**July 8, 2018 “But Be Filled with the Spirit” Ephesians 5:18b**

I think I have told you this before but let me tell you again. One of the great difficulties in teaching or preaching the Word of God is learning how to or endeavoring to take a large subject coupled with a huge amount of information and then reduce that information down into a 45-minute speech.

Such is the case with our text today, which clearly states, “but be filled with the Spirit”. Herein lies the difficulty. How does one take the subject of “be being filled with the Holy Spirit” and reduce that into one or even two lessons?

First, we have to frame the subject or confine the subject to the text. In the full reading of the text we see that there are two aspects to the subject. The first is that there is a command given, “be not drunk with wine for that is dissipation but be filled with the Spirit”. Interestingly, both aspects of these two commands are the imperative tense which means they are not suggestions but rather are commands, “Do not” and “But be filled”.

Perhaps even more interestingly is the word “filled” which in the Greek is “pleroo” which is in the passive tense which leads us to understand the illustration I used last week when I said that being filled with the Spirit is like a stick floating on a river which is carried along, sometimes in quiet waters and other times in turbulent distress. The stick cannot and does not tell the stream how to carry it along, it literally is along for the ride. An example in Scripture would be found in II Peter 1:20-21.

However, you may point out that humans are not inanimate objects and correct you are and that is why I used the second illustration of a sail of a ship. When the sail is filled with wind, the ship scoots along on top of the water. When the sail is let down or hoisted in an incorrect manner, the ship slows down or stops. When the ship stops due to no wind in its sails it is at the total mercy of the sea tossed about going nowhere and achieving nothing in its mission.

Since we are not inanimate objects there are some things we need to know.

* John 7:37-39
  + He who believes in Me
* I Corinthians 6:19-20
* Luke 4:1
* Mark 1:9-13
  + Persecuted saints… today

1. Be being filled with the Spirit
   1. Every aspect of your life is controlled by the Holy Spirit
      1. What happens when we don’t do this
         1. Ephesians 4:25-30… don’t grieve the Holy Spirit
         2. I Thessalonians 5:14-22… do not quench the Holy Spirit
2. Results
   1. I Thessalonians 5:19-20… joyful lives
   2. I Thessalonians 5:21… humility in living
   3. I Thessalonians 5:22… Spirit filled wives submit to husbands
   4. I Thessalonians 5:25… Spirit filled husbands love their wives
   5. I Thessalonians 6:1… Spirit filled children obey their parents
   6. I Thessalonians 6:4… Spirit filled fathers do not exasperate their children
   7. I Thessalonians 6:5… Spirit filled workers respect their bosses
   8. I Thessalonians 6:9… Spirit filled bosses treat their employees correctly
3. How do we do this?
   1. Colossians 3:16… note the mirror image of Ephesians 5:19-6:9
      1. Let the Word of Christ richly dwell in you
      2. To be filled with the Spirit of God
         1. Gives you a view of God
         2. Gives you a desire for His glory
            1. Acts 7:55-60
            2. Acts 9:10-19
            3. Acts 11:22-25
   2. Peter
      1. Saw
         1. Healing of the leper
         2. Mother in law healed
         3. Demons cast out
         4. Paralytic healed
         5. Jairus’ daughter raised from the dead
         6. Feeding the multitudes
      2. Matthew 14:22-33
         1. What made Peter get out of the boat?
            1. He wanted to be with Jesus more than anything else
         2. Matthew 26:69-75
            1. Peter was less than a couple of hundred feet from Jesus
         3. John 21:1-8
         4. John 21:18-19
            1. Follow Me
            2. That is the Spirit filled life
            3. Follow Me!!!!!!!