

Doctrinal Summary of Worship: The Result of Being Spiritually Filled

In Ephesians 5:18, Paul identifies that believers are to be filled spiritually resulting in worshiping God.

“And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit.”

The word “filled” is translated from the Koine Greek word πληροῦσθε (“plae-rous-theh”) which more literally means, “you all are commanded to be acted upon in a continuous type of action to be filled to the point of saturation.” It identifies that believers are to allow something to completely saturate every part of them until they are controlled by what saturates them. This is a command so it must be carried out through the utilization of personal volition. However, since the believer is acted upon to be filled to the point of saturation, he receives the filling rather than accomplishes the filling himself. Furthermore, since this is a continuous type of action, he is to keep being in the state of being filled to the point of saturation moment by moment.

The phrase “with the Spirit” is translated from the Koine Greek words ἐν πνεύματι (“ehn p’neu-ma-ti”) which more literally means, “in the instrumentality of spirit, being a tool or instrument used to accomplish something.” It identifies that the believer is to be filled to the point of saturation by means of spirit. Where wine is the means by which and with which an individual may become drunk, the believer is commanded to be filled to the point of saturation by that which is spirit. The result of this saturation is the believer being controlled spiritually through that which is spirit in its nature.

Contextually this refers to the entire economy of God’s spiritual system for the believer. Thus, it refers to the Holy Spirit’s leading of the believer’s human spirit by means of the spiritual truths revealed through God’s Word and circulating in the thought process (mind) and belief system of the believer (heart). Thus, it is God’s spiritual system for the believer that is the means by which he is to be controlled as he allows it to fill him to the point of saturation.

As the believer operates spiritually he is instructed by the Holy Spirit in the spiritual truths of God’s Word. As the believer receives, accepts, and relies upon these truths they become a part of his belief system. As spiritual truths become a part of his belief system they dictate his behavior in various circumstances. Thus, the more the believer continues to operate spiritually and rely upon what the Holy Spirit instructs him in, the more the believer will be controlled by that which is spirit. Paul identifies in Ephesians 5:19-20 that there are other things that take place while the believer continues to be controlled by that which is spirit.

“Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father;”

Paul uses four present tense participles (speaking, singing, making melody, and giving thanks) to express what takes place simultaneously to the believer being filled to the point of saturation. As the believer speaks in psalms and hymns he expresses to himself God’s character and faithfulness. As the believer sings and makes melody with his heart (belief system) to the Lord, his behavior worships God. As the believer gives thanks to God he observes the reality that God is His provider. Each of these acts of worship takes place while he is controlled spiritually through being completely saturated in spirit.