

The Inner Man, part 19

Spirit Filling, the Fruit from the Spirit

- I.** The exhortation to be filled by the Holy Spirit (Eph. 5:18).
 1. "...you be filled by the Spirit"
 - 1) Imperative mood, very strong suggestion—human responsibility.
 - 2) Passive voice, not self-generated—divine enabling.
 2. 'Filled' in contrast to being carnal, un-saving.
 - 1) 'Filling' is in opposition to carnality (Heb. 12:11).
 - 2) Here Spirit filling would involve the Holy Spirit's grieving ministry (Eph. 4:30).
 - 3) Spirit filling also includes fruit from the Spirit (Rom. 15:13).
 - 4) Filling verses the flesh (Rom. 8:5-6 cf. Gal. 5:17).
- II.** The facets of the Fruit from the Spirit that comfort (Gal. 5:22-23).
 1. **Joy**—*the mental willingness to accept and appreciate any circumstance, without resentment or frustration.*
 2. **Peace**—*an unruffled mind, an inner overriding tranquility of rationale, not an emotion.*
 3. Longsuffering—*an enabling to focus on the spiritual goal, to the extent that nothing, or nobody can distract from the intended objective.*
 - 1) Longsuffering is distinct from patience and forbearance, which are acquired human skills.
 - i. Patience is towards circumstances (Rom. 5:3).
 - ii. Forbearance is towards others' personality, foibles, mannerisms: tolerance.
 - 2) God is longsuffering regarding the coming judgment (2 Pet. 3:9, 15).
 - 3) We are to practiced longsuffering to focus on other believers' spiritual welfare (Eph. 4:1-3).
 - 4) Preachers are to use longsuffering to "Declare the Word with authority (2 Tim. 4:2-4).
 - 5) Christ is longsuffering regarding coming for His saints (Jam. 5:7-8).
 - 6) The prophets' longsuffering is an example for us to use during undeserved suffering (Jam. 5:10).