

## The Spirit-Filled Life Blake Bergstrom

Hi, Chase Oaks! My name is Blake and I want to welcome all of our campuses and all of you who have joined us online—all around the world. It's great to have you here today!

We are in a series called, *Fully Charged*, and we are talking about the power and life experienced through the Holy Spirit. Last week Jeff did a great job opening up this series and explained that God changes us from the inside out; he helped us understand the battle between our flesh and our spirit and that they are in opposition with one another, like a shoot out he explained—that there's only room for one in this town, so the flesh has got to go! I've always loved talking about the Spirit as wind or breath—the “ruach” or “pneuma.” It's my favorite; I geek out! It goes all the way back to Adam; his name means “dirt man,” but then God breathed his ruach into him and “bloop,” he popped up and said, “What up sucka!” He came to life! You know why? Because God is the source of all power and life; he fills our souls with his very being or his essence. So, this idea of God's spirit being experienced like the air, and the wind is amazing! We can't see it, but its power is undeniable. I'm from Oklahoma, and I've seen first hand the power of a tornado. In fact, you might not know this about me, but I was in the movie *Twister* with Bill Paxton and Helen Hunt.

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**Picture of Blake and guys in *Twister***

I was an extra, and you really couldn't see me. I was in the scene right after the tornado tore apart the movie theater. Remember that? So, yeah, I'm crazy famous. Anyways, what were we saying? Oh yeah, the force and power of the wind is no joke.

See, this Greek word, “PNEUMA” is the root word for “pneumatic air pressure,” and I'm a construction guy so that makes sense to me—the power of compressed air. I also grew up with a mild case of asthma, so I've known the struggle to get air into my lungs. I've also felt how weak I get when I can't catch my breath. And so, I've always had a very intimate idea that God is as close as my breath; he's the power that's sustaining us in this very moment.

One of my favorite things to do at the beach is to watch guys kite surf. Have you ever seen that?

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## Picture of Kite Surfing

**SLIDE \_\_\_\_\_) Special Sermon Slide**

## Picture of Kite Surfing

Those guys are insane; they strap a belt on with a handle that's attached to a massive kite and they just rip across the ocean. They hit these crazy high jumps and just kinda float until the wind brings them back down. Kite surfers are simply trying to allow their sails to be filled the wind. When there's no wind, guess what? Wind surfing goes away, like a balloon losing its air; it becomes lifeless. but if it's a windy day at the beach, they're everywhere. Here's the secret, they can't fight or resist its power; they simply respond to it. They have to submit to its force; they are literally harnessing its power! You tracking?

Today we're going to be talking about being "Filled!"

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**"Filled"**

So, I think it's fitting that we start this talk with a quick prayer. don't feel obligated, but I'd like to invite every campus to simply place your palms up on your lap, take a really deep breath or two and say this...

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**God, would you fill my soul with your life and your spirit?**

If you have your Bibles, turn with me to Ephesians 5:18 where it says,

**SLIDE \_\_\_\_\_) Ephesians 5:18**

**"Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit..."**

When I called Jeff to talk through this text, he said, "I love this verse, I wrote my thesis on this verse, and so I've spent like 200 hours studying this passage, so no pressure!" So, I said, "Yeah me too. Maybe more like 250 or something!" No, I didn't, I'm playin! ☺

So, I'm gonna give it my best. Let's dive in! Paul loved the city of Ephesus. He lived there for three years and loved the church he planted there. It was a great town of about 300,000 people and an economic powerhouse because of its location right on the water. It was a major seaport kinda like New Orleans, so there was a lot of traffic going through there. I think Paul's affection for this city was really strong because of their spiritual hunger. They were known for their religion. People from all over would come to see the temples and worship Greek gods. Especially the god Artemis or Diana, who was the daughter of Zeus, and it was a sight to see. It's ranked as one of the seven wonders of the Ancient World.

Another god that they worshipped in the temples was the god of wine named Dionysius. So, when Paul says, "Don't get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery," he is combatting a cultural norm. They probably looked at him like, "WHAT? I'M SORRY!" They knew exactly what he was talking about with this small phrase because it was a sacred ritual to them. Their church service would start by getting "crunk!" –crazy drunk! And once they started to lose control, they believed they were giving their control to their gods. It's how they experienced the presence of their gods. So, getting drunk was important to them; it was part of their worship experience.

So, you need to hear this. The Ephesian temples would get nuts, and the excessive drinking would literally "lead to debauchery." And that word is a Greek word called,

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**"Asotia: extreme indulgence in sensuality, excessive and extravagant squandering"**

It's the same word used to describe the prodigal son...but what would happen in those temples was completely out of control, wild, lustful filth, temple prostitutes –every kind of sex and sensuality, and it all started with drinking. They were blitzed out of their minds, I'm talking this party was turnt! ☺ So clearly, they did church a little differently than us, and Paul had his hands full. He was trying to change the thinking and practices of an entire culture.

This biblical illustration of being drunk, it's not there by accident! The correlation between the Spirit and drinking is in the Bible at least three times, so let's pay attention to that. Why did God want that there? I think it has to do with control. Paul is teaching them not to be unwise and foolish, and he gives another option. He says, "INSTEAD..." What? "Be filled with the Spirit!"

Don't lose control. Drunk people say crazy stuff, like, "I'm not so think as you drunk I am." You never know what a drunk is going say or do. Some drunks get crazy nice; others want to

fight, and for some of you, this isn't funny, maybe it's a family member and way too familiar with the pain of a drunk. We've all been touched by someone that is controlled by alcohol. It wrecks lives. It can easily become someone's god and take complete control, can't it??

So why does Paul put that here? Because God wants us to worship him instead, to surrender to him instead, to willingly yield control to the winds of his spirit, instead of our evil appetites and desires. Come on somebody!

God is serious about this! He wants us to be able to touch our nose and walk a straight line. Do you know what he really wants? He simply wants us to love him more than what this world has to offer, to desire him more than the cheap cravings and temporary pleasures of this world. I know a lot of people who try to get "filled up" by drinking, or drugs, or porn. You name it, but the bottom of the bottle leaves us more empty than when we started. And, here's the kicker. The only way we can have power over those cravings is to yield control and be "filled with the Spirit!"

That word "FILLED" actually should be interpreted, be - being filled. Or a continuous filling. During my studies, I was like, "OH, MAN. That's crazy cool!" I was really proud that I learned that, so when I said that to Jeff, he said, "Oh yeah, 'Pimleme,'" and I was like, "Are you looking at notes? You just knew the Greek word for filled?" He was like, "Well, yeah!" So, I said, "Me too; I can speak it in Greek, Hebrew and Aramaic, Jeff. Whatever!" ☺

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**"Pimplamai (GK) (pronounced 'pimleme') to be filled, to be or become generously supplied with"**

Now, I'll tell you why that's interesting. It can be a little confusing. See there's a difference between the indwelling of the Spirit and being filled with the Spirit. You might be like, well, "I thought I had the spirit Blake. Why does Paul tell me to be filled with the Spirit?"

Good...that's good. Let me show you. When we ask God into our heart, he makes residence inside of us. Right?—say 'residence!' We become a dwelling place for God. He tabernacles inside of us; we become a temple for him to abide. This happens one time. Say, 'One time!' But, being filled with Spirit happens many times. Over and over, throughout the Bible we see his people filled multiple times with the Spirit. Moses, Elijah, Elishah, Samson were filled with the Spirit. Zechariah and Elizabeth were filled with the spirit. Acts 4:8 "Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit..." In Acts 4:31 it says, "After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly."

So, we have the indwelling spirit, but we still have to ask him to fill us with his Spirit? Does that make sense? This is why that word matters. To “be-being filled...continuously filling!” Let me give a couple examples.

Illustration- Battery operated blower (Plug battery into blower and blow.) without being connected to the power source...there's no wind. You just have to make sure its “fully charged”

Illustration- Light bulb is plugged into the socket, (Plug bulb into socket.) but we have to turn the switch every day to activate its power.

Illustration- Chocolate milk- (Mix chocolate milk into a glass.) The milk is there, but you have to put the good stuff in to get the joy and power.

Illustration- Like a garden, (small pot with soil and plant) you can put the soil in the box, but if you don't tend it and continually cultivate it, then disease will destroy the fruit. You have to work to make it healthy. Try to give it the right amount of light, and not too much water, fighting against the weeds and the bugs, continuously working to grow and produce fruit.

Anyhow, I really want you to get this...its important to understand something...this is a passive verb...so that means we don't fill ourselves up by our own power. God does the filling...we just have to ask him...that's how we flip the switch! And so, I do this all the time. Like every day. Before tough conversations, before long drives, or everything. Continuously asking God to fill me especially, every time I preach.

This is when we are yielding to the Spirit, responding to the wind. Listening and paying attention to what's happening around us. it's times when you are walking in step and the fruit of the spirit is pouring out of you! We've given language to this. You'll hear other believers say something like this, “Man, that guy gets it. You'd love him, Blake. He really reminds me of you.” They're not talking about me; they see evidence of the Spirit of God inside of me. Those people look alike, they think alike because they are brothers and sisters, sons and daughters who share the same dad, and he has the same heart and mind. and over time his kids act the same. I love that. That's why this entire passage in Ephesians is called “imitators of God.” That's the ultimate goal. There's nothing more flattering than to be copied, and we are all simply trying to copy Jesus. When his fruit is evidence in our life, then we become like the rest of his followers.

That's what yielding control is...its when we willingly ask the Spirit to go from being just a resident to be President! – say president! Let me say that like this,

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**When we receive Christ, he becomes a RESIDENT,  
and then the fruit of the Spirit becomes EVIDENT,  
which proves that we have yielded to him as PRESIDENT!**

This changes everything. Your countenance will change. People will notice. Your character and attitude will be different simply by asking God to fill you with his Spirit before every sale, before you walk in the doors of your house after work, everything! Have you made him President? Have you allowed him control of your life? What's holding you back? Are you binging on something you shouldn't be? Does a substance have a grip on you? Is it a person that you're not supposed to be with? What do you need to surrender? What needs to yield?

See God is patient; he doesn't force himself on us. He just lets the wind blow and asks us to come along for the ride. He puts it out there and then says, "Hey you want live a cool experience? Can I show you something awesome?" But, he wants us to want to, to choose him, to love him with ALL our heart, all our soul, all of our mind, and all of our strength. When you've experienced the wondrous adventure of the living God, his actual power and presence, you can feel it, and there's no manufacturing that There's nothing that compares. There's a lot of people in the church that are just pretending. They have the indwelling spirit, but they aren't filled with the Spirit.

The next part of this passage shows us four things that represent what a Spirit filled life looks like:

**SLIDE \_\_\_\_\_) Ephesians 5:18-19**

**"Instead, be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."**

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**Four things that represent what a Spirit-filled life looks like:**

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**1. Speak Truth. *Our words breath power.***

There's life or death in our tongues, so speak life. Give your tongue and your language to God, so his spirit can use it to grow his kingdom.

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**2. Sing and make melody. --Singing proves how much we trust.**

You might have big problems, but we have a big God. So, be passionate about worshipping God. Go for it in the car, head back, don't hold back! Get obnoxiously loud; it doesn't annoy God. He digs it!

**Illustration-** story of me in the wheel well of my truck singing "I love you Lord," And, in the midst of that, all my problems burnt away. Worship is how we fight our battles!

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**3. Always be Grateful. --Remember, "pleroo" means to become generously supplied with.**

You have everything you need! That's why Jesus was so excited to gift you with the person of the Spirit He's our helper and our friend; he's our counselor; he's with us in the good and the bad. IF you have the Spirit, then thankfulness and gratitude pour out of you. Not mourning or complaining for what you had, not always anticipating what you will one day have and become. NO. Who you are right now. What you have right now. You are generously supplied with EVERYTHING THAT YOU COULD POSSIBLY NEED by the living God.

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**4. Yield in obedience to Jesus. --When we yield, then we are filled.**

But, it's usually not just for us. We are filled to fill. God pours himself into us, so we can be poured out. Our creator wants us to willingly surrender EVERYTHING to him. Our bodies, our minds, and our soul. (BAND COMES OUT)

Reminds me of Psalm. 42 where it says, "As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs for you." Does your soul long for God? Aren't you tired of trying to be satisfied by temporary pleasures down here? We are way to focused on what we have.

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**"You don't have a soul, you are a soul. You have a body."**

There's another brilliant theologian named Leo Tolstoy, who said something similar. He said,

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**“Our whole life is taken up with preparations for living, so that we never really live at all.”**

–Leo Tolstoy

The Lord didn't put us here, so we could have stuff. He wants us to experience life. Two verses before this, Paul is teaching us to make the most of our time., being fully present every day and every moment! Way too many Americans are living for the next season, instead of experiencing life right now. Let's live! Let's get drunk on Jesus? High on the All High! 😊 Let's stop trying to arrive somewhere one day in the distant future! INSTEAD, may we be FILLED WITH THE LIFE OF GOD! May we live and worship for an eternal purpose that's literally blown by the winds and the power of God!! May we be firmly planted in the present and breathing in every ounce of life that God has for us.

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**May we be FILLED WITH THE LIFE OF GOD! May we live and worship for an eternal purpose that's literally blown by the winds and the power of God!! May we be firmly planted in the present and breathing in every ounce of life that God has for us!!**

Let's pray.