

Sustaining Revival: A Study on Ephesians
Lesson 17 “Filled with the Spirit”

I. Introduction - We are studying the book of the Ephesians focusing on how to sustain revival.

A. The revival in Ephesus was the largest new testament revival recorded in Acts. Over 100,000 people were saved in a city the size of Greensboro within two years. Ephesus became a revival center in the first century. Multiple churches were planted out of this church including all 7 churches in the book of Revelation.

B. Paul wrote this letter to the church in Ephesus in A.D. 60 about five years later to establish them in truth after the goosebumps had worn off so they could have a sustained experience with God and continue to increase in person revival.

C. The first three chapters of Ephesians focus on positional truth (who we are in Christ, seated in heavenly places, how much God loves us, etc). The last three chapters of Ephesians focus on practical application or how we should live out of who we are.

1. Over the last few weeks we talked about how we are to imitate God. We do this by walking in love, light, and wisdom.
2. Tonight we are going to look at *Ephesians 5:17-20* about being filled with the Holy Spirit.

II. Filled with the Spirit

A. **Ephesians 5:17-20**

1. *Verses 17-18* make it clear that God wants us to be filled with the Holy Spirit.
2. The interesting thing is as clear as this passage is, the topic of being filled with the Holy Spirit has created a lot of controversy and confusion in the body of Christ over the years. Why?
 - a. Some say you get the spirit when you get saved, why do you need to get more of the spirit?
 - b. While it's true you get a brand new spirit when you get born again and that part of you is just like Jesus, your mind, will, emotions, and body do not get a new spirit and therefore need more of the Holy Spirit. **1 Thessalonians 5:23.**
 - b. The Greek word filled is **plērōō**, play-ro'-o; from G4134; to make replete, i.e. (literally) to cram. **God wants us filled to overflowing.**
 - c. There's difference between having the Holy Spirit within you and having Him come upon you to the point of overflow. Bill Johnson quote, “The Spirit comes within me for my sake, He comes upon me for yours.”

- i. **Acts 1:8** Jesus makes this statement to people who already have the spirit in them (**John 20:21-22**). Jesus wanted what was in them **to come upon them** to a point they were overflowing.
 - ii. **Acts 8:12-17** Phillip went to Samaria and preached Christ, many were saved (they received the spirit within.) The apostles then sent Peter and John to those in Samaria so the new converts could then receive the Holy Spirit (the spirit fell upon them).
 - iii. **Acts 10:44-46** the spirit within came upon these new converts.
 - iv. **Acts 19:1-6** Paul came to Ephesus and found disciples (devoted followers) and then asked if they received the Holy Spirit when they believed. Paul then prayed for them and laid hands on them and the Holy Spirit came upon them and when He did these disciples began to pray in other tongues and prophecy.
3. The second aspect of being filled with the Holy Spirit we want to look at is this is not a one time event for those who have been filled.
- a. **Acts 2:1-4** the initial outpouring on the apostles.
 - b. **Acts 4:23-31** subsequent outpouring that gave the Apostles boldness after they were arrested by the the Sanhedrin.
4. The idea is continuous and not a one time event. The verb tense for **plērōō** word is in the passive imperative. The phrase filled with the spirit is better translated as **be ye being filled with the spirit**.
- a. How does a person get drunk with wine? By drinking. What happens if they stop drinking? They'll stop being drunk.
 - c. What happens if a person stops drinking from the spirit of God? They'll stop being full of the spirit.

B. How do we stay full of the spirit?

- 1. Studying and meditating the word - **John 6:63**
- 2. Praying in English and in the spirit
- 3. Worship **1 Corinthians 14:15** and **Ephesians 5:19-20**

III. Conclusion - In the Old Testament, God started the fire when He dedicated the tabernacle and temple. Both were filled with the spirit and fire. He did the same in the New Testament on the day of Pentecost with the new temple (believers). In the Old Testament, God started the fire, but it was up the priests to maintain it by continually placing the sacrifice and wood on the alter. This principle holds true for us today. God starts the fire with His spirit, but it is up to us to maintain it (with His help) by our offering of prayer, meditating the word, and worship. This keeps our fire going so we stay passionate about Jesus and sustain revival.

A. Pray Closing Prayer

B. Say Goodbye to Online Audience.

IV. Discussion Questions

1. What was your top takeaway from tonight's message?
2. Can you share an example of a time you were full of the Holy Spirit? What happened and how did God's spirit move through you in a way that you couldn't take credit for?
3. At the beginning of the message, Brian said that the topic of being filled with the Holy Spirit has created a lot of confusion and can be very controversial. Why do you think this is and what can be done about it?
4. What are some things you can practically do to stay full of the spirit on a regular basis?