

Ephesians - The Holy Spirit and the Christian

A. Who is the Holy Spirit?

4:30 – Do not grieve the Spirit.

❖ **The Holy Spirit is God**

- *God eternally exists in three Persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit and each Person is fully God, and there is one God* - W. Grudem
- **1:3,7,13-14** – Our salvation is the work of the Father, the Son and the Spirit.
- **2:18** – The three equal Persons are involved together when we pray.
- **4:4-6** – The unity of the Church is based on the Trinity.
- **Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14** - He is associated with the Father and the Son and He is placed on the same level as them.

❖ **The Holy Spirit is a Person**

- **1:17** - He reveals things to us.
- **2:22** – He lives in the church.
- **3:16** – He strengthens us.
- **4:30** – We can grieve him.
- **6:18** – He helps us to pray.
- **John 14:16** – He is “another Comforter” like Jesus.
- A Person is
 - ⇒ Someone with recognizable character traits.
 - ⇒ Someone capable of thinking, acting and communicating.
 - ⇒ Someone capable of relationships.

❖ **How do we grieve the Spirit?**

Ephesians 4:29-5:2 – The importance of relationships

- **29** – Words like “putrid fruit”.
- **31** – Negative emotions that lead to vicious actions.
- **32** – Positive actions that flow from God’s grace.
- **5:1-2** – Likeness to Christ.

❖ **How should thinking of the Spirit as a Person affect our lives?**

B. The Holy Spirit seals us (1:13-14)

❖ 1:13 – “Sealing” is a gift for all Christians.

- They “heard...believed... were sealed”.
- This happens to every Christian when they believe.
- **Acts 2:38-39** – This is the promise of the gospel.
- **Romans 8:9** – If we do not have the Spirit, we are not Christians.

❖ The nature of sealing

- It is not a physical mark but “*the life of God in the soul of man*”.
- **1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 6:19** – The Holy Spirit comes to live in us so that we become “*the temple of the Holy Spirit*”.
- Ephesus was a port. Timber, cattle and slaves bore a mark or brand of ownership.
- Sealing reminds us of two things:
 - 1) We are secure now and on the day of judgment:
 - ⇒ **2 Corinthians 1:21-22**
 - ⇒ **Ephesians 4:30**
 - ⇒ **Philippians 1:6**
 - 2) We belong to God and must live for His glory:
 - ⇒ **1 Corinthians 6:19-20**
 - ⇒ **Romans 12:1-2**

❖ The “deposit”

- In modern Greek this is the word used for an engagement ring.
- The Spirit is a down payment and pledge.
- **Romans 8:22-23** – He is our first installment.
- **1 Peter 1:3-5** – The Holy Spirit is the foretaste of our inheritance.

C. The Holy Spirit fills us – 5:18

❖ Ephesians 5:18 - “Do not get drunk with wine.”

- It is a foil to the positive command to be filled with the Spirit.
- There is a clear contrast.
- Excess of wine depresses the higher centre of the brain and leads to a lack of self-control, wisdom or good judgment.
- The Holy Spirit is the exact opposite. He stimulates self-control, wisdom and understanding.
- Perhaps Paul has Acts 2:13-21 in mind.

❖ “Be filled with the Spirit.”

- **Imperative mood** – This is not a tentative suggestion but a firm, strong and urgent command (compare the negative commands in 5:3-4 and the positive commands in 5:15-17)
- **Plural form** – It is a command for all Christians. It is an experience for all.
- **Passive voice** – “*Let the Spirit fill you*” – It is not the result of a technique or a formula. God fills. It is a divine gift not a human achievement.
- **Present tense** – It is a continuous command. They must “*be being filled*”. It is not once and for all but on-going. They are to continuously seek to be filled.

❖ **What does filling mean?**

- **Colossians 3:16** – It is associated with being filled with the Word.
- To be filled means to be controlled (e.g. Ac 7:54 - “filled with anger” - anger controls them).
- We cannot have more of the Spirit – but He can have more of us.
- We can and should pray for His presence and help.
- The filling of the Spirit should be normal, habitual and observable.
- We should want to live “Spirit-filled” lives.

❖ **What are the consequences of being filled with the Spirit?**

- **5:19 – Fellowship** - We will speak to each other in Psalms. There will be mutual exhortation (Hebrews 10:24-25)
- **5:19 - Worship** – We will sing and make melody in the heart. There will be a joyful celebration of the salvation Paul has spoken of in Ephesians 1-3
- **5:20 - Gratitude** - Grumbling is incompatible with the filling of the Spirit (Col 3:15-17; 1 Thessalonians 5:18).
- **5:20 - Submission** - People filled with the Holy Spirit are not aggressive or self-assertive but are humble and meek.
- We submit to Christ and so submit to each other.
- The first and last commands are about our relationship with other people.
- The second and third commands are about our relationship with God.

❖ **How can we be filled with the Spirit?**

D. The Holy Spirit teaches us – 1:17

❖ **The Spirit gives us an objective revelation.**

- **6:14** – The belt of truth.
- **6:17** – The sword of the Spirit.
- **2 Timothy 3:16-17** – All Scripture is “theopneustos” or “God-breathed”.
- **2 Peter 1:21** – He took men up and used them.
- “What God has joined together let no one put asunder.”

❖ *The Spirit to enlightens us.*

- **1:17-18** – He opens the eyes of our hearts.
- **3:14-17** – He strengthens us so that we can understand the truth.
- **John 15:26-27; 16:14** – He focuses our attention on Jesus.
- **Revelation 2:7, 11, 29; 3:6, 13, 22** – He teaches the churches.

❖ *1:15-21 – Paul's first prayer.*

- He prays that the Spirit of wisdom and revelation would enlighten them.
- **1:17** - That they might know God better.
- **1:18** – That they might know the hope of their calling.
- **1:19-22** – That they might know the power of God at work in their lives and behalf of the church.

❖ *Ephesians 3:17-19 – Paul's second prayer*

- **3:16-17** – He pray that through the Spirit Christ would dwell in their hearts.
- **3:17** – Paul wants them to have a firm and solid foundation in their lives.
- **3:18** – This will come when they know how deeply God loves them.
- **3:19** – This will lead spiritual maturity – they will be filled with all the fullness of God.

❖ *This will overflow into the church.*

- **Ephesians 3:20-21** – What is the result of His presence?
- God's glory is the manifestation of all His attributes.
- In particular it is the overflowing manifestation of the inter-Trinitarian love flowing from the Father's heart, manifested by the Son's sacrifice and magnified by the Spirit's presence.

❖ ***Could you turn Paul's prayers into prayers for your fellow Christians?***