

**Living Worthy of My Calling, Pt. 17**  
**“Be Filled with the Spirit” II**  
Ephesians 5:18

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To live in a manner worthy of my calling,  
the old life with its fleshly excesses and waste is to be put off,  
and a new life of power in the Spirit is to be enjoyed.

**1. Understanding of the Command**

wine,  
dissipation,

*“And do not be drunk with  
in which is*

**(1) Not the same as being “baptized in the Spirit”**

*but be filled with the Spirit.”*

- 1- These believers had already been “baptized with the Spirit”  
and “sealed with the Spirit” (1:13-14)
  - Every believer is *baptized into Christ* 1 Cor. 12:11
  - Every believer is *indwelt by the Spirit* of Christ Rom. 8:9

- 2- Being “filled with the Spirit” is here presented as *an ongoing condition or state*
  - a provision of which the believer is commanded to avail himself
  - a provision which is to be realized daily in the believer’s life

**(2) Two uses generally in Scripture of being “filled with the Spirit”**

**-1- A special empowering for the performing of a specific task:**

Bezaleel: Ex. 31:3; Elizabeth: Lk 1:41; Zacharias: Lk. 1:67; Apostles: Acts 2:4; 4:8

- 2- **An empowering unto sanctification:** Stephen and others: Acts 6:3,5; 11:24

**(3) The meaning here in Eph. 5:18 - An empowering unto sanctification**

- 1- **“be filled”**
  - “filled” - what wholly takes possession of the mind (Thayer)
  - cf. the analogy in v. 18: “not drunk with wine” = not under the control of wine

**The whole of our mind, heart, and will  
brought under the control and influence of the Spirit of God**

- 2- **“be continually filled with the Spirit”** (Gk. present tense)
  - not a “crisis” or one-time experience
  - an ongoing state of empowerment which we bear responsibility to maintain

**It is a submission, voluntarily to be controlled in mind, heart, and will, by the Holy Spirit,  
throughout each day, in the varied experiences of each day**

**2. Obeying the Command**

**What are we to do?**

**(1) It is a command! It calls for a response!**

- We must act! We do not wait for something to happen in us!
- We walk by faith!

**(2) Positively: Respond in faith and obedience to the clear directives of**

**God’s**

**Word.**

**-1- Word and Spirit are never to be separated!**

The Spirit always acts in accord with the truth believed, embraced, and obeyed

**-2- The filling with the Spirit is realized in conjunction with our response of faith  
and obedience to God’s Word**

- Context makes this abundantly clear:

- “put off, put on” – all of the directives of this section
- i.e., walk by faith in this way, and thus be filled with the Spirit

- i.e., we are filled, empowered, *precisely as* we respond in faith and obedience to

God’s Word

- IN THAT ACTION, you will find the power of the Spirit of God

- IN THAT ACTION of obedience to God’s Word, the Spirit’s power is operative!

**(3) Negatively: Do not choose the way of unbelief and disobedience!**

**-1- I must not grieve the Spirit** Eph. 4:30

**-2- I must not “quench the Spirit”** 1 Thes. 5:19

As through the Word I know the Spirit’s prompting to obedience,  
*to refuse that prompting* is to quench the Spirit.

**Further Application**