

SCRIPTURE READING: Ephesians 5

EXTRA READING: Apostle's Creed & Canons, V, 10 & Rej. 5 (pg. 113, 115)

SINGING: 256:1-5 – 385:1-3 – 84:1-2 – 69:1-7

OPENING THOUGHTS ...

- Joy belongs to being in the Kingdom of God (Rom. 14:17; Gal. 5:22; Acts 13:52)

- Joy is not just a *sacred privilege* but a *sacred duty* (Ps. 32:11; 100; Phil 4:4)

- Joy is not the same as happiness

- Various realities function as 'joy-chillers' in God's children yet the general lack of joy is self-inflicted

GOD'S CALL TO *SPIRIT-FILLED LIVING*

I. What is it to be Spirit-filled? II. How come this is missing?

III. How do we become Spirit-filled?

I. WHAT IS IT TO BE SPIRIT-FILLED?

A. Define 'Spirit filled'

1. Not talking in tongues – new revelations – doing miracles (1 Cor. 12)

2. Not referring to regeneration (1 Cor. 12:13)

3. Refers to the Holy Spirit taking full control of every aspect of life

4. Biblical examples of Spirit filled people
 - a. deacon Stephen: Acts 6:3, 10, 15

 - b. apostle Paul: Phil 4:11-12

 - c. nameless believers: 1 Peter 1:8 – Heb. 10:34 – Acts 13:53

B. How many true Spirit-filled Christians you know come to your mind?

II. HOW COME WE MISS THIS SPIRIT-FILLED CHRISTIANITY IN OUR DAYS?

A. God's sovereignty determines extent of blessings in ministry (John 3:27)

- B. Yet an appeal to God's sovereignty is not sufficient
1. for God has promised this 'fullness of the Spirit' (Ps. 81:10-16; Luke 11:13; Acts 1:8)
- C. Truth is that *many saved are 'drunk with the world'* (Eph. 5:18a)
1. Wine is 'symbolic' for everything that *deadens spirit – takes control*
2. Too much leads to excess: *what are the evidence of this excess?*

III. HOW DO WE BECOME AGAIN SPIRIT-FILLED?

- A. This should be every believers concern for *how can we shine in this evil generation* when we are not filled with the Spirit (Phil. 2:15-16)
- B. "Be filled" is an *exhortation*: we need to seek it – but how?
1. not the work of men but fruit of Spirit Himself (Acts 9:31)
2. Eph. 5:18 doesn't stand in isolation: *the context provides the key on how to be filled with the Spirit*
a. take Ephesians 4-6 and let Word examine us bit by bit
- how do we *talk*?

 - how do we *live together*?

 - how do we *walk*?
3. When we honor and seek the Spirit, He will 'fill us'

REFLECTIONS ...

- A. We all have certain sources of joy: *what is yours?*
- B. "The joy of the LORD is your strength." (Neh. 8:10)

Pearls to Ponder

If you have no joy in your serving of God, there is a leak in your Christianity somewhere. (B. Sunday)

The Christian should be an alleluia from head to food. (Augustine)

Holy joy is the oil to the wheels of our obedience. (M. Henry)