

THE REDEEMED CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF GOD

CHRIST THE LORD PARISH

DIGGING DEEP OUTLINE

DATE: TUESDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER, 2023

TOPIC: STUDY 7 SPIRITUAL INTOXICATION

BIBLE PASSAGE: Ephesians 5: 1 – 21

INTRODUCTION: Our discussion is centred on the contrast between a person who is under the influence of alcohol and a person who is under the controlling influence of the Holy Spirit. As Christians we must not be drunk with the wine that comes from any earthly vineyard but with the new wine of the Kingdom which comes from the heavenly vineyard, from Him who is the True Vine **John 15: 1**.

It is important to address this contrast in context. It was an old pagan belief that God dwelt in the blood of the grape, so that in drinking wine man was drinking God into himself. Drunkenness was therefore held to be a sacrament in which a man was supposed to be under the control of the god who filled him. In our Bible text, Paul reminded the Christians at Ephesus of this pagan belief, and then pointed them to the true way of the Spirit-filled life.

THE SPIRITUAL TRUTH

- The Spirit-filled life is a command to every Christian, and not for a chosen few. **Acts 2: 4, Acts 4: 31**.
- To be filled with the Spirit goes beyond being indwelt by the Spirit. It involves being possessed by the Holy Spirit. **Eph 1: Eph 13; 4:3**. A person may possess Him without the Spirit possessing the person.
- To be filled with the Spirit is spiritual sanity.
- The Spirit-filled life is meant to be the normal experience of God's children. **Eph 5: 18, Eph 5: 15-21, Eph 5: 22-33 Eph 6:1-4, Eph 6: 5-9**.
- The Holy Spirit is a Person, and to be filled with Him means to allow Him to take full possession of our personalities. It goes beyond our getting more of Him.

CHARACTERISTICS OF A SPIRIT FILLED LIFE

1. A sense of well-being. **Acts 2:15**; The early disciples were noted for their intense joy **Acts 13:52**. The Greek word for this is 'euphoria'.
2. Physically discernible. Eg Moses **Ex. 34: 29**; Stephen **Acts 6: 15**; Jesus Christ **Luke 9: 29 Ps. 34: 5, Ps 40: 3 Eph 5: 19-20**.
3. An aura of spiritual savour. **Eph 5: 2**.
4. It is God's provision for making our lives beautiful, graceful and gentle.
4. Spiritual walk and disciplined lifestyle. **Eph 5: 15**.
5. Godly speech worthy of Christ. A Spirit-filled Christian should be a testifying Christian **Acts 4: 20**.
6. Will produce supernatural and not physical fruit. **Gal 5: 22-23, Acts 3: 12**.
7. Fellowship with God's people **Acts 4: 23**. This drinking for us involves three things:
 - (1) A real and sincere thirst for more. **Is. 44: 3; Matt 5: 6; John 7: 37-39**.
 - (2) Great capacity to absorb everything that God has purposed to feed him with. **Ps 81:10**.

(3) Simple faith **Luke 11:13, 1 John 5: 14-15**

The characteristics of the wine-filled life of a drunkard are the exact opposite of the characteristics of a spirit-filled life of a Christian. His face reflects his state of mind, smell, the way he walks, the way he speaks, not being able to be responsible for some errors he makes because he sometimes does not know what he is doing, and also the people he moves with.

SUMMARY

Do not be drunk with the wine but with the fruit of the True Vine **John 15: 1, Eph 5.18.**