

Am I Being Filled or Am I Quenching?

Ephesians 5:16-21; 1 Thessalonians 5:19

Chapters 5 and 6 deals with harmony between husbands and wives, parents and children, workers and authorities. The secret to harmony on the job and in the home is the fullness of the Holy Spirit. The harmony in the church and unity in the home both depend on the Spirit of the Lord. It is the power from within, not the pressure from without, that holds these relationships together. When Christians are filled with the Word of God they will have the characteristics listed below. In other words, to be filled with the Spirit of God means to be controlled by the Word of God.

1. _____ - vs. 19, Colossians 3:16

- The pagans would sing hymns to express their joy to Bacchus, whom they called the god of wine. The joy of believers should be expressed in praise to the Lord. It encourages joy and gladness. How often do you just praise the Lord for His goodness, guidance, mercy or grace?
- Galatians 5:19-26 You compare the fruit of the Spirit and the works of the flesh.
- Other passages: Nehemiah 8:10, Psalm 5:11; 16:11; 32:11; 35:9; 51:12; 95:1; John 15:11

2. _____ - vs. 20; Colossians 3:15

- Though we are not always singing, we should always be thankful. 1 Thess. 5:18
- Gratefully acknowledging what we have received from the Lord shows a right heart and mind to the Lord. True thankfulness is remembering what the Lord has done. Phil. 4:4-6
- Other passages: Psalm 97:12; 103:1-8; 105:1; 136

3. _____ - vs. 21; Colossians 3:17

- We should obey the Lord for several reasons: it is right, it is commanded, it brings blessings.
- Also, it makes you observant. You will notice things you have never noticed, and then the Holy Spirit will lead you to take action and obey His impulses. Psalm 119:104-106

These three characteristics go hand in hand. It is difficult to have joy and not be grateful and the ultimate way to show our gratitude is to act in obedience to the Lord's Word and leading. Just as in an actual fire, the best way to quench it, is to stop fueling it. Let's not lose our passion for Christ, let's continually be filled.

