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2025 ANNUAL THEME: “HOPE IN THE FACE OF DIFFICULTY”
October 2025 Theme: Unleashing the Holy Spirit

BIBLE STUDY
October 22, 2025/October 29, 2025

“The Holy Spirit In Worship”
Ephesians 5:18-21

Topics

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Scripture Reference: Ephesians 5:18-21 (NASB 1995)

¹⁸ And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; ²⁰ always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father; ²¹ and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.

Reflection Questions

- A. How can being filled with the Spirit influence our daily interactions and relationships with others?

- B. In what ways can we incorporate gratitude and thankfulness into our worship and into our daily lives?

IMPORTANT EMPHASIS

What is Worship?

Worship (Worth-ship) is a general word for the service that is rendered to God in praise, prayer, proclamation and the hearing of the word, and participation in giving. Another term for worship service is “Divine service”.

Worship means that one is attributing honor, reverence or worth. Christian worship is often defined as the ascription of worth or honor to the triune God.

The New Testament has various terms for worship but one that is used is proskyneite in John 4:21-24. This term means to fall down, to kiss the hand. Its deeper meaning suggest that worship is an action, and worship has a tone of being cheerfully consistent.

Worship is a Lifestyle. Worship is not just our expression of thanksgiving and gratefulness on Sunday or on Wednesday. Worship is the life we live before God according to Romans 12:1-2. Paul calls this our reasonable Worship. Our Worship must have solidarity with our daily Walk. Luke 9:23.

Worship as Liturgy. Interrelation between divine action and human response: worship is the human response to the self-revelation of the triune God. Psalm 100

“The New Testament consistently links Christian worship with the Holy Spirit. Note Paul’s reference to various phenomena within the corporate worship setting as gifts. 1 Cor. 12:4-11. We worship in the Spirit Roman 8:15-16.”

So, the New Testament references to Christian Worship suggest that it was to be characterized by **energy** and **vitality**, and a joy and enthusiasm that reflect the

experience of God's enlivening Spirit and the consequent sense of eschatological and heavenly realities. 1 Corinthians 10:31, Colossians 3:17, Isaiah 43:7

Holy Spirit used in the Old Testament to describe God's active presence in the world. The working of the ruah is at first ecstatic equipping charismatic leaders Judg. 3:10 and Sam 10:6

But the gathered Christian ekklesia is particularly as occasion for the manifestations of the Spirit and for celebration of God's present and anticipated eschatological redemption

- 1) Divine initiation in which God reveals Himself, his purposes and his will
- 2) A spiritual and personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ on the part of the worshiper
- 3) A response by the worshiper of adoration humility , submission, and obedience to God.

Key Words and Terms

Christ
Deference
Dissipation [Overindulgence]
Divine
Father
Fear
Filled
God
Gratitude
Heart
Holy Spirit
Humility
Hymns

Indwelling
Lord Jesus Christ
Praise
Psalms
Spirit-Driven
Spirit-Filled
Spirit-Led
Subject
Submission
Thanksgiving
Truth
Worship

Outline

I. Spirit-Filled Worship (Ephesians 5:18-19)

- A. Filling is Commanded
- B. Filling to be Heartfelt

II. Spirit-Driven Gratitude (Ephesians 5:20)

- A. Continual Thanksgiving
- B. Continual Praise

III. Spirit-Led Submission (Ephesians 5:21)

- A. Divine Humility
- B. Divine Deference

INTRODUCTION

The work of the Holy Spirit in a believer's life is transformative, guiding them towards a deeper and more meaningful relationship with God. As believers are filled with the Spirit, they are empowered to live lives that reflect the character and love of Christ. This spiritual filling leads to a life of worship that is not confined to mere rituals or traditions but is expressed through heartfelt devotion and gratitude. The Spirit inspires believers to engage in worship through psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, creating a melody in their hearts that resonates with the divine presence of the Lord. Moreover, the Holy Spirit cultivates a spirit of thankfulness and submission among believers. This gratitude is not limited to favorable circumstances but extends to all things, acknowledging God's sovereignty and goodness. The Spirit also fosters a sense of unity and mutual respect within the community of believers, encouraging them to be subject to one another in reverence for Christ. Through the Spirit's work, worship becomes a holistic experience that encompasses both individual and communal expressions of faith, drawing believers closer to God and to each other.

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Paul's letter to the Ephesians, especially Chapter 5, offers guidance on living a Spirit-filled life, emphasizing love, light, and wisdom. Written during his imprisonment in Rome, it aims to instruct the Christian community in Ephesus, a city rich in culture and religion. Paul urges believers to stand out from the pagan culture by avoiding immorality and embracing a life of worship, gratitude, and mutual submission. He uses marriage as a metaphor for the relationship between Christ and the Church, highlighting love, sacrifice, and unity. This chapter serves as a practical guide for Christians to reflect Christ's character and foster a holy, harmonious community.

Exploring the Text

I. Spirit-Filled Worship (Ephesians 5:18-19)

A. Filling is Commanded

¹⁸ And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit,

These words should be considered in light of the whole section (Ephesians 4:17–5:20) in which Paul has contrasted the “before and after” of the believers’ lives. Getting **drunk with wine** was associated with the old way of life and its selfish desires and will ultimately end in **ruin**. This has no place in the lives of believers. Besides, we don’t need alcohol, according to Paul, for we can **let the Holy Spirit fill and control** us.

FILLED = CONTROLLED

When we hear the word “filled,” we tend to think of capacity. This suggests that one can get more of an entity. In the case of the Holy Spirit, the believer gets all of the Holy Spirit at rebirth. Remember this is called **indwelling**. We cannot get any more of him. What then does this command to be filled with the Holy Spirit mean? It simply means that the Holy Spirit controls us or He gets more and more of us. This is called “infilling.” The Spirit-Filled life is the Christ-Filled life.

Paul compared the temporary “high” from wine to the lasting joy that comes from being filled with the Spirit (**Galatians 5:22-23**). The emphasis of Paul’s message is on encouraging believers to continually be filled by and live in the Spirit. Just as a person’s actions reveal when they are under the influence, our lives should clearly demonstrate that we are guided by the presence of God’s Holy Spirit (**Romans 8:9**).

B. Filling is to be Heartfelt

¹⁹ speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord;

Spirit-filled worship should be evidence of the Holy Spirit’s presence. From the Apostle Paul’s urging came much of the style of historic

corporate Christian worship that is still a part of our worship today. Believers can encourage one another and give praise to God through music. Paul mentioned psalms, such as the psalms of the Old Testament, as well as new ones written in the old style. The psalms were usually accompanied by a harp. Hymns and spiritual songs were written by the believers and could be used in praise to God. Some fragments of these hymns may exist in some of Paul's letters (see **Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:15-18; 1 Timothy 3:16**).

Although the early Christians had access to the Old Testament and freely used it, they did not yet have the New Testament or any other Christian books to study. Their stories and teachings about Christ were sometimes set to music to make them easier to memorize and pass on from person to person. Believers are to be full of the Holy Spirit when they sing (**Colossians 3:16**). Spirit-filled worship can be powerful and productive even in suffering (**Acts 16:25**).

Grounded in God's word and correct doctrine, music can be an important part of Christian worship and education. Paul encouraged the believers to **sing** and make **music** that comes from hearts that praise God. This makes a contrast between the music of Christians, sung together in praise to God, and the music of unbelievers, done purely for entertainment or self-praise. The primary focus of our singing is to give thanks to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ (**Psalms 95:1-2**).

Check for Understanding

1. With what did Paul associate getting drunk with wine? (Ephesians 5:18)

2. What should Spirit-filled worship be evidence of? (Ephesians 5:18)

Exploring the Text

II. Spirit-Driven Gratitude (Ephesians 5:20)

A. Continual Thanksgiving

²⁰ always giving thanks for all things...

This text emphasizes the importance of **giving thanks always**, particularly in the context of psalms and hymns, as a way to maintain a sense of God's mercy and goodness. It suggests that gratitude should extend to all people and the blessings given to humanity, aligning with the idea in **1 Timothy 2:1**. This practice helps overcome selfishness, fosters interest in others' well-being, and broadens our understanding of God's goodness. Gratitude should be expressed for both joys and trials, as all experiences are part of God's plan for our good (**James 1:2-4; Romans 8:28**).

B. Continual Praise

...in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father;

Thanks are to be directed to God the Father, through the mediation of Jesus Christ, acknowledging that all blessings and the acceptance of our gratitude come through Him (**Colossians 3:17; 1 Thessalonians 5:18; Hebrews 13:15**).

Check for Understanding

3. Why should gratitude be expressed for both joys and trials? (Ephesians 5:20)

4. Who should our thanks be directed to and through whom? (5:20)

Exploring the Text

III. Spirit-Led Submission (Ephesians 5:21)

A. Divine Humility

²¹ and be subject to one another

Submitting yourselves to one another. Submission provides evidence that we have **Spirit-controlled** relationships, and it requires the Holy Spirit's guidance and restraint (**Ephesians 4:2-3**). In the church, the believers should be willing to learn from, serve, give to, or be corrected by others in the fellowship. Such submission can allow growth both individually and corporately as the believers seek to follow Christ. Submission also empowers the believer to live a life of true worship—in spirit and truth (**John 4:23-24**).

B. Divine Deference

...in the fear of Christ.

"Divine deference" refers to yielding to God's authority and will (**Romans 12:1-2**). It involves willingly submitting to what is considered divine instruction or truth, and it also relates to showing respect and consideration for others as part of living a Christian life (**Philippians 2:3-4**). The concept implies that one's own desires are secondary to the will of God or the greater good of the community

The believer's motive should be **reverence** ("fear" or "awe") of God. Reverence for the Lord is a deep respect, awe, and love for God that influences a person's worship, obedience, and daily life. It involves recognizing God's supreme authority, holiness, and majesty, and it is expressed through acts like worship, prayer, and obedience to

commandments. A life of reverence honors God and results in making righteous choices, showing respect for others, and living with a greater sense of peace.

Check for Understanding

5. What provides evidence that we have Spirit-controlled relationships?

6. What does a Spirit-controlled relationship require from the Holy Spirit?

7. What does “Divine Deference” refer to?

8. What does reverence for the Lord mean, and how can it influence a believer’s life?

Life Application Questions

Think about it!

- In what practical ways can you demonstrate gratitude and submission in your relationships (in your home, with your family, on your job, in your community, and in your church), reflecting the teachings of Ephesians 5:18-21?

- How can you actively replace old habits with Spirit-led actions to better reflect the teachings of Ephesians 5:18-21 in your daily life?

Resources:

Adult Questions for LESSONMaker, LOGOS Bible Software

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