



Resources

- Watch or listen to Sunday's sermon: abfboone.com/sermon-archive
- Find Life Group resources: abfboone.org/groups/resources

Ephesians 5:15-21

*15 Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. 18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, **but be filled with the Spirit**, 19 addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, 20 giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, 21 submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.*

Sermon Outline:

Being filled with the Spirit...

1. What does it mean?
2. What does it not mean?
3. What happens when we are filled?
4. How does this filling happen in our lives?

Life Group Leader Notes:





- Pastor Josh began by pointing out an influencer. In Ephesus, people would get drunk and engage in carnal, immoral acts. They would be under the influence of alcohol in order to enter into a heightened sensual experience. This was clearly wrong. As a contrast, Paul exhorts God's people to be under a different influence: The Holy Spirit. Discuss this dynamic with the group. What other controlling influences exist in our own lives? How do we loosen our grip on those unhealthy influences so we can better cling to the presence of the Spirit?
- The command to be filled with the Spirit is stated in the present, passive imperative. This means that it is a present, on-going event that is being done to us by God (we don't fill ourselves), yet we are commanded to yield to this act (meaning, we still have a responsibility). How can this be? Discuss how God is the one performing the action while we still have an active role in the process. How can we hold one another accountable during the week to obey this command?
- Contrary to what we see from certain churches today, being filled with the Spirit doesn't mean a mystical, hyper-active experience that causes one to lose control and be 'filled with the Spirit'. It isn't a 2nd filling separate from the moment of salvation, or is it meant to be an exclusive lifestyle for the top-tier, professional Christians. Have you or someone you know been exposed to an extreme view of the Spirit's 'filling?' What was your reaction? How can you help fellow believers in that type of church to see the truth of the Spirit's power being displayed in the fruit of self-control?
- Trees don't eat their own fruit and the fruit doesn't just instantly form fully ripened. That is a powerful truth that we all need to hear! How can we live our daily lives in a way that our fruit can be nourishment to those around us? How can we be encouraged by the knowledge that it takes time for fruit to grow and ripen?
- Pastor Josh began the sermon with the illustration of an unplugged iron. Any electric tool is useless unless it is connected to a power source. The same is true of our spiritual lives. How can we encourage one another this week to stay connected to the vine so that we can produce kingdom fruit?

