

Spirit-filled Fathers!

Text: Ephesians 5:18-6:4

Main Idea: The best fathers are those *controlled* by the Spirit!

What the filling of the Spirit is _____:

- Not a spiritual zapping.
- Not _____ or indwelling of the Spirit! (Rom 8:9)
- Not getting _____ of the Spirit!
- Not _____ of the Spirit! (1 Cor 12:13)
- Not the _____ of the Spirit! (Eph 1:13-14)

What the filling of the Spirit is:

- _____ to the Spirit's control!
- Wind filling a sail & _____ a boat.
- _____: Salt for flavor & preservation.
- Total _____: filled with sorrow, fear, anger, wine.

_____ are we filled?

- When we _____ to the will of God.
- When we die to self.
- When we allow the Word of Christ to _____ in us richly & control us. (Col 3:16)

5 characteristics of Spirit-filled Men/Fathers:

1. **Within Themselves:** They have a _____ spirit, contented soul & happy heart. (19)
 2. **Toward God:** They have a _____ spirit which _____ in the sovereign Lord in all things. (v. 20)
 3. **Toward Others:** They have a _____ spirit, which respects others. (v. 21)
 4. **Toward their Wife:** They have a _____ spirit, which sacrifices in word & deed. (22-33)
 5. **Toward their Kids:** They have a _____ spirit, enabling them to train their children in the admonition of the Lord. (6:4)
- Why:** "To the _____...to _____ the Father...for _____." (19-21)

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Application/Study Questions:

1. What does it mean to be “filled with the Spirit?” Is this different than “possessing” the Holy Spirit (See Rom 8:9)? Is it different than being “baptized” by the Holy Spirit (See 1 Cor 12:13)? Unlike these, all Christians are **commanded** to “be filled.” How does a Christian obey this command? How is this command related to the Word of God? (Col 3:16, also study Gal 5:16-26) How does this command relate to living by faith (See Gal 2:20)?
2. What kind of man (**or woman – these characteristics are for everyone**) would you yourself, God, others, your wife and your kids say you are? Can you identify the 5 different kinds of spirits (attitudes) that a godly man/father should exemplify in his life if he claims to be “spirit-filled?”
3. The first evidence of being spirit-filled is having an attitude of joy. Would you say that you have a “joyful” spirit? While it is not popular for **manly** men to sing, Ephesians says there ought to be a song in your heart to the Lord. The strongest men are those who have a real “song in their heart.” What can you do to increase this attitude of praise and joy in your heart?
4. Do you have an attitude of thanksgiving about everything in your life to God? What areas do you complain about most? What areas do you need to **trust** the Lord more completely?
5. Would you say about yourself that you have a “submissive” spirit (v. 21) to others around you or are you demanding, controlling, and manipulative toward others out of arrogance? What does God view as attractive? (See James 4:6, 10)
6. Do you have a conscious awareness in your own life of what it means to “die to self?” (See Phil 2:3-5) In your relationship with your wife, how can you “love” her more by dying to yourself? What areas would she say you are selfish? Ask your wife (or some other woman in your life) to evaluate your **words**? Would they characterize your words and deeds toward them as loving?
7. Would your children say that you are “gentle?” Why does Ephesians say not to provoke your children? Specifically from Ephesians 6:4, what will be hindered if you provoke your children? List 5 potential ways you may **provoke** your children.

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