

What Are You Filled With?

(self examination)

The other night, I watched a football game on the television set. I observed how the fans for each team wore their school colors with pride. The fans screamed with cheers for the team they we're rooting for. Inside the stadium, it was very noisy! These people were demonstrating the spirit they had for their appropriate schools. Whether winning, losing, cheering or booing, the people demonstrated their football spirit! When it comes to the subject of "Our Lord and Savior", we (God's people) should be just as radical as or even more than the people in the stadium. For **Hebrews 12:28** NASB says (28) "Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe." This is Jesus Christ we are talking about, so we (God's people) should have that radical spirit inside us at all times! Not emotions, but spirit! Now, when it comes to getting radical for Christ, we cannot be filled with just any kind of spirit, for the bible says in **Ephesians 5:18** NASB, (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." We the children of God should be filled with the spirit of God. Let me put emphasis on the words "the spirit". A lot of us claiming to be Christians are showing that we are full of a spirit and the bible says be full of "the Spirit"!

We are new creatures in Christ. Therefore, **Ephesians 4:14-32** NASB tells us, (14) "As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; (15) but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, (16) from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love. (17) So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, (18) being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; (19) and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness. (20) But you did not learn Christ in this way, (21) if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, (22) that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, (23) and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, (24) and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth. (25) Therefore, laying aside falsehood, SPEAK TRUTH EACH ONE of you WITH HIS NEIGHBOR, for we are members of one another. (26) BE ANGRY, AND yet DO NOT SIN; do not let the sun go down on your anger, (27) and do not give the devil an opportunity. (28) He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have something to share with one who has need. (29) Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear. (30) Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. (31) Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. (32) Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you."

When we are filled with the spirit according to God's requirements, we will discover that we will be doing the following: "walking in love", **Ephesians 5:1-5** NASB; "walking in light", **Ephesians 5:6-14** NASB; and "walking in wisdom", **Ephesians 5:15-21**. Now that we know the requirements, let us be filled with the spirit of God and walk in it so that the world can see who we represent!

Remember, we can only be in the spirit or in a spirit (the flesh). How do you know which is which? **Galatians 5:19-24** NASB (19) "Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, (20) idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, (21) envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. (22) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, (23) gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. (24) Now, those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires." So if we live in the spirit, let us also walk in the spirit. Let's get radical about the spirit we walk in which is the spirit of Christ!

SCRIPTURE READING

EPHESIANS 4:1-6

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

If God feels far away, He's not the one who moved.

