

## Walking Worthy (Part 2) Ephesians 4 and 5

In Ephesians 5:15; Paul reminds us that if we are careless in our "walk" - neglectful, passive, unintentional - we may end up walking foolishly (as if God were not in us - "the fool says in his heart, there is no God"). We have already seen that to walk worthy of the high calling of God in Christ requires that we walk in our true, new creation selves and that we also walk in the light. Paul is not finished with his directives. To walk worthily is to walk filled with the Holy Spirit (5:18).

To live life "in the balance" with Christ requires substance, weight... the means necessary to match the measure of the Messiah. The means is personal. It requires nothing less than the very Spirit of God, Himself. The Holy Spirit is not some immaterial content ready to fill an empty receptacle, but a Person Who expresses Himself in and through our person. He is not a power source to plug into to be used by us, but a Person Who uses us for God's glory and others' good.

Paul makes it clear that being filled with the Spirit is an every-present imperative - an essential for walking worthy. Without presenting a particular formula, he instructs us to renounce the fallen objective of being filled with anything external ("wine" 5:18). Nothing so insubstantial as that which is "passing away" could ever provide the "weight" necessary to be in the balance with Christ. We were not made to fill up on the "goods", but on God (Heb 3:17). Then, we are told to "give thanks for all things" (5:20) as a sublime but powerful way of keeping ourselves turned and tuned toward God in every circumstance, ready to be His expression for His purposes. Finally, we are ordered to go lower than those around us - "be subject to one another" (5:21) - to present ourselves to God for the sake of others so that His life that is for others may freely and fully flow through us. We may simply say, "Love my family, my church, my adversaries, my world... as me."

How will we know when we are being filled? Will we feel a warm glow? Speak in tongues? Never lose our temper again? Perhaps, but more certainly, our relational philosophy will change. Paul immediately makes it clear that when we are filled with the Holy Spirit the reign of self comes to an end. The submissive and sacrificial love of Christ rules in and through us as His Spirit fills and floods our being (5:22ff). When the Life who is for others fully and freely reigns, we walk worthy.



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### *Praise Reports & Prayer Requests*

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# GREETINGS



# CALENDAR



## JUNE

4,17,24 CCF  
8-10 San Antonio (wedding)  
12 Alachua Study  
16 Jacksonville, FL (904-739-9873)  
26 Ocala Study

## AUGUST

4-9 Tyler, TX

## SEPTEMBER

15-20 Chama, NM  
28-30 Binghamton, NY

June has, for many of us, its fair share of graduations and weddings and birthdays. All of us, however, are called to remember and observe Father's Day. That is easier for some of us than others, especially if our fathers were loyal and available and loving. Some will only be able to observe and give thanks in our memories if our dads are no longer here on earth with us. No matter, "honor" your father in a way that honors God.

While not all of us grew up in Christian homes, each of us has had one or more spiritual fathers - men who have taught and loved and nurtured us in the living truths of God. Some have been up close and personal - in our churches and families. Some have been so from a distance - through their writings and teachings. No matter, "honor" your spiritual fathers in a way that honors God.

All of our churches need spiritual fathers. Instead of complaining about our fathers who were not always there for us, or, deriding the church for the paucity or absence of spiritual fathers, why not invite God to grow you up so that you become a spiritual father to others? As such, you will honor your heavenly Father and be a blessing to those around you.

## ♥ PRAISE & PRAYER ✝

♥ For the gift of The Holy Spirit

♥ For our fathers

✝ For the filling of God's Spirit

✝ For our men to grow up into spiritual fatherhood

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