

MARKS OF SPIRIT-FILLED BELIEVERS

PART FOUR

1. **SPIRIT-FILLED BELIEVERS ARE FIRST INDWELT BY THE HOLY SPIRIT**
2. **SPIRIT-FILLED BELIEVERS LIVE IN THE STATE OF COMPLETE CONTROL OF THEIR LIVES BY THE HOLY SPIRIT**
3. **SPIRIT-FILLED BELIEVERS ARE CLOSELY KNIT TO ONE ANOTHER AS GOD'S COMMUNITY**
4. **SPIRIT-FILLED BELIEVERS SING TO ONE ANOTHER AND TO THE LORD**
5. **SPIRIT-FILLED BELIEVERS GIVE THANKS GOD FOR ALL THINGS IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES**

❖ **Ephesians 5:18-20**, And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, **[20] giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,**

“thanks”: being grateful for receiving a favor. Warren Wiersbe points out, “The word gratitude comes from the same root word as grace (charis). If we have experienced the grace of God, then we ought to be grateful for what God brings to us.”

WHO HASN'T EXPERIENCED GOD'S GRACE?

“giving thanks ALWAYS”: thank God at all times, in every situation, in all circumstances

❖ **I Thessalonians 5:16-18**, “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, **give thanks in all circumstances**; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

Spirit-filled believers thank God **IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES**, in good times and in bad times, in gain and in loss, in lack and in abundance, in sickness and in health, in weeping and in rejoicing, in spectacular events and in normal times, in good mood and in bad mood, in pandemic and in non-pandemic times, in life and during death, in private and in corporate gathering—**WE MUST GIVE THANKS TO GOD AT ALL TIMES BECAUSE WE OWE OUR LIVES TO HIM EVEN THOUGH WE THINK WE DON'T HAVE EVERYTHING WE WANT.**

“giving thanks FOR everything”: Spirit-filled believers thank God for everything, for great (job) and small (water, air), for less (rented house) and more (own house), for people (family, church) and things (daily bread), for physical (earthly life) and spiritual (eternal life).

WHEN WE PLACE EARTHING BLESSINGS
OVER SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS,
WE CANNOT CULTIVATE A THANKFUL HEART.

In Ephesians 1:3, Paul laid the foundation for thanksgiving, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.**”

- ⇒ v.4 Chosen before the foundation of the world
- ⇒ v.5 Adopted as sons and daughters
- ⇒ v.7 Redeemed by the blood of Christ
- ⇒ v.7 Forgiveness of sins
- ⇒ v.11 Received eternal inheritance
- ⇒ v.13 Sealed with the Holy Spirit

WHAT EARTHLY RICHES CAN YOU COMPARE
TO THESE ETERNAL RICHES IN CHRIST?

Caution: We should not thank God for the sinful things people do (rape, murder, robbery, marital unfaithfulness...etc). But we can thank God that despite evil, God works through all things for our good and for His glory. **HE IS ABLE TO BRING THE BEST OUT OF THE WORST.**

Matthew Henry(1662-1714) after being robbed by thieves: "Let me be thankful first, because I was **never robbed before**; second, because although they took my purse, **they did not take my life**; third, because, although they took my all, **it was not much**; and fourth, because it was I who was robbed, **not I who robbed.**"

IF YOU DON'T CULTIVATE A THANKFUL HEART,
YOU BECOME A GRUMBLING AND DISSATISFIED PERSON.

John Stott: The grumbling spirit is not compatible with the Holy Spirit. Grumbling was one of the besetting sins of the people of Israel; they were always 'murmuring' against the Lord and against Moses. **But the Spirit-filled believer is full not of complaining, but of thanksgiving.**

Ephesians 5:20, "giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,"

- ❖ **Colossians 3:17, "And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."**

The pattern of thanksgiving (honoring the doctrine of Trinity): God is one in BEING (IN ESSENCE), existing as THREE DISTINCT PERSONS (IN FUNCTION). The Father is not the Son (vice versa), The Father is not the Holy Spirit (vice versa), and the Son is not the Holy Spirit (vice versa).

Note: Although every person in the Godhead (Trinity) is worthy of all honor, praise, and glory, the following is the general scriptural pattern for thanksgiving:

"Giving thanks to God the Father" (OBJECT)—God (transcendent—high and above) and Father (immanent—near and relational).

- God is not the Father of all but only of those who believe in Christ Jesus.

“in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ” (MEANS)—through the person Christ who reconciled us to the Father through His sacrifice on the cross.

❖ **John 14:6**, “No one comes to the Father except through me.”

by the Holy Spirit “be filled with the Holy Spirit” (SOURCE)—the enabler for Christian life

SPIRIT-FILLED BELIEVERS ARE GRATEFUL BELIEVERS.
THEY DON'T COUNT WHAT THEY LACK, WHICH IS LITTLE,
BUT WHAT THEY HAVE, WHICH IS ABUNDANT.
THEY THANK GOD IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES FOR ALL THINGS.

Michael Youssef: When your life is characterized by psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs and prayers of thanksgiving, you show that you are being continually controlled by the Holy Spirit. That is what it means to not be drunk with wine, but filled with the Spirit.

6. SPIRIT-FILLED BELIEVERS SUBMIT TO ONE ANOTHER OUT OF REVERENCE FOR CHRIST

Scripture: Ephesians 5:18-21, “And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, **submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.**”

S Lewis Johnson: These expressions: speaking, singing and making melody, giving thanks, submitting, are in the Greek text participles that modify the subject: you be filled with the Holy Spirit. **So these are things that describe what it means to be filled with the Holy Spirit.** And I suggest to you, then, that this is a reference, primarily, to the corporate life of a local church.

A Spirit-filled life has an impact on interpersonal relationships,

i.e. how we relate to one another, particularly in submission. Many who appear to be having Spirit-led experiences are terrible in interpersonal relationships. Such people are not genuinely Spirit-filled.

What Is Submission? It is humbling yourself and submitting/yielding yourself to another.

Chuck Smith: “The characteristic of the flesh is actually selfishness or self-centeredness...I want my way; I want people to yield to my desires. I want people to play by my rules. I want them to yield to me. But here we are told that we are to submit one to another, yielding to each other. Now, **the insistence on our own way is what brings all of the strife and all of the problems.**”

- ❖ **James 4:1**, “What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions (selfishness, no submission) are at war within you?”
- ❖ **I Cor. 13:5**, “Love does not insist on its own way;” (in other words, love is submissive)

Note: Many may submit to authorities but they don’t submit to one another. They behave superior towards one another.

Out of reverence for Christ reveals out of reverence (healthy fear) for who Christ is (His Supremacy) and what He has done for us on the Cross (His Supreme work).

GENUINE SUBMISSION IS PRACTICED NOT TO PLEASE PEOPLE (FEAR OF WHAT PEOPLE WILL THINK) BUT OUT OF REVERENCE FOR CHRIST

Comment: Submission to one another in the body of Christ isn’t possible without a Christ-reverent life because we are by nature arrogant, egotistic, critical, oversensitive, and selfish.

THE **LOFTY** VIEW OF CHRIST ENABLES US
TO BE **LOWLY** IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHERS.

Question? Does submission means you have to nod your head to everything? Submission means **you agree where you have to agree** (delight), **compromise**

where you have to compromise (adjust), and **express your concerns where you cannot compromise** (confrontation). Dissolving from relationships (not transparent) and aggressively reacting is not a sign of a Spirit-filled life.

HOW DO WE SUBMIT TO ONE ANOTHER IN PRACTICAL WAYS?

- ❖ **Matthew 18:15**, “If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother.” **YOU SUBMIT TO YOUR BROTHER/SISTER (FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT) WHEN THEY SHOW YOU YOUR FAULT.**
 - If you want to see how much a person is “filled with self” show him his fault. If you want to see how much a person is “filled with the Holy Spirit”, show him his fault.
- ❖ **Hebrews 3:13**, “But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.” **Colossians 3:16**, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom...**YOU SUBMIT TO YOUR BROTHER/SISTER (FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT) WHEN THEY EXHORT YOU (CAUTION YOU ABOUT SIN).**
 - Some may not be mature in encouraging others (like instructing us without first showing empathy), however, we must appreciate their intention to encourage and submit to them.

Francis Foulkes: There must be a willingness in the Christian fellowship to serve any, to learn from any, to be corrected by any, regardless of age, sex, class, or any other division.

- ❖ **James 1:19**, “Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be **quick to hear**, slow to speak, slow to anger;” **YOU SUBMIT TO YOUR BROTHER/SISTER (FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT) BY LISTENING TO THEM WHEN THEY SPEAK.**
- ❖ **Ephesians 4:1-3**, “I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, **bearing (showing tolerance, NASB) with one another in love**, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of

peace.” YOU SUBMIT TO YOUR BROTHER/SISTER (FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT) BY TOLERATING THEIR WEAKNESSES AND FAILURES.

- Many who appear walking in the Spirit speak about mystical experience, miraculous guidance, hearing inner voice, but can't bear the weaknesses of others with love. A person who submits to others by being patient and endurance evidences a Spirit-filled life than a person who claims some mystical experiences.

❖ **Ephesians 4:32**, “Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.” YOU SUBMIT TO YOUR BROTHER/SISTER (FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT) WHEN YOU FORGIVE THEM AND DON'T TREASURE THEIR OFFENSES.

❖ **Galatians 6:2**, Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. 5:13, “Through love serve one another...” YOU SUBMIT TO YOUR BROTHER/SISTER (FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT) WHEN CARRY THEIR BURDENS AND SERVE THEM.

SPIRIT-FILLED BELIEVERS ARE AMIABLE DESPITE PERSONALITY DIFFERENCES

(easy to get along/transparent/non-critical-judgmental/submissive)

AND NOT COMPLICATED PERSONALITIES

(either touchy <easily offended and avoid others> or hostile <aggressively react>)

Finally, the way we obey the command to be filled with the Holy Spirit is by singing and making melody with our heart to the Lord and to one another, giving thanks to God always for everything, and submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.