

“Be filled with the Spirit” is God’s command. He promises His Spirit to us all, not just one or two. The verb is in the present tense—“keep on being filled”—so it is an experience we can enjoy constantly and not just on special occasions. And the verb is passive. We do not fill ourselves but permit the Spirit to fill us. Someone wrote, ‘The verb “be filled” has nothing to do with being ‘topped up.’ In the Bible, filled means “led by.” “They ... were filled with wrath” (Luke 4:28) means “they were led by wrath” and for that reason tried to kill Jesus (see also Acts 13:45). To be “filled with the Spirit” means to be constantly led by the Spirit in our mind, emotions, and will.’

**When did you last have an encounter with the Holy Spirit?  
What changed or became more real?**

### **Read Ephesians 5:15-20**

1. In v15-16 Paul is summarising the point he has been making about godly living, starting in chapter 4. How is wisdom best understood according to v17? Read Romans 12:1-3. What similarities in the ideas do you see between both passages?
2. V18 Sets up another contrast, drunkenness and the Spirit. Do you think Paul is still contrasting wisdom and foolishness here? Perhaps he has in mind Acts 2:13-15? What do you think?
3. Some people have said that the power of the Spirit is given predominantly for preaching and witnessing, but this is not the full picture. (See Acts 4:8, 31; 6:3, 5; 7:55; 13:9). The apostles experienced repeated fillings after that initial time in Pentecost, and each time was characterised with various aspects.

3. What evidences can you list from the reading as a result of being filled with the Spirit?
4. Paul links the command to ‘Be Filled’ with an outworking of singing and thankfulness. Why are we commanded to sing? What is it about singing together that is so significant? Does the singing come from being filled with the Spirit or is it a means to being filled with the Spirit?
5. Like with all Spiritual disciplines, prayer, reading the Bible, communion etc. we can go through the motions. Read Jesus’ words in Matthew 15:8-9. Who is Jesus talking about and how is it a warning to us?
6. What does Paul encourage us to do in v19-20 that stops singing becoming empty? Read Colossians 3:15-17. Notice the similarity of wording. How does this passage shed further light on our reading?
7. Read the passage again. What does it say about God, Jesus or the gospel plan?
8. On Sundays or other times when we come together, singing is important but not the only thing we do. Preaching, testimonies, praying, opportunities to respond are other aspects. What are the dangers of seeing ‘worship’ as just singing? What happens if we don’t value singing enough?
9. What can make our times of gathering together great? If we long for the Spirit to move amongst us, are there attitudes of the heart that need to change in us? Do we need a renewed sense of the gospel to dwell deeply in our hearts? What do you think you need to change?

## **Prayer Points.**

Praise God for BMS worker Ben Francis who is leading a disciple-making movement in south-east Asia. Pray for wisdom, good health and resources to train 10,000 new disciple leaders

Pray for all the teachers, staff and pupils as they start back at school and college this week.

Pray for Jacob Betts and Annabel Laver as they prepare to get married on 21<sup>st</sup> September.

## **Sermon Notes**

### **The Power of Music**

### **The Grace of Music**



# **BIBLE STUDY**

September 1<sup>st</sup> 2024

**Knowing Jesus,  
Transforming People and  
Changing Society:**

**Singing and God's Presence  
Ephesians 5:15-20**

If you would like to join a Connect Group, please contact the church office 01424 730001