**July 1, 2018 “Be Filled with the Spirit” Ephesians 5:18**

One of the most wonderful things about being a Pastor or teacher of the Word, you get the joy of speaking on a number of non-controversial subjects like; be not drunk with wine, wives submit yourselves to your husbands, husbands love your wives, children obey your parents, fathers do not provoke your children and slaves be subject to your masters.

Well today is not different in that today we are going address Ephesians 5:18b where the Word of God instructs us to “Be filled with the Spirit”. As you would well know if you have been a Christian for more than about 5 minutes, this subject of “being filled with the Spirit” has generated a great deal of controversy in the realm of Christianity.

Some say the gifts of the Holy Spirit were only for apostolic times and that the gifts of the Holy Spirit ceased when the Apostles died off. They will cite I Corinthians 13:8 as a reference to support their view. Others will point to the rendition of the Day of Pentecost where Peter states, “this promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off”. They will use this verse to support their view that the gifts of the Holy Spirit are for today and tomorrow and until the Lord returns.

Having said all of this, I would have to look at our text for today and realize that Paul is not speaking about any particular gift or gifts of the Holy Spirit in this text but rather “being filled with the Spirit”. So rather than get into a study of whether or not the gifts of the Holy Spirit are for today or if they have expired, I would like for us to examine the text as it is written and move on from there.

1. “But be filled with the Spirit”
   1. 3 aspects of this entire verse
      1. Contrast… we have spent the last three weeks discussing the contrast of pagan drunkenness trying to find enlightenment though alcoholic ambitions
      2. Command for us today… “be filled with the Spirit”
      3. Results… Ephesians 5:19-20
2. God does not speak in suggestions but rather commands
   1. This is one of them
      1. “Be filled with the Spirit”
         1. Three types of people who claim to be Christians
            1. Utter a 30 second prayer

That’s good enough, I’m going to heaven

* + - * 1. Person who attends church sometimes or maybe all the time

There is no change in their life

Go to the same places, do the same things… etc.

Often known as “carnal Christians”

Corinthian Church

Never laid aside pagan practices

Made them acceptable in the Church

* + - * 1. Nutcases

Read their Bibles

Sometimes every day

Study the Word

Search the Scriptures

Discipline their lives accordingly

1. Who has the Spirit of God?
   1. I Corinthians 12:3
   2. II Corinthians 5:17… a new creature in Christ
      1. Romans 8:6-9
      2. I John 1:5-10
   3. “being filled with the Spirit”
      1. Is not a one-time thing
      2. It is an on-going aspect of the Christian life
         1. John 7:37-39
         2. Innermost being will flow rivers
            1. Have you ever seen a river filled?
            2. How then are we filled if a river is never filled?
   4. “Pleroo”
      1. Used in the description a sail filled with wind
         1. What is the result?
            1. Ship is carried across the sea by the power of the wind
         2. What if the sea is turbulent?
            1. Job 1

Story of the first Pentecostal

Feared God

Revelation 20:11… Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away

Hated sin

As we close today, here is a question I would like to ask: “What is your attitude toward God and the sin that so easily besets us?

Who O Lord with Thee abiding?

Does that describe me? Does it describe you?

These altars are not just for show… they are there for you and me.