

The Spirit-Filled Life

Ephesians 5:18-21

- I. We must live Spirit-controlled instead of being controlled by our sinful nature (Ephesians 5:18).
 - A. Controlled by our Sinful nature – Don't yield control of our decisions to some sinful desire.
 - Example: If we yield control to something like alcohol, it will cause us to do things we otherwise wouldn't.
 - B. Controlled by the Holy Spirit – We must instead consciously yield control of our decision making to allow the Spirit to act through us.
 - Application: If we yield control/depend on the Holy Spirit, He will enable us to do right things that we otherwise couldn't.

- II. The Holy Spirit prompts us to benefit each other spiritually (Ephesians 5:19-21).
 - A. Talking to each other – The Spirit prompts conversations and teaching to benefit other believers.
 - What keeps us from pursuing beneficial conversations?
 - B. Singing God's praises together – The Spirit prompts sincere participation in musical worship to praise God and to encourage others around me.
 - Variety – The kind of music is inconsequential.
 - Hearts – Internal attitude is vital – singing with others.
 - God-focused – Our songs are meant for God, not us.
 - C. Giving thanks together – The Spirit prompts thankfulness (in our hearts, in our fellowship and in our worship) not selfishness, complaining or negativity.
 - Always/For everything – The Spirit gives thankfulness in spite of our circumstances.
 - D. Submitting to each other – The Spirit causes us to humbly give up our rights and opinions to benefit others.