Connect to the Holy Spirit October 31, 2021

*Ephesians 5:15-21 Series: The Unstuck Life: Believe. Connect. Share.*

If the Holy Spirit had been withdrawn from the New Testament church, 95% of what they did would stop, and everybody would know the difference. – A. W. Tozer

Intro: Did you remember to breathe?

1. Why should I be filled with the Holy Spirit?

In order to make wise decisions in an age of foolishness

1. Nobody wants to make foolish decisions

v. 15 *Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise …*

v. 17 *Therefore do not be foolish …*

1. In an age of foolishness, the need for wisdom is urgent

v. 16 *making the best use of the time, because the days are evil*

Psalm 90:12 *So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.*

1. In an age of foolishness, wisdom doesn’t come naturally

v. 17 *understand what the will of the Lord is*

Proverbs 1:7 *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.*

Ephesians 5:8-10 *Walk as children of light … and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.*

* What did Paul mean when he said that “the days are evil.”
* Why does ‘numbering our days’ help us to act wisely?
* Why is the fear of the Lord the “beginning of knowledge”?

1. How can I be filled with the Holy Spirit?

By placing yourself under the Spirit’s influence

1. Don’t place yourself under the influence of alcohol

v. 18 *do not get drunk with wine*

v. 18 *for that is debauchery*

1 Peter 4:4-5 *With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you; but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.*

1. Place yourself under the influence of the Holy Spirit

v. 18 *be filled with the Spirit*

Ephesians 3:19 *know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God*

Ephesians 2:22 *In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.*

Romans 8:5 *For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.*

Galatians 5:16 *But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.*

* What confuses you about the filling of the Holy Spirit?
* Why are drunkenness and debauchery connected? How does one relate to the other?
* How are drunkenness and being filled with the Holy Spirit similar? How are they different?
* What practical steps can you take to be filled with the Holy Spirit?
* What does it mean in Romans 8:5 when it talks about people who “set their minds on the things of the Spirit”?

1. What will I see if I am filled with the Holy Spirit?

Praise, gratitude and joyful submission

1. The Holy Spirit turns your conversations into praise

v. 19 *addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs*

v. 19 *singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart*

Colossians 3:16 *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*

Ephesians 5:14 *Therefore it says, “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”*

1. The Holy Spirit helps you see everything with gratitude

v. 20 *giving thanks always and for everything*

Acts 13:52 *And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.*

1. The Holy Spirit makes submission a joy

v. 21 *submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ*

Philippians 2:3-4 *Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.*

* How do you address one another in psalms and hymns?
* What does it mean to give thanks “always and for everything”? How could that be possible?
* Why would a submissive attitude result from being filled with the Holy Spirit?

Study ahead: Next week, we’ll study Ephesians 4:11-16.

Notes