

CrossRoads Baptist Church
September 26, 2007 6:30 p.m.
Ephesians 5:18-19
Will of God Series #3

The Will of God is for You to be Spirit Filled

Last Wednesday night I spoke to you concerning a doctrine that most recently has caused great debate within our Southern Baptist Convention. Well tonight, I am going to speak to you about a doctrine that has been controversial for many years. And all I can say is, “how sad.” How sad that the doctrine of the Holy Spirit has been a point of debate and contention.

Let me say four things about that:

1. There has been a lack of teaching on the Holy Spirit.
2. There has been misinterpretation of the doctrine of the Holy Spirit due to people’s presuppositions or biases.
3. There have been wrong applications of the understanding of the Holy Spirit.
4. All of this has caused people to be afraid of the Holy Spirit

Now there is a fear when the Spirit of God does come; but we should not be afraid of it. There are two different things.

How sad that we would be afraid of the Holy Spirit. The first thing you need to do is to say, “Father, I repent of being afraid of the Holy Spirit. I know the gift of your Spirit is good. Teach me from your Word the purity of the person and power of the Holy Spirit and then let me experience it authentically. And when I err, correct me with your gentle spirit. My desire Lord is to walk in the Spirit.” Matthew 7:7-11; Galatians 5:16, 18 (“Walk in the Spirit”) (“Led by the Spirit”)

What I want to share tonight would take weeks to unpack through the Word of God and then this is just a starting place to talk about many of the gifts and manifestations of the Spirit that would take even more weeks. My purpose tonight is not to have an in-depth study of the Word but to give you a practical overview of being filled with the

Holy Spirit.

I have at least twice in my ministry done extensive teaching on the Holy Spirit (and I look forward to doing that here one day), but tonight I am not going back to an old message to share about being filled with the Spirit. I want to share some fresh thoughts and insights and presentation of those thoughts to you tonight through the making of statements. These statements are not necessarily in an order of importance; just statements.

1. Being filled with the Spirit is absolute essential to live the Christian life and for the survival of the local church to model the authentic Christ life.

Ephesians 5: 18 is a command, not a suggestion or a good idea. Present passive imperative. It is a command – be filled.

2. The Holy Spirit is God, equal with the Father and the Son.

John 14:16 “another of the same kind.” John 15:26 (“The Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father”); I Corinthians 2:12 (“the Spirit who is from God”); Acts 16:7 (“Spirit of Jesus”)

3. The Holy Spirit is God in us and the only way we know the Father and the Son in our contemporary day.
4. There is one baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 4:5; I Corinthians 12:13

5. Part of the initial salvation experience is that you are filled with the Holy Spirit.
6. You can never lose the Holy Spirit as a person in your life but you can lose his power in your life.
7. There are many fillings of the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 5:18 is present tense which calls for a habitual and continuing action.

8. Not all works of the Holy Spirit are of equal value in your life. There are deeper works of the Holy Spirit.

There is no top or bottom to the dimension of walking in the Spirit.

9. You can't outline the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is like the wind that you can't explain it totally but you can always experience it. John 3:8

It's like nailing jello to the wall.

You will know it. You will experience joy, freedom, victory, power.

10. The real evidence of the fullness of the Holy Spirit is the fruit of the Holy Spirit (character, inward work) and gift(s) of the Holy Spirit (manifestations, outward work).

11. The inward work of the Spirit that produces salvation also produces the manifestation of the person of Jesus in our life. Galatians 5:22-23

12. The outward work of the Spirit produces the manifestation of the power of Jesus in our life. Acts 1:8; I Corinthians 12-14

Power will come upon you. The gifts of the Spirit will only be conducted through the power of the Spirit and not the energy of the flesh.

13. These dual works are consistent with the work of the Holy Spirit through the Old Testament and the New Testament.

Saul, the spirit would come on him and he was a different man. Ezekiel 36:25-27; Jeremiah 31:33

14. The Holy Spirit is here in fullness. We don't need more of the Spirit for Pentecost is sufficient to the Spirit's outpouring like Calvary is sufficient for redemption.

15. You can never receive more of the Holy Spirit; but the Holy Spirit receives more of you.

The word "filled" in Eph. 5:18 has the idea of "control." The indwelling Spirit of God is the One who should continually control and dominate the life of the believer.

Ephesians 3:17 "dwell" Colossians 3:16 "dwell" The word means to be at home.

16. The Holy Spirit responds to the desire of your heart for His fullness. Matthew 5:6; Hebrews 11:6; Luke 11:3; Romans 6:12-13; Isaiah 44:3

Ephesians 5:18 is passive which means "allow yourselves to be filled."

17. The Holy Spirit and the Word of God are equals in producing the life of Jesus in you. Colossians 3:16

Here is the dual role of the Spirit and the Word. Genesis 1; John 1

18. When you walk in the fullness of the Spirit you will be considered "abnormal" to most of the people in your life, including the church.

19. When you are walking in the fullness of the Spirit, there will be evidences of it just like with the example of the wind; i.e. you will know when you are filled and when you are not.