



Sermon, Sunday October 1, 2023

“How to be FILLED with the HOLY SPIRIT?”

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 5:15-21 ¹⁵ Be careful, then, how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, ¹⁶ making the most of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸ Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to one another, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, ²⁰ giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ being subject to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Introduction: Faith and Life

Today is the eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost. Every time I read the New Testament; I wonder what the lives of Christians in the Bible was like. I think that the early Christians in today's text were influenced by the circumstances around them and lived in a similar way to us. I think that Christians in the early church, like us today, would have worried about buying daily food if they had no money, feared death if they got sick, and hoped for the best for their children.

However, the Bible does not specifically mention these daily problems that Christians in the early church encountered, and that we encounter too. The New Testament is mostly filled with stories about the kingdom of God and the church. Perhaps for this reason, many Christians live lives where faith and life are separated.

So, if we do not pay close attention to today's text, its content will remain at the level of moral virtue. Today's text, Ephesians 5:15-20, explains what a Christian attitude toward life is. Verse 15 of the text exhorts us to act like **‘wise people.’** Also, verse 16 advises, **‘making the most of the time, because the days are evil.’** However, these teachings are not special but general.

So today's text clearly mentions in verse 17 what the unique attitude of Christians is in life. In other words, it is important for us to live wisely and make the most of the time, but what is more important than that is to understand **‘the will of the Lord.’**

But our problem is that we are not interested in knowing the will of the Lord, or we misunderstand it. Therefore, today's text exhorts us to properly understand **‘the will of the Lord’** to live an abundant life.

So how should we understand **‘the will of the Lord’?**

Body: How can we understand ‘the will of the Lord’?

First, ‘the will of the Lord’ is not something we can know without any effort. There is something we need in order to understand the will of the Lord. We must be filled with the Holy Spirit. So today's text contrasts it with drunkenness to let us know what is filled with the Holy Spirit. This means that the life of the world is characterized by **‘drunkenness’** and the **‘life of Christian faith’** is characterized by **‘the fullness of the Holy Spirit.’** First, we must think about what it is like to live a drunken life. Living while



drunk means living by relying on alcohol. This is living with the power of alcohol to solve the pain and problems of life. Many people in this world live in a similar way to drunkenness. In other words, people rely on money, rely on their physical health, rely on their hobbies as the greatest joy in life, and live thinking that their family is everything in their lives. This way of life is like being drunk.

So what does it mean to live in the fullness of the Holy Spirit? People who live filled with the Holy Spirit are people who depend on the Holy Spirit for everything in their lives. By relying on the Holy Spirit, they live a life of freedom in all areas of their lives. People who live a life filled with the Holy Spirit break away from the life of focusing on self-interest and live by sensitively responding to the sound that resonates from the source of life. They live their lives enjoying the joys of existence that cannot be achieved through money or social status.

That is why today's text emphasizes that we must be filled with the Holy Spirit. So how is it revealed in our lives that we live a life filled with the Holy Spirit? Today's text explains two ways in which the fullness of the Holy Spirit appears in our lives.

First, a life filled with the Holy Spirit is revealed through worship. **Verse 19 of today's text says: "as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts."** This verse clearly shows that it is through worship that the fullness of the Holy Spirit is revealed. Worship is a sacred ritual shared by people who have experienced being filled with the Holy Spirit. Through worship, we can confirm that we are people filled with the Holy Spirit.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ! Please remember, in our religious life, consistently participating in worship is the way to be filled with the Holy Spirit, and the way to maintain the fullness of the Holy Spirit. Worship is the best experience we can enjoy on this earth. I hope that our worship experience will be an opportunity to enjoy the greatest experience being filled by the Holy Spirit.

So what is another element in which we are filled with the Holy Spirit is revealed in our lives? **Verse 20 of today's text says: "Giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."**

This verse first says, **'Giving thanks to God the Father.'** In other words, it says that Christian gratitude begins with the establishment of a deep relationship with God the Father. This means that gratitude is impossible unless a deep relationship with God the Father is established in our lives.

In fact, giving thanks to God in our lives means standing right in front of the 'event of life and salvation' that is only possible through God. If we want to stand right before God, we must know about God right away. The more we know about God, the more we become one with God, and such a life changes us so that we do not even fear death. I hope that by learning more about God, you and I can stand right before Him.

Additionally, this verse says, **'at all times giving thanks to God the Father.'** What this means is that we should focus on our relationship with God in our lives. We can always live a life of gratitude when we focus on our relationship with God. Conversely, if we are not focused on our relationship with God, we cannot always live a life of gratitude. In this way, the inner attitude of life that appears in people filled with the Holy Spirit is a life of gratitude.

Lastly, this verse says that our life of gratitude must be practiced **'for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.'** This verse tells us that our life of gratitude is only through Jesus, the Lord and Savior of our lives.



Conclusion: I hope you enjoy the blessing of being filled with the Holy Spirit.

Now let's summarize today's message. Dear brothers and sisters in Christ! As today's Bible text asks, do you want to live a life filled with the Holy Spirit? Today's text says two things as evidence of our desire to live a life filled with the Holy Spirit. The first is to experience worship in the deep abyss of the soul in a relationship with God. Second is to be thankful to God. In other words, we must praise with all our hearts the resurrection of life that God the Father has wrought in our lives through Jesus Christ. This is the external and internal evidence that we are living a life filled with the Holy Spirit. Does my life and yours meet these standards for a life filled with the Holy Spirit? I hope that we all enjoy being filled with the Holy Spirit, the greatest blessing in human life.

