

Filled with the Spirit

Considering Carefully what Fills our Temple

Connecting to Church Series (Ephesians): part 17

Sept 12-13

Ephesians 5:18

"But as for me, I am filled with power, with the Spirit of the LORD, and with justice and might..." Micah 3:8

Introduction

- **Fill in this blank** (in your mind, don't blurt this out) - *"Man, you are so full of _____" - (BS? Yourself? Garbage? What?)* - Notice that we instinctively know that the human being can be filled up with things. Hmmm. Where does that come from?
- **The Bible Describes us as Vessels** - We are containers with territory in our spirit. We house things inside us. Apparently, there's a lot of room in there.
 - **Potters hands story** - Jeremiah 18 (cf. Isa 64:8; Lam 4:2; Rom 9:21)
 - **Vessels used for noble and ignoble purposes** - 2 Ti 2:20-21 - *"Now in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for honorable use, some for dishonorable. ²¹ Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work."*
 - **Jars of Clay** - 2 Co 4:7 - *"But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us."*
 - **Demon Possession** (Satan himself - Acts 5:3)
 - **Where God Lives** - Jn 14:16-17 - *"And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ¹⁷ even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you." (cf. Rom 8:9-11; Eph 3:17; James 4:5)*
 - **We can be filled with all sorts of things:**
 - **Good Things**
 - **Gifts, talents and abilities** (creative artistic skills - Ex 28:3; 31:3-5; 35:30-35)
 - **Awe** (Matt 27:54; Lk 5:26; Acts 3:10)
 - **Wisdom** (Lk 2:40)
 - **Joy, Peace & Comfort** (Rom 15:13; 2 Tim 1:4; Acts 13:52; 1 Peter 1:8; 2 Corinthians 7:4)

- **The Fruit of Righteousness** (Phil 1:11)
- **Bad Things**
 - **Fear** (1 Sam 28:20; Mk 4:41; Lk 2:9)
 - **Anger & Bitterness & Jealousy** (Esther 3:5; Job 9:18; Jer 15:17; Lam 3:15; Dan 3:19; Lk 6:11; Acts 5:17; 13:45)
 - **False Hope** (Jer 23:16)
 - **Sorrow** (Jn 16:6)
 - **Evil** - Ro 1:28-31 - *“And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. ²⁹ They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, ³⁰ slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, ³¹ foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless.”*

We are all FULL of SOMETHING

- **The Oil in the Jar - 2 Kings 4 story** - only the empty portion of a container can be filled. As long as we are filled with other things, there's no room for God.
- **Recap for Context**
 - **Paul Teaching Ephesus New Living** - Paul the Apostle has been teaching the church of Ephesus about Christian living. Teaching them that with their new identity in Christ there's an appropriate way to live. This will require getting rid of some of their old bad habits and replacing them with good, new habits.
 - **Last Week Bishop Taught us** -
 - Don't walk in darkness, in sin or ignorance - walk in the Light
 - Walk with wisdom and according to the Lord's will for your life
 - **This Week continues** with instructions on how to live fresh, new and alive in the Christ as one of His Children.

Lesson

- **Context Passage** - we are only going to focus on verse 18 today, but let's read the context, keeping in mind the REPLACEMENT PRINCIPLE, which says when we remove something unhealthy, we replace it with something healthy. We don't just walk around emptier...
 - **Ephesians 5:18-21** - *“And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ addressing one another in psalms and hymns and*

*spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart,
20 giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our
Lord Jesus Christ, 21 submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ."*

- **Off Limits**

- **The Problem with Drunkenness**

- **Ephesians 5:18** - *"And do not get drunk with wine, for that is
debauchery,..."*

- **Let's Talk About Alcohol - what's the real story here? Biblically?**

- **Uses of Wine** - the Bible talks about wine a lot. In the ESV, it's used 236x's in 215 verses. I looked them all up. Here's what I found. The overwhelming majority of uses are POSITIVE. They fall into four main categories:

- **1.) Best beverage (usually for the wealthy)¹** - this is likely not only due to refined tastes but due to the quality of water available in particular areas. The fermentation process killed off impurities like boiling. So it was safe to drink and it tasted good.
 - Jacob brought his father dinner and wine
 - King David had vineyards and wine cellars²
 - Priest/King Melchizedek brought bread and wine to Abraham
 - The Lord's Supper was taken with wine³
 - Wine mixed with gall/myrrh is a pain narcotic (offered to Jesus on the cross, which He denied)⁴
 - Sour Wine is a reg bitter drink (offered to Jesus on cross which He took)⁵
 - Nehemiah was 'cupbearer to the King' (Neh 2:1)⁶
 - Mixing wine seems to be a description of making it stronger - Prov 9:2, 5 (cf. Ps 75:8)
 - Watering Down Wine Lessens the Quality - Is 1:22 - *"Your silver has become dross, your best wine mixed with water."* (cf. Ezek 28:17-18)
 - New Wine can make you drunk - Acts 2:30
 - Wine can be used as an antiseptic - Lk 10:34

¹ cf. 1 Sam 10:3; 16:20; 25:18; 2 Sam 16:1-2; 1 Chron 12:40; 2 Chron 2:10, 15; 11:11; Neh 5:11, 18; 13:15; Esther 5:6; Isa 5:2; 55:1; 62:8; 65:8; Jer 40:10-12; Lam 2:12; Dan 1:5, 8 16; 10:3; Hos 2:8, 9, 22; Hos 9:2; Amos 6:6; Hag 1:11; 2:12, 16; Rev 18:13)

² (1 Chron 27:27; so did King Hezekiah 2 Chron 32:28)

³ Mt 26:6-29; Mk 14:22-25; Lk 22:14-20; 1 Cor 11:23-26

⁴ Mt 27:34; Mk 15:23

⁵ Mt 27:48; Mk 15:36; Lk 23:36; Jn 19:29-30

⁶ Cf. chief cupbearer that Joseph met in prison - Gen 40:9-15

- **2.) As an offering/tithe to God** - Nu 15:7 - *“And for the drink offering you shall offer a third of a hin of wine, a pleasing aroma to the LORD.”*⁷
- **3.) Wine production is a blessing from God to Israel** - Dt 7:13-14 - *“He will love you, bless you, and multiply you. He will also bless the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground, your grain and your wine and your oil, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock, in the land that he swore to your fathers to give you. ¹⁴ You shall be blessed above all peoples.”*⁸
 - **Ex. Isaac blessed his son (Jacob instead of Esau) with this blessing** - Ge 27:28 - *“May God give you of the dew of heaven and of the fatness of the earth and plenty of grain and wine.”* (Cf. v. 37)
- **4.) Used for Celebrations - It is designed to ‘cheer men and God’** - parable/analogy in Judges 9:12-13⁹
 - **It’s Supposed to Make You Feel Happy** - Ps 104:14-15 - *“You cause the grass to grow for the livestock and plants for man to cultivate, that he may bring forth food from the earth ¹⁵ and wine to gladden the heart of man, oil to make his face shine and bread to strengthen man’s heart.”*
 - Ec 9:7 - *“Go, eat your bread with joy, and drink your wine with a merry heart, for God has already approved what you do.”*
 - Ne 8:10-12 - *“Then he said to them, “Go your way. Eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions to anyone who has nothing ready, for this day is holy to our Lord. And do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.” ¹¹ So the Levites calmed all the people, saying, “Be quiet, for this day is holy; do not be grieved.” ¹² And all the people went their way to eat and drink and to send portions and to make great rejoicing, because they had understood the words that were declared to them.”*
 - Ps 4:7 - *“You have put more joy in my heart than they have when their grain and wine abound.”*
 - Ec 2:3-4 - *“I searched with my heart how to cheer my body with wine—my heart still guiding me with wisdom—and how to lay hold on folly, till I might see what was good for the children of man to*

⁷ Ex 29:40; Num 15:5-10; 28:14; Dt 12:17; 14:23-26; 18:4; 28:39; 32:38; 1 Sam 1:24; 1 Chron 9:29; 2 Chron 31:5; Ezra 6:9; 7:22; Neh 10:37, 39; 13:5, 12; Hos 9:4

⁸ (cf. Dt 11:14; 28:51; 32:14; 33:28; Judges 19:19; Ruth 2:14; 2 Kings 18:32; Prov 3:10; Isa 36:17; Jer 13:12; Joel 1:5, 10; 2:19, 24; Joel 3:18; Amos 9:13-14; Micah 6:15; Zeph 1:13; Zech 9:15, 17)

⁹ cf. Esther 7:2-8; Job 1:13-18; Ecc 10:19; Song of Songs 1:2, 4; 4:10; 5:1; 7:2, 9; Isa 16:10; 22:13; 24:7-11; Isa 65:11; Jer 48:33; Dan 5:1-4

do under heaven during the few days of their life. ⁴I made great works. I built houses and planted vineyards for myself."

- **King Ahasuerus' 7-day long Party** - Es 1:7-8 - "Drinks were served in golden vessels, vessels of different kinds, and the royal wine was lavished according to the bounty of the king. ⁸And drinking was according to this edict: "There is no compulsion." For the king had given orders to all the staff of his palace to do as each man desired."
- **God Celebrates with Rich Wine** - Is 25:6 - "On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined."
- **Jesus made the best wine at Cana to use for a party (to make people happy)** - Jn 2:1-11 - "On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ²Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples. ³When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." ⁴And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come." ⁵His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." ⁶Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸And he said to them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast." So, they took it. ⁹When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom ¹⁰and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now." ¹¹This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him." (cf. Jn 4:46)
- **The Dangers of Drunkenness (too much)** - although the Biblical references to wine are majority positive, there are very clear

passages and WARNINGS against too much wine (and all references I found to 'strong drink' were negative).¹⁰

- **Biblical Stories of People getting drunk**

- All 4 specific stories of biblical characters getting overly drunk are negatives¹¹
 1. **Noah** - Noah got drunk and it left him naked, embarrassed and his son cursed (Gen 9)
 2. **Lot** - his daughters got him drunk and had sex with him producing offspring (Gen 19)
 3. **Nabal** was drunk while his wife saved him - 1 Sam 25:36-38
 4. **King Ahasuerus** was drunk when he tried to parade Queen Vashti around (didn't work out well) - Esther 1:10
- **Why Drunkenness is Bad** - it's a fair question to ask why getting drunk is bad. Some people enjoy getting drunk and everything seems to carry on as normal. So, what's the problem with it? Although there are many more dangers in modern day (i.e. drinking and driving can kill someone), the Bible focuses on a few negative ramifications and they mostly center around DECISION MAKING.
- **The love of wine can lead to sloth, irresponsibility or foolish behavior** - Pr 21:17 - *"Whoever loves pleasure will be a poor man; he who loves wine and oil will not be rich."*¹²
 - **Wine can be associated with violence** - Prov 4:17
 - **No wine allowed for Nazirite during a Vow period** (Num 6)¹³
 - **To Forget is for Misery, not for Wisdom** - Pr 31:4-7 - *"It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine, or for rulers to take strong drink, ⁵ lest they drink and forget what has been decreed and pervert the rights of all the afflicted. ⁶ Give strong drink to the one who is perishing, and wine to those in bitter distress;*

¹⁰ Additional Random descriptors or wine as a metaphor for other things - Gen 49:11-12; Dt 29:6; Job 32:19; Ps 69:21; Isa 29:9; 49:26; 51:21; Jer 51:7; Hos 7:5, 14; 14:7; Mt 9:17; Mk 2:22; Lk 5:37-39; Rev 6:6; 14:8, 10; 16:19; 17:2; 18:3; Psalm 60:3; Ps 75:8; Song of Songs 8:2

¹¹ Eli Tried to rebuke Hannah thinking she was drunk - 1 Sam 1:14

¹² Cf. Psalm 78:65

¹³ cf. v. 20; Judges 13:4, 7, 14; Lk 1:15; 7:33

⁷ let them drink and forget their poverty and remember their misery no more.”

- **Too Much makes you ignore the Lord and be foolish and make bad decisions** - Is 5:11-12, 22-23 - “Woe to those who rise early in the morning, that they may run after strong drink, who tarry late into the evening as wine inflames them! ¹² They have lyre and harp, tambourine and flute and wine at their feasts, but they do not regard the deeds of the LORD, or see the work of his hands... Woe to those who are heroes at drinking wine, and valiant men in mixing strong drink, ²³ who acquit the guilty for a bribe, and deprive the innocent of his right!”
 - **Too Much can make you foolish** - Ho 4:10-11 - “They shall eat, but not be satisfied; they shall play the whore, but not multiply, because they have forsaken the LORD to cherish ¹¹ whoredom, wine, and new wine, which take away the understanding.”
 - **Alcoholism Description** - Pr 23:29-35 - “Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has strife? Who has complaining? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes? ³⁰ Those who tarry long over wine; those who go to try mixed wine. ³¹ Do not look at wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup and goes down smoothly. ³² In the end it bites like a serpent and stings like an adder. ³³ Your eyes will see strange things, and your heart utter perverse things. ³⁴ You will be like one who lies down in the midst of the sea, like one who lies on the top of a mast. ³⁵ “They struck me,” you will say, “but I was not hurt; they beat me, but I did not feel it. When shall I awake? I must have another drink.”” (cf. Isa 28:1, 7-8)
- **Why it is Worse for a Believer** - A non-believer can hurt themselves and other people with poor choices and behavior while they are drunk, and those things can be terrible. A Christian, however, not only faces those dangers, but is in a whole other category of living. Christians are the Lord’s and everything they do reflects on Him and impacts Him. Christians are purchased by the blood of Christ and the Holy Spirit indwells us. We are the Body of Christ, His active agents in the world called and designed to do His work here. Drunkenness is checking out in a selfish way, saying, I don’t care about anyone else, this is about me¹⁴. I don’t care how I act or what I’m thinking about, everyone needs to tailor to me. That is

¹⁴ People get drunk when they think there’s no responsibilities - Isa 56:12

antithesis to what Christians are to be about. Additionally, all activity that is carried out by a Christian is attributed to God's name. Harm done by a Christian gets blamed on God by others. Christians also don't get to say that God doesn't get to use them anymore. We are not our own.

- 1 Co 6:19-20 - *"Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own,²⁰ for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body."*
- **Deacons can't be 'addicted to much wine'** - 1 Tim 3:8
 - Priests were not allowed to drink on the job.¹⁵
- **Drinking Wine can make a weaker brother stumble** - Rom 14:21
 - But don't take that concern too far - 1 Tim 5:23
- **Bottom Line on Wine** - It seems very clear to me that again, the problem is not the *thing*, it's the heart and person that engages with the *thing*. Wine is a neutral. It was designed by God as a blessing, but it can be turned into a curse by misuse. Selfish, greedy hearts that use too much of it, risk hurting themselves and others, so the Bible speaks against drunkenness. Unfortunately, because humans tend to overuse and distort all of God's gifts, many Christians have gone to the extreme to get rid of it totally (abstention, ignoring it, etc.). This may be necessary for some, but unfortunate for others. The point is not to ignore the gifts of God, the point is to use them properly and enjoy them as such. Nevertheless there are people and seasons for others when alcohol cannot be used properly and it must be avoided entirely. My heart is that we see this issue clearly, make wise personal decisions regarding it, not to be afraid of it, give God glory for it, and move forward as the Body of Christ.
- **Sitting on Ready; Rockin' on Go**
 - **The Reality of Being Filled with the Holy Spirit**
 - **Ephesians 5:18** - *"...but be filled with the Spirit,..."*
 - **The filling of the Tabernacle with God's Presence** - One of my favorite passages in the Bible is this story when Moses would go to meet with God and He would descend in a cloud on the Tent of Meeting (which later became the tabernacle, then the temple). You could see the

¹⁵ Leviticus 10:8-10; cf. Jer 35:2-14; Ezek 44:21; Joel 3:3; Amos 2:8, 12; Micah 2:11; Hab 2:5

Lord come down and dwell thickly with mankind. How wonderful. That is what is happening in our hearts when the Holy Spirit indwells us.

- **Ex 40:34-38** - *"Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. ³⁵ And Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled on it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. ³⁶ Throughout all their journeys, whenever the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the people of Israel would set out. ³⁷ But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not set out till the day that it was taken up. ³⁸ For the cloud of the LORD was on the tabernacle by day, and fire was in it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel throughout all their journeys."*
- **The filling of Solomon's Temple with God's Presence** - Again we see the symbolic filling when Solomon completed the temple.
 - **2 Ch 7:1-3** - *"As soon as Solomon finished his prayer, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the LORD filled the temple. ² And the priests could not enter the house of the LORD, because the glory of the LORD filled the LORD's house. ³ When all the people of Israel saw the fire come down and the glory of the LORD on the temple, they bowed down with their faces to the ground on the pavement and worshiped and gave thanks to the LORD, saying, "For he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever." (cf. 1 Ki 8:10-11; 2 Chron 5:13-14; it will be filled once again - Haggai 2:1-10)*
- **The Train of God's Robe and Smoke Filling the Heavenly Temple** - And we see that in heaven, where God's dwelling place is (if He has one), God is filling the courts with His presence.
 - **Eze 10:2-4** - *"And he went in before my eyes. ³ Now the cherubim were standing on the south side of the house, when the man went in, and a cloud filled the inner court. ⁴ And the glory of the LORD went up from the cherub to the threshold of the house, and the house was filled with the cloud, and the court was filled with the brightness of the glory of the LORD." (cf. Isaiah 6:14; Ezek 43:5; 44:4; Rev 15:8)*
- **The NEW Temples = PEOPLE** - Ultimately, we find that God didn't desire a location as much as He desired to be WITH His people, in their hearts. So, we see that in the New Covenant, thanks to what Jesus Christ did on the cross, we are able to be dwelling places for God here on earth. We are walking temples.

- **1 Co 3:16** - *"Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?"*
- **People Filled with the Spirit in the Bible** - Throughout the New Testament it records different occasions when the Holy Spirit would FILL up people (OT seemed to focus more on the Holy Spirit coming upon people, although it could be both). It meant that He would come into their lives and PERMEATE throughout all of them. It seemed to be an INTENSIFICATION of His PRESENCE, where He was more in CONTROL and was MOVING IN POWER. From what I can gather, filling is different than baptism of the Holy Spirit. Filling is more a temporary description and baptism seems to be more permanent description of the activity of the Holy Spirit. There can be multiple fillings, whereas one baptism (at least I think). We need to be filled up again because we leak and we stuff other things in our lives crowding out the Holy Spirit.
 - **John the Baptist received filling from Birth - Lk 1:14-17** - *"And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵ for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. ¹⁶ And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, ¹⁷ and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared."*
 - **Elizabeth (JTB's mom) (prophecy) - Lk 1:41-42** - *"And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴² and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!"*
 - **Zechariah (JTB's dad) (prophecy) - Luke 1:67** - *"And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied..."*
 - **The 120 at Pentecost (tongues) - Ac 2:1-4** - *"When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. ² And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³ And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance."*

- **Peter (boldness) - Acts 4:7-8** - “And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” ⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders,...”
- **Early Church Believers (boldness) - Ac 4:31** - “And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.” (cf. Acts 13:52 links it with joy)
- **Paul the Apostle (scales fell from eyes) - Ac 9:17-19** - “So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” ¹⁸ And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; ¹⁹ and taking food, he was strengthened.”
 - **Paul (strikes a man blind) - Ac 13:9-11** - “But Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him ¹⁰ and said, “You son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, full of all deceit and villainy, will you not stop making crooked the straight paths of the Lord? ¹¹ And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you will be blind and unable to see the sun for a time.” Immediately mist and darkness fell upon him, and he went about seeking people to lead him by the hand.”
- **What it all Means** - instead of being filled with selfishness (represented by drunkenness), we are to be filled with GOD (represented by the Holy Spirit). And when we do that, different things flow out of our lives, which we are going to be talking about next week.

Conclusion

- **What are we Filled with Today? - Self or the Holy Spirit?**
 - **The Pentecost Event** - Filled with the Holy Spirit - thought to be drunk with wine - **Spirit/Wine connection**
- **Paul’s Prayer for Filling with All of God** - Eph 3:14-19 - For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, ¹⁶ that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth

and length and height and depth, ¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God." (cf. Col 2:9)

- **Paul's Prayer for Filling with God's Will** - Col 1:9-12 - "And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰ so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; ¹¹ being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light."
- **Let's Pray for the Filling of the Holy Spirit in our Lives Right Now**