



GOD HAS A PLAN—AND WE'RE PART OF IT
"God's Plan for Spiritual Fullness" Ephesians 5:18

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Paul's instructions to the Ephesians "do not get drunk" and "be filled with the Spirit" are not unrelated. Their juxtaposition is designed to explain the latter in the light of the former. This is important because there is no shortage of confusion on the subject.

I. What It Means to "Get Drunk on Wine."

- A. To be captivated by alcohol; a voluntary yielding to its influence.
- B. To be motivated by alcohol; a powerful changing of the personality.
- C. To be activated by alcohol; a resultant unrestrained way of behaving.

II. What It Means to "Be Filled with the Spirit."

- A. The command is in the:
 - 1. Imperative mood, something to which Christian are to respond.
 - 2. Present tense, something that is a continuous process.
 - 3. Passive voice, something that Christians allow to be done to them.
 - 4. Plural form, something that is addressed to all Christians.
- B. The command is to be "captivated."
 - 1. Captivated by the Spirit who is their "seal" and "deposit." 1:13-14
 - 2. Captivated by the Spirit through whom God indwells them. 2:22
 - 3. Captivated by the Spirit who strengthens them with power. 3:16
 - 4. Captivated by the Spirit as they choose not to grieve him. 4:30
- C. The command to be "motivated."
 - 1. Drunkenness negatively affects people's thinking, walking, and talking.
 - 2. Spirit fullness positively transforms Christians' thinking.
 - a. They are delivered from foolishness.
 - b. They understand what the Lord's will is. 5:17
 - c. They make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit. 4:3
- D. The command to be "activated."
 - 1. Spirit fullness positively transforms Christians' walking.
 - a. They walk carefully. 5:15
 - b. They walk productively. (See also 4:1 & 17; 5:1 & 8)
 - 2. Spirit fullness positively transforms Christians' talking.
 - a. Speaking, singing, and thanking. 5:9-20
 - b. Taking the sword of the Spirit. 6:17
 - c. Praying. 6:18

Points to Ponder: Do I know how to constantly nurture my relationship with the Spirit?