

Matthew 9:17 (NKJV) “Nor do they put new wine into old wineskins, or else the wineskins break, the wine is spilled, and the wineskins are ruined. But they put new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved.” **Jesus**

Jesus spoke of the new wine skins needed to hold what was going to come. The old wineskin of the law would not hold the new promise of the Holy Spirit. Understand the death, resurrection and ascension opened the door for us to be forgiven and restored but also filled! **The Old covenant would all be superseded by the new through the finished work of Jesus and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.**

Acts 2:12-13 (NKJV) 12 So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “Whatever could this mean?” 13 Others mocking said, “They are full of new wine.”

**New wine came at the outpouring of the Holy Spirit!**

**The disciples who had just been baptized/immersed in the Holy Spirit were being accused by others of being drunk.** These disciples did not orchestrate what was happening, they were simply waiting upon God to show up unsure of how/what Holy Spirit would do. **They were intoxicated but it was not an intoxication of the flesh, it was one of the Spirit.** In the outpouring of the Holy Spirit they were sanctified and filled with power, their hearts were purified and they were given a clean conscience, the entire paradigm was changed from going to a temple to meet with God to becoming the temple of God, and they were most likely overcome by the fruit of joy derived from the Holy Spirit. **The joy of the Lord is my strength was experienced and they became witnesses of the risen Savior (Nehemiah 8:10)**

How often do you meditate on the fact that in the presence of Jesus is the fullness of joy?

Psalm 16:11 (NKJV) You will show me the path of life; In Your presence [is] fullness of joy; At Your right hand [are] pleasures forevermore.

- Jesus has the anointing of Joy above all of His brethren. **Hebrews 1:9 (NKJV)** You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness more than Your companions.”
- Jesus promised us the fullness of His joy. **John 15:11 (NKJV)** “These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and [that] your joy may be full.
- Being filled with the Holy Spirit is Christ being enthroned upon our hearts. He is King and His kingdom is marked by a joyful reign. **Romans 14:17 (NKJV)** for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Remember, the 120 were up in the prayer room most likely afraid for their lives. The joy of the Lord broke the power of fear, and filled them, enabling them to be witnesses. **Christianity is not a joyless religion.** We are purposed to be filled with the glorious joy of the Holy Spirit and

fellowship with God. They were restored in intimacy and brought into oneness with Christ through the Holy Spirit.

**Be filled with the Spirit needs to be seen as a command for all believers.**

*Ephesians 5:15-18* 15See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, 16redeeming the time, because the days are evil. 17Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. 18And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,

**We are to walk diligently or carefully-paying attention to our lifestyle, walking in awareness of the Presence of the Holy Spirit, living with hearts set on pleasing God.** We are told not to walk as fools, but as those who are wise, redeeming the time. The word redeeming, means to buy back. Its easy to just live life without giving our full attention to the purposes of God. There are tons of distraction and lesser things that fight for our attention that are not necessarily evil but at the same time not purposeful. God expects us to willingly put Him first, before all other things. The greatest thief of His joy is lesser things that are distractions. We must be disciplined, full of care to remain in His joy.

**We are told to buy back the time because the days are evil.** The word evil here describes something that has sufficient force, something that we feel the pressure of, like a city that is under siege. *We can feel the pressures and cares of life and culture that squeeze life and time. It is in the type of pressure we must redeem the time so that the cares of the world don't crowd out first love and God's plans for us.*

**We can learn how to 'keep watch' stay awake, don't get sleepy, walk in the wisdom of God.** *Therefore Do not be unwise but understand what the will of the Lord is!*

**Immediately following the exhortation to have understanding of His will** *18And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,*

**Two commands-**The first tells us what not to do, the second tells us what to do. **Paul contrasts reckless drunken living with fulfilled spiritual living. Intoxication from alcohol or a high that comes from drugs falsely fill us with temporary counterfeits of the Holy Spirit. The intoxicated person has given control of his or her life over to a foreign power,** a controlling substance. (Open door to the demonic)

**The result of the intoxication is a destructive manner of life that keeps us dependent upon a substance, rather than God.** Paul here focuses on wine, but the controlling power could be any outside force/substance apart from the spirit of God that can take control of one's life. There is only one end to this type of lifestyle and it is called in scripture **dissipation.**

- Another way of looking at intoxication is dependency on a substance that robs us from fellowship with God. Rather than having God meet all of our needs according to His glorious riches we fall into dependency upon a substance which helps us temporarily escape but never deals with the root issue.
- God want us walking with Him in process, learning, growing in Him, be tenderized to His movements etc.
- We forego fellowship with Holy Spirit when we rely on a substance. Joy, boldness, comfort-everything that intoxication does is a **counterfeit**. Drugs take us out of our right mind and apart from the mind of Christ.

It is a sin to be controlled by anything other than God himself. The command to be filled with the Holy Spirit is a present tense verb that indicates we should be filled and keep on being filled continuously by the spirit.

**Ephesians 5:18** probably refers to the section in acts 2 when the Holy Spirit came upon the scene signaling that a new era had begun. The prophet Joel among other prophets predicted this event. The signs manifested by the Holy Spirit were misinterpreted. The record in acts shows that some people mocked the coming of the spirit, claiming that new wine had simply caused what they were witnessing. But that was not the reality. A new power had taken control, the inauguration of the new era of the Holy Spirit brought new power and effectiveness to believers.

**Jesus would offer a brand new baptism after His ascension that would immerse Men and women with power from on high and the signs were, power, purity and joy.**

Again, being filled with the Holy Spirit is not a recommendation it is a command. We are foregoing the lifestyle of Christ if we neglect his baptism in the spirit, life in the spirit, growth in the spirit.

**In Christianity joy and sacrifice are completely connected. When we focus on death to self, picking up our cross and following Him, living a life of holiness and we neglect the joy of Christ we do not have a full or correct picture.**

**True joy will come from sacrifice. Hebrews 12:2 (NKJV) looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of [our] faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.**

**The priestly sacrificial system in the Old Testament gives a powerful framework for understanding the believer's life in the New Covenant** — specifically the idea that we are not only placed on the altar, but become a living sacrifice (**Romans 12:1**) ignited by God Himself and this is the place where the fullness of His joy can fill you.

### **The Priestly Model of Sacrifice on the Altar**

- **The Pattern in the Old Testament**
- In Leviticus, the worshiper brought a sacrifice to God, but the priest prepared and offered it on the altar.
- **The Sacrifice Was Presented to God (consecrated)**
- **The Sacrifice Was Killed** **Death always preceded fire.**
- **God's Fire Consumed the Sacrifice In Leviticus 9:24** **The fire originated from God.**
- **The Burnt Offering Ascended as Aroma**

### **Christ Fulfilled the Entire Pattern**

Jesus is simultaneously: the Lamb, the Priest, the Altar, and the One who baptizes with fire.

**Hebrews presents Him as the true High Priest offering Himself to God.**

At the cross:

- the sacrifice was perfect,
- fully surrendered,
- consumed in judgment and love,
- accepted by the Father.

### **The Believer as the Living Sacrifice**

Paul directly connects believers to altar imagery. **Romans 12:1** "Present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God...":

- Old sacrifices died physically.
- New Covenant sacrifices remain alive while continually yielded.
- We climb onto the altar willingly.

### **The Fire on the Sacrifice = The Holy Spirit**

*In the Old Covenant: fire fell on dead sacrifices. In the New Covenant: fire falls on living ones.*

**"Tongues as of fire rested on each of them."**

The disciples become living altar offerings:

- consecrated,

- surrendered,
- filled,
- burning with divine presence.

**The Believer “Catches Fire” “Our God is a consuming fire.” (Heb. 12:29)**

When a surrendered life encounters God, **the result is holy burning.** 🔥

**Priests Kept the Fire Burning “The fire on the altar shall never go out.” (Lev. 6:13)**

- prayer,
- worship,
- obedience,
- communion with God

keep the altar active. Not creating fire —maintaining yieldedness to heaven’s fire.

Home groups

1. Discuss-a genuine mark of someone filled with the Holy Spirit is the joy of the Lord. Are you considered joyful by those around you?
2. Discuss being filled with the Holy Spirit as a command and not a suggestion.
3. Discuss the danger of depending on alcohol, drugs or anything else to receive your hope, joy and peace from. Have you ever considered drunkenness or high as the great counterfeit to the fruit of the Holy Spirit?
4. Discuss how God’s joy and your sacrifice are fully connected. Death to self opens you up to Jesus joy!
5. Walk through the pattern of sacrifice and honestly answer if you are willing to go through the steps.