

October 3, 2021

**Eph. 5:18-20, “Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. 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.” (NIV)**

In this passage, there is a contrast made between being controlled by ‘spirits’ or being filled with the Holy Spirit. Being filled is a picture of consistently keeping our eyes fixed on Him, all day every day. When we do this, the result will be two-fold. First, inwardly, we will want to sing praises to Him. It will be an expression of our heart. **James 5:13, “Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise.” (NIV)** Now you might be thinking, people don’t want to hear me sing. Well, you’re not singing for people, you’re singing to the LORD. You are singing with a new heart: **Ps. 40:3, “He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear the LORD and put their trust in Him.” (NIV)**

Secondly, we will give thanks among others. We must let them know what the LORD has done for us. We must give thanks to God, for who else could save us? Who else could forgive our sins? Who else could be the perfect sacrifice? Who else has made us His own? **Gal. 4:6, “Because you are His children, God sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, the Spirit Who calls out, “Abba, Father.” (NIV)** If you can’t sing about what God has done for you and Who He is, then what else is worth singing about?

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