

**FAITH BIBLE FELLOWSHIP of Fairfield Glade**  
Pastor Dave Evangelista ~ February 14, 2010 ~ Ephesians 5:16-18  
**“Redeeming the Time”**

In order to redeem the time and to understand what the will of the Lord is, we must be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Your Pastor is so pleased that the Sunday Morning Bible Class is being taught from the book, *The Wonderful Spirit Filled Life* by Charles Stanley’s as the text. I would encourage those of you who do not regularly attend, to try hard to do so as this is a vitally important study in your walk with the Lord Jesus Christ.

God no longer thunders His commands from a mountaintop or send prophets with new messages. The last of the prophets was His Son from heaven. His latest gift to man is His Holy Spirit...we are commanded to be filled with Him.

Note the striking contrast in Ephesians 5:16-18. The contrast is between one of man’s most debasing vices and God’s holiest and highest virtue. The contrast is between that which genders mockery and self-deception and that which gives divine illumination. The contrast is between that which gives license to lust and shame and that which gives liberty and power in God’s service! To become drunk with wine means waste and the loss of self-control but to be filled with the Holy Spirit instead means new gifts and self-renewal. One thing leads to vain imaginations and remorse while the other leads and guides into all truth and makes us strong enough to do the will of God.

Note the necessary exhortation to “Be filled with the Holy Spirit”. This implies three things:

- The Holy Spirit has been given, just as surely as Christ was given.
- Every believer has been influenced by the Spirit.
- Every believer should be filled with the Holy Spirit.

When He (the Holy Spirit) came at Pentecost, He rested upon each of them—teaching us that every believer can be filled with the Holy Spirit. “By grace we are saved, by the Holy Spirit we are filled!”

What happens to us when we are filled? We have a deep sense of personal unworthiness.

When we are filled we get a hunger for the Word of God. When the Spirit has full control within, and reveals afresh the things of Christ, there is a growing love and reverence for the Living Book!

When we are filled there is a quickened realization of the presence of God. *1 Corinthians 2:9, 10: However, as it is written: “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him” but God has revealed it to us by His Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.*

When filled He gives us a desire for and a delight in, prayer.

When filled we receive a yearning for the salvation of others. Paul wept over those who were enemies of the cross! *Philippians 3:18 “For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ.”*

When filled we have a more real conflict with spiritual enemies! *Ephesians 6:12 “For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”*

When filled we have a more Christ-like attitude in the face of opposition. Peter met opposition by preaching a sermon to his opposers at Pentecost. Jesus taught us how to meet opposition. *Matthew 5:44: “But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,”*

To be filled with the Holy Spirit is to be filled with the knowledge of His will and a desire to please Him.

What hinders us from being filled? He has commanded us to “*be filled...*” If we are *not* filled is it ignorance of the possibility and need? Is it unbelief in its reality? Is it indifference as to its vital importance? Whatever it is, we are responsible for not being filled with the Spirit.

**Something to take away with us today:**

*Then, for Jesus' sake and for your own eternal honor "Be filled with the Holy Spirit." How? Well the first step is to read God's Word and the verses that explain the meaning of and ministry of the Holy Spirit. Then realize that the Holy Spirit is a person, the third person of the Holy Trinity—a person, not an "it"—a wonderful guide, comforter, teacher, corrector (He convicts us of sin and when we are headed for the wrong way) and one who "comes alongside of us".*

The dear Holy Spirit is God's gift to us, learn of Him and give Him control of your life—you will never regret it.

Look at the words of our Lord Jesus in *Luke 11:13 (NIV): "If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"*

Have you asked Him to control your life?

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