

Title: All of Me for All of You

Scripture: Ephesians 5:15-21

Speaker: Josh Maness

Event: Sunday Morning Service

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Ephesians 5:15-21 *"See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God."*

Most people have let their car run out of gas at one point or another in their lives. When a car has no gas, it has no purpose. The same is true with us as Christians – if we are void of the spirit of God, we have no purpose. If we aren't filled by Him, then we can't be led by Him. You can be reading your Bible, going to church, singing in the choir, and doing the things you're "supposed" to do and feel absolutely nothing. Simply going through the motions will not fill you with God's spirit.

What We Need to Know About Being Filled By God:

1. **An evil presence is in us if we aren't filled by God:** If God is not present in your life then that means something else is filling you up. Paul warned the Ephesians to watch where they step because the world is evil. Satan already has the world, so we need to be wise to the fact that he wants the church and wants it bad. He will do anything to deceive and trick us to get us away from God. There is a pleasure in sin...for a season. A sting always comes with sin, and not many people enjoy being stung physically. Being stung spiritually hurts just as bad, and has a much longer lasting hurt. It can spread to others that are close to you.
2. **An expectation promised:** We need to know what the will of the Lord is [Ephesians 5:17]. God's will is not a vocation or location, but a relation. Small children are the best example of Christ that we have. They don't care what kind of house they live in, what their parents do for work, or what kind of car they ride in. All they care about is their relationships. Their love is pure and uncorrupted. They don't base their love on material possessions. There are three things in the Bible that God has willed for us:
 - a. To be saved: I Timothy 2:4 *"Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth."*
 - b. To be pure: I Thessalonians 4:3 *"For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:"*
 - c. To be filled by his spirit: Ephesians 5:17-18 *"Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;"*
3. **An emphasis proclaimed:** Paul said in verse 18 to be filled with the Spirit. He compares it to being drunk with wine. Why does he do this? When one crosses the threshold of how much alcohol their body can tolerate, they no longer act like themselves. The alcohol begins to control their body. If the spirit isn't filling us, then we will use other worldly things to fill us and they will begin to control us. We need the spirit of the Lord to control us. Has there been a time in your life when you felt closer to God than you do right now? It's not about us getting more of God, but about him getting more of us. I Thessalonians 5:19 says *"Quench not the Spirit"* - This language is taken from the way of putting out a fire; and the sense is, we are not to extinguish the influences of the Holy Spirit in our hearts.
4. **An evidence pursued:** We can play the role of a Christian and go through the motions, but there will be true evidence in our actions. *"Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God."* When we get fully submitted to God, our actions will reflect that choice. Being a Christian requires complete submission to God.