR NOT over 365 times. 2 Timothy 1:7 says, "For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline."**
- **Are you quick to forgive and hold no resentment or grudges to those who have offended you?**

Matthew 6:14-15 Jesus said, "If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins."

NOW HERE IS MY MAIN POINT OF APPLICATION

THE MAIN FOCUS OF MY MESSAGE TODAY IS TO ASK YOU, ARE YOU AS A BELIEVER IN CHRIST LIVING A LIFE CONTINUALLY FILLED AND UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT? DO YOU HAVE HOLY SPIRIT POWER IN YOUR DAILY LIFE?

MESSAGE SCRIPTURE (This is a command)

Ephesians 5:18 "Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit." NLT

Ephesians 5:18 "Don't drink too much wine, for many evils lie along that path; be filled instead with the Holy Spirit and be controlled by him." TLB

Important points

THE COMMAND IN EPHESIANS 5:18 TO BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT MAKES IT CLEAR THIS IS AN EXPECTATION FOR EVERY CHRISTIAN BELIEVER, IN EVERYDAY LIFE.

TO BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT MEANS TO ALLOW THE HOLY SPIRIT TO DIRECT YOUR THOUGHTS AND YOUR WORDS AND YOUR ACTIONS EVERYDAY.

THIS COMMAND IS TO FOLLOW WHAT THE IMPORTANT CHINESE CHRISTIAN LEADER WATCHMAN NEE SAID, "TO BE FILLED AND DIRECTED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT IS TO LIVE A NORMAL CHRISTIAN LIFE."

Remember, the Bible in Ephesians 5:18 is a Biblical command: "Be filled with the Holy Spirit."

Important Question

WHAT IS THE FILLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

Important Answer

THE SONG WE SANG JUST BEFORE THE MESSAGE "JESUS AT THE CENTER" GIVES THE MEANING TO BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT!

TO BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT IS TO LIVE YOUR DAILY LIFE WITH EVERY AWARENESS THAT YOUR LIFE IS COMMITTED TO AND UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

Martin Lloyd Jones wrote "This is not a critical experience, this is a state or condition in which we, as believers, are to live always, permanently." (From his book Life in the Spirit, p. 49)

John 15:4 & 5 Jesus said, "Remain in Me, and I will remain in you. You cannot bear fruit unless you remain in Christ. I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

So, believers here today, how are you doing?

- **Can you be characterized as "always full of the Holy Spirit?" For example, Luke 4:1 says, "Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan after He was baptized by John and was led by the Spirit in the desert."**

In Acts 6:3 the Bible says about choosing leaders to direct and lead the first church, Acts 6:3 says, "Brothers, select seven men who are well respected and full of the Spirit…"

Galatians 5:16 that says, "Let the Holy Spirit guide your lives."

Important point

TO BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT IS TO LIVE A DAILY LIFE WITH THE WORD OF GOD PERMEATING AND GUIDING AND DIRECTING EVERY AREA OF YOUR LIFE

Ephesians 5:18 "Be filled with the Holy Spirit." And this command is directly related to Colossians 3:16 that says, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and counsel one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your heart to God."

Notice Ephesians 5:18 says "be filled with the Holy Spirit" and Colossians 3:16 that says, "Let the word of Christ live in you as you carry on your daily life." These two Scripture commands mean the same thing.
Important points

TO BE A BELIEVER THAT IS FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT YOU MUST BE CONTINUALLY GROWING IN YOUR UNDERSTANDING AND APPLICATION OF THE WORD OF GOD TO YOUR DAILY LIFE

TO BE A BELIEVER THAT IS FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT YOU MUST ALWAYS BE WALKING BY FAITH AND NOT BY SIGHT

Jesus said in Luke 9:23, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow me."

Charles B. Williams translates Luke 9:23 in this way: "LET THE BELIEVER SAY NO TO SELF."

F.B. Myer said it this way, "You must dethrone yourself."

The major thing to learn today is this:

GOD CANNOT USE YOU OR ME TO THE FULLEST UNLESS YOU ARE FILLED AND DIRECTED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT.

AS A BELIEVER IN CHRIST GOD CANNOT USE YOU COMPLETELY AND TOTALLY UNLESS YOU REALIZE THAT YOU HAVE A TOTAL INABILITY TO DO ANYTHING IN LIFE AND IN MINISTRY WITHOUT BEING FILLED AND DIRECTED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT.

REMEMBER AND REALIZE THAT YOU CANNOT DO WHAT GOD HAS CALLED YOU TO DO UNLESS THE HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD IS FILLING YOU.

You and I are to remember this.

IT SHOULD ALWAYS BE YOUR DESIRE, AS IT IS MY DESIRE, TO LIVE A LIFE FILLED AND CONTROLLED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, WITH A CONTINUING DESIRE TO BRING GLORY TO GOD.

Listen to these examples from God's Word.

Ephesians 5:21 and 25 "Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord and Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her."

Married couples, how is your daily relationship with

Colossians 3:1 & 2 & 12 & 13 & 21 "Set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Be patient with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will be discouraged."

And notice Colossians 3:16, rather than saying, "be filled with Holy Spirit," the Bible says, "Let the word of Christ live in you as you carry on your daily life."

Overall point of this message OBEY THE SCRIPTURE AND YOU WILL BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

Important point to remember

YOU AND I WILL REMAIN FILLED AND OBEDIENT TO THE HOLY SPIRIT AS LONG AS YOU AND I ARE OBEDIENT AND FILLED WITH GOD'S WORD AND OBEY GOD'S WORD.

FINAL QUESTION

Who is in control of your life, you or Jesus?

Let's pray.

DENNIS FOLDS, TOKYO BAPTIST CHURCH
NOVEMBER 25 & 26, 2023

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