

7/16/23 "Where's the Filling Station?" Eph. 5:15-21, NLT

INTRODUCTION: Do you get tired of trying to live "right"?

Book theme: God's purpose for Christ followers and the church

Ch. Context: Imitate God (1), determine what pleases God (10)

Don't sin or be like the world (3-8, 11-13)

Days are evil

MAIN IDEA: **Actively decide whether to live for Jesus.** How? By making a series of decisions.

I. First, choose how I'll live. (15)

A. contrary to what God wants... like a fool (15)

Fool: destitute of Christian wisdom (*Mounce*)

1. acting thoughtlessly ("naturally," 17)

Thoughtless: unwise, stupid (*Strong's, Thayer*), acting rashly

2. ruining my life (18)

B. or carefully & wisely as the Lord wants (15)

Carefully: walk cautiously, sensitively, as a person would walk through thorny terrain (*Spirit-Filled Bible, Jack Hayford*)

1. making most of every opportunity (Godwise, 16)

2. understanding what He wants (17)

3. expressing joy together & inwardly to Him (19)

4. thanking God for everything in Jesus' name (20)

ILLUSTRATION: JE

Transition: Naturally? Stop. As God wants? Go on.

II. Second, choose my filling. (18)

Be filled [continually, repeatedly] : *to pervade with an influence, to influence fully, possess fully (Mounce); to flood (Thayer)*; present imperative...a command implying continuous or repeated action

NOTE: Both wine & the Spirit "fill" us & influence us

A. wine (alcohol, "drugs")...our old way of life, selfish desires, world's ideas & values—all influence us

B. the Holy Spirit... of God, sent by Jesus

no choice 1. receive at salvation (John 20:20, post-resurrection)

choice 2. but Jesus wants us to have more—to be able to live successfully for Him (Luke 24:49, Acts 1:4,8)

3. needed to live for Jesus (I.B)

ILLUSTRATION: some, BoHS, alcohol or lust, walked away, wife

Transition: Inner lusts? Stop. Holy Spirit? Go on.

III. Finally, choose my receptiveness

A. with walls, my conditions...noper!

B. trusting God fully

1. ask, seek, knock for Holy Spirit

Luke 11:13, NLT: So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him."

Ask persistently. Don't fear receiving a demon, for God protects us.

Ask: present active participle... continuous or repeated action

2. must *receive* Him

Acts 2:4, NLT: And every present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability [gave them utterance, KJV].

Hayford, *The Beauty of Spiritual Language*: Gk vb translated *utterance* used for speech motivated by a divine, prophetic impulse

Point: The Holy Spirit gave them language, but they had to speak it.

ILLUSTRATION:

APPLICATION (Hayford, *The Beauty of Spiritual Language*):

(1) be right with God, (2) forgive others, (3) ask with expectation, because of God's word, (4) start praising Jesus aloud

CONCLUSION: We need God's Holy Spirit in all His fullness. We need to be filled & refilled repeatedly. We desire, ask, seek, worship, speak what He gives us, whether welling up inside or quietly in our minds. Focus on & praise Jesus...

ALTAR: Will you seek to be filled? Refilled?
