

Leaders' Guide, BS 8: Spirit Filled Life

Goal: That the student would learn how to walk in the Spirit.
Understanding that the Spirit filled life is the Christian life - a life of yielded surrender.

Scripture: Ephesians 5:17-18; John 15:4-5

Getting to know you

- If this is after fall retreat, have those that went describe their experience...

Bible discussion

Hook:

As you seek to follow Christ, what words would you use to describe your experience?

If we are honest there should be a mix of positive words, and words like frustrated, struggling or mediocre.

Billy Graham says that 95% of all Christians live a frustrated, or defeated Christian life. A life where they are unable to live the way they would like to.

Last week we looked at who the Holy Spirit is; this week we will look at how He enables us to live the Christian life.

Book & Look 1:

The solution to successfully living the Christian life is being Filled with the Spirit.

Ephesians 5:17-18

“Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.”

This is an interesting contrast that you might not have expected to find: being drunk and being filled with the spirit.

Ask all the drunken questions first then ask all the Spirit filled questions.

When someone is drunk:

- Who or what is in control?
The alcohol
- Do they act naturally?
No, they act kind of strange; they do things they wouldn't normally do
- Are they putting a lot of effort into acting drunk?
No, acting that way is the natural result of being drunk
- How obvious is it when someone is drunk?
Usually very obvious

- Why?
Because it affects everything they do

When someone is filled with the Spirit

- Who or what is in control?
The Spirit of God
- Do they act naturally?
No, we do things we wouldn't normally do. We don't act in a way that is natural for us but instead in a way that is natural for the Spirit (God)
- Are they putting a lot of effort into acting this way?
No, acting that way is the natural result of being filled with the Spirit. We are not trying real hard to act like a Christian - no, acting that way is a natural result of being filled
- How obvious would it be if someone were filled with the spirit?
Usually very obvious – fruit of the Spirit (see Galatians 5:22-23), bold witness, obedience to the Lord, not giving in to the ways of the world.
- Why?
Because it should affect everything we do

STATE:

To be filled with the Spirit is to be Directed & Empowered by Him!

Book & Look 2:

John 15:4-5

“Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. “I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”

- What are the chances of this branch producing fruit if it isn't connected to the vine?
None
- What responsibility does this branch have in producing fruit?
Abiding in the vine – discuss what abiding means

Abiding means: continuing, enduring, awaiting, dwelling, wait patiently, remain, stay, to bear

- Does the vine “try real hard” to produce fruit?
No, its “efforts” should all be on maintaining its connection to the vine.
- In this word picture that Jesus give us, who is represented by the vine?
Jesus
- Who is represented by the branch?
Me (the believer)
- What does the fruit represent?
Read Galatians 5:22-23 “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.”

The fruit represents Christian character and ministry
- So... How do we produce fruit?
By abiding in Christ, focusing my attention on Him, yielding myself to Him and His control.

To be filled with the Spirit is to Abide in Christ!

Took:

The definition of a Spirit filled Christian is someone who is drawing on the power of the Spirit to live the Christian life.

Leaders Note: make sure that this doesn't just sound like a “better” way to live the Christian life – it is the Christian life! The scriptures use the word carnal to describe the “alternative” to the spirit filled life. Carnal means fleshly – living in the flesh instead of the spirit and it describes this as a life of sin.

- How do you do that?
By faith

How does a person experience the Spirit's power and direction moment by moment?

- **Desire to be filled** - directed and empowered
- **Repent** - turn from sin and confess it to God, agree with God that you have not been Spirit filled and acknowledge to Him how you ended up being that way (specific disobedience, laziness, ignorance...) Be specific in your confession.
- **Yield** - surrender control of our life to God. (Romans 12:1,2). We don't need more of the

Holy Spirit. We can't get more of the Spirit. All of the Spirit dwells within the Believer. He needs more of us.

- **Ask Him to direct and empower you**, and trust God to be faithful to His Word to lead, direct, and empower you. Ephesians 5:17 commands us to be filled - so we know God wants us to be filled, and 1 John 5:14,15 tells us that when we ask for something God wants we are sure to receive it.

Invite everyone who needs to, to pray the following prayer:

Here is an example of how you could express this to God:

“Dear Father, I need You. I acknowledge that I have sinned against You by directing my own life. I thank You for forgiving my sins through Christ's death on the cross. I cannot do this on my own, I need You to direct and empower me. I now ask You to fill me with the Holy Spirit as You commanded me to be filled, and as You promised in your Word that You would do if I asked in faith. I pray this in the name of Jesus. Thank you for filling me with the Holy Spirit and directing my life.”

- How often would someone need to pray this prayer?
As often as they realized that they had retaken control of their life.

Give everyone a copy of “Satisfied?” and suggest that they read it once a day this week to help cement it into their hearts.

Announcements: