

**EPHESIANS – THE MYSTERY OF GOD’S CHURCH –
OUR IDENTITY, OUR WALK, OUR WARFARE
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**SERIES: Ephesians – The Mystery Of God’s Church –
Our Identity, Our Walk, Our Warfare
TITLE: Program 51 – God Wants You To Be Filled With His Holy Spirit**

MONDAY

OPEN

I wonder how many times we attribute to the Holy Spirit the things that the Holy Spirit did not do, did not initiate and did not direct us to do. So often we say, “Well God told me or God laid this on my heart or I was led by the Spirit. How do we know if we’re really led by the Spirit? Well this is what we’re going to talk about today, because God wants you Beloved, to be filled His Holy Spirit.

PART ONE

I’m amazed really at God’s patience and at the Holy Spirit and His patience because I think so many times, Beloved, what we do is we attribute to the Spirit of God things that are really coming from us. And I think this is why Paul wants us to be very very careful about the way that we walk. You know

in Ephesians chapter 5 he tells us that we are to [“walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave Himself up as a sacrifice.”] (Paraphrase, Ephesians 5:2) for us. He tells us that he wants us to [“walk in light as children of Light,”] (Paraphrase, 5:8) and that we’re to reprove the “**...deeds of darkness....**” (5:11b) Well then he tells us that he wants us to “**...walk not as unwise [people], but as wise [people].**” (5:15b) Now how do I walk as a wise woman? How do you walk as a wise man? Well we walk by being filled with the Spirit of God. And this is what we want to look at today. We have come to this wonderful wonderful section of Ephesians. It is going to get so practical in our relationships. But before we look at it I left you at Ephesians chapter 5, verse 14. And so I want to start there. It’s a good way to start any program. It says, “**...Awake, sleeper....**” (5:14a) In other words don’t sit there and nod off on me while I’m talking to you. “**...Awake, sleeper...,**” he says, “**...And arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.**” He says, “**Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men, but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil. So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit.**” (Ephesians 5:14-18) Now “be filled with the Spirit” is a present imperative. It is a command from God for you and me to keep on being filled with the Spirit. And if I’m going to walk as a wise woman, if I’m going to walk in a way that is pleasing to God then I have to be filled with the Spirit. But I also have to understand what this is all about. And this is what we’re going to look at today. And I’m looking forward to exegeting these passages, these verses with you. Let’s go back to this “**...Awake, sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.**” (5:14) This is a saying that they would say to people to encourage them. “**...Awake, sleeper, ...arise from the dead, and Christ [and His Light] will shine on you.**” (5:14) What is it saying? Well we were dead. Ephesians 2, verse 1 and 2: “**... [We] were dead in [our] trespasses and sins....**” (2:1)

Now it’s time for us to wake up, to arise from the dead and know that Christ will shine His light on you. In other words, be courageous. Walk as a child of light. Don’t walk in that darkness. Wake up, get up. Let’s go because you’re not dead anymore in your trespasses and sins, but Christ has raised you up. He’s made you alive together with God. [“And He has seated you in heavenly places far above all principality and power and might and dominion and every name that’s named in heaven and earth.”] (Paraphrased, Ephesians 1:20-21) I want to quote those verses to you because I want you to remember what we saw in our earlier study of Ephesians as we looked at those first three chapters, at those doctrinal truths that tell us who we are and where we are seated. Well one of those doctrinal truths in Ephesians chapter 1 was the fact that you and I have been sealed with the Holy Spirit (verse 13). Let’s go back and let’s look at it. In Ephesians chapter 1, verse 13 it says, **“In Him...,” in Christ, “...you also, after listening to the message of truth, ...having also believed, you were sealed...with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God’s own possession, to the praise of His glory.”**

(Ephesians 1:13-14) So the Holy Spirit has come and indwelt every single believer. Now we’ve seen that. We’ve learned a lot from the Holy Spirit because one of the things that we have done is we have marked every reference to the Spirit. And when I study my Bible I don’t mark every reference to Jesus. It would be too much in the New Testament. I don’t mark every reference to God because it would be too much in the Old Testament and in the New Testament. My Bible would be so marked up I wouldn’t be able to see a thing. But if there’s something significant, some significant truth that I’m learning about God or I’m learning about Jesus that I want to remember then I will mark it. However, when it comes to the Spirit of God, because there’s so much misunderstanding about the Spirit of God and because He’s not mentioned that often I mark every single reference to the Spirit of God. And if you’ve downloaded our study guide then you know

that the way I mark God is with a purple triangle and I color it yellow. And I do that because it's Father, and it's Son and it's Holy Spirit. And so what I do then is I take the side of the triangle for either the Holy Spirit or for Jesus Christ and I mark it accordingly. So if I'm marking the Holy Spirit I underline the Holy Spirit, come up on one side of that triangle and then put a cloud and connect both of those points. I do that in purple and I color it yellow. If I'm marking Jesus then I mark the other side of the triangle and when the triangle goes up I put a cross there so I can see. If I'm referring to God it's a total triangle, Holy Spirit with a cloud, Jesus with the cross. So I mark "Holy Spirit" and I marked the "Spirit" in Ephesians chapter 5, verse 18 where it says, **"...be filled with the [Holy] Spirit," (Ephesians 5:18b)** a command to keep on being filled with the Spirit. So what have I learned? Well I would take all of those truths that I mark about the Holy Spirit throughout my whole Bible and I would put them together and what I would have is my systematic theology on the Holy Spirit. That's the way you get your theology and that's the best way. Many times we get our doctrine from a church and from the denomination. And that's fine as long as they are on target. But you can take several denominations and put them together and you get entirely different teaching on the Holy Spirit. So that's why I mark it. So we know that we have been [sealed with the Holy Spirit.] (Paraphrase, Ephesians 4:30) We know from studying Ephesians chapter 4 that we have been given gifts by the Spirit. (4:7, 11-12) We know now in Ephesians 5 that he's telling me to walk as a wise person, **"...not as unwise...but as wise," (5:15b)** and to **"...be filled with the Spirit." (5:18b)** What does wisdom have to do with the Spirit? Well I want us to go to 1 Corinthians. And in 1 Corinthians I want you to see what he says about wisdom. Now I'm not going to tell you in depth what he says about wisdom, but I want you to see that there are two different wisdoms here that he talks about. In 1 Corinthians chapter 1, in verse 18 he says, **"...the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to [those] who are being**

saved it is the power of God.” (1 Corinthians 1:18) And what he wants you and me to understand is this, that when I talk about the cross and when I talk about God taking care of our sins and you and I being able to have forgiveness of sins, and when I talk about Jesus being made sin for us and dieing and being buried and then resurrected from the dead to give us newness of life the world looks at me and they want to twiddle their finger around the ear you know and just say she doesn’t haven’t it all together. It’s foolishness. But watch what he says in response to this. **“For it is written, ‘I will [confound] the wisdom of the wise, and the cleverness of the clever I will set aside.’ Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?”** (1 Corinthians 1:19-20) So there is a worldly wisdom. And in Ephesians in chapter 5 when he tells us in verse 15, **“Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise,”** (Ephesians 5:15) he’s not talking about walking in the wisdom of this world. He’s talking about walking in the wisdom of God. And he’s saying, be careful you don’t walk in the wisdom of the world. Be careful you don’t walk as, Ephesians 4 says, like the Gentiles walk: **“...in the futility of their mind.”** (Ephesians 4:17b) And this is a mind that is darkened. This is a mind that has no understanding or comprehension of the things of God. So there is a world’s wisdom and then there is a wisdom of God. And this is what it says in verse 21, **“For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God....”** (1 Corinthians 1:21a) So you have the wisdom of God and now the world’s wisdom. It says, **“...Indeed Jews ask for signs...Greeks search for wisdom,”** (1 Corinthians 1:22) and that’s the philosophy. They love wisdom. They love to talk about and hear the latest thinking. And it says, **“but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block...to Gentiles foolishness, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks...,”** now listen carefully. **“...Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.”** (1 Corinthians 1:23-24) So there

is a world’s wisdom then there’s the wisdom of God. And the wisdom of God is embodied in Jesus Christ. So if I’m going to **“...walk, not as unwise...but...wise.” (Ephesians 5:15b)** I’m going to have to walk and think and act and behave the way Christ walked and acted and thought and behaved. And who is going to help me do that? It’s the Spirit of God. You say well then what’s wrong with saying the Spirit told me? Well it’s fine to say that if what the Spirit told you to do was in complete accord with the Word of God. We’ll talk about it in just a minute.

PART TWO

Welcome back, Beloved. Now what we saw in Ephesians is that we are to **“...walk, not as unwise ... but as [the] wise.” (Ephesians 5:15b)** But we are to **“...be filled with the [Holy] Spirit.” (5:18b)** And that is not if you decide to, that is a command. So when we look at the Spirit and we look at wisdom we have to put them together. We have seen that there is a wisdom of this world. We have seen that there is a wisdom of God. Now what I want us to see is how you and I who are in the world, who come out of the world, latch on to the wisdom of God. And the conduit is the Spirit of God. Go back to 1 Corinthians chapter 1 for just a minute in verse 30 where it’s talking about the wisdom of God, which is foolishness to the world. And it says in verse 30, **“But by His doing...,”** by God’s doing, **“...you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, ...just as it is written, ‘Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord.’” (1 Corinthians 1:30-31)** In other words, if you’re going to walk as a wise person, you’re going to walk that way because the Spirit enables you to know the things of God so that you can live accordingly, because our wisdom is in Christ. And this is why you are so wise to study along with me. This is why you are so wise to say hey, I want to learn how to discover truth for myself. And you discover truth for

yourself by learning the skills of observation, interpretation, and application. That’s what our study guide is all about. So go to preceptsforlife.com, download that study guide. We still have some things to see in Ephesians that are very very important. And not only that, but you’ll have a study guide for the whole book if you’ve just joined us. Well 1 Corinthians chapter 2 is very important. And in 1 Corinthians chapter 2 this is what it says in verse 12, **“Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God....” (1 Corinthians 2:12a)** So we saw that we were sealed with the Holy Spirit, that He is inside of us. And it goes to say this: **“...So that...,”** we’ve been given the Spirit of God, **“...so that we may know the things freely given to us by God,” (1 Corinthians 2:12b)** which means then that the Holy Spirit is the One that enables us to walk in a path of wisdom. In verse 13 it says, **“...the things freely given to us by God, which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words. But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit....” (1 Corinthians 2:12c-14b)** Now we’ve seen why. They’re foolishness to him. And it says, **“...and he cannot understand them....”** He’s duh, **“...because they are spiritually [discerned]. ...He who is spiritual...,” (2:14b-15a)** and that’s you and me. And if we’re going to walk as wise men and wise women, **“...he who is spiritual appraises all things....” (2:15a)** In other words you look at it and you don’t just jump into it. You just don’t do it. You just don’t say it. You just don’t react to it until you stop and think. And you appraise that invitation that you have, you appraise that opportunity that you have, you appraise those words that you’re going to say or you appraise what you were going to think or your attitude towards that person. You stop and you appraise it. **“...He who is spiritual appraises all things....” (2:15a)** You’re able to evaluate them. Now why are you able to evaluate them? This is a winner. Listen, it says, **“...He who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no one.” (2:15)** In

other words you can evaluate it, but they can't evaluate you. And they cannot evaluate you legitimately because all they have is the wisdom of the world. They don't have the wisdom of God. All they have is the flesh. They don't have the divine Spirit living inside of them. They don't have God in that. And so the things of God are foolishness to them, so why let them sit in judgment on you? Let's just stop and talk about that for a minute because I think it's so important. Just zero in on what I'm about to say. Many of us get our concept of ourselves from others who do not know God. And we listen to their words to their evaluation of us, to their appraisal of us, and stupid, we walk away believing it. And listen, they don't have the wisdom for God. And the wisdom of this world is not conducive to you having a healthy self-image. So quit listening to the world. The problem is is we listen to the world or we listen to Christian radio or we listen to Christian television or we listen to Christian stuff on the Internet, but we don't evaluate it in the light of the Word of God. We've got to know His precepts for life, because there's where you get understanding and there's where, because you're able to appraise them, you're able to hate every false way. And you hate it because it's false and it leads to a dead end road. And you hit the brick wall. So just remember this: the world is not to appraise you. The world is not to sit in judgment on your behavior. It will, but you don't listen. Many a man has told his wife how lousy she is and that it's because she's lousy as a housekeeper, because she's lousy as a mother, because she's lousy as an educated woman, because she's lousy in bed, it's her fault that he's getting a divorce. It's her fault that he's had an affair. Listen, don't listen to that garbage. It is straight out of the pit of hell. Okay, it is from the world's garbage dump. And let me read it again, 1 Corinthians chapter 2, although we're studying Ephesians chapter 5, **“But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no one. For who has known the mind of the Lord, that he will instruct Him...,” (1 Corinthians 2:15-16a)** that you can instruct God? Now this is the winner. This is your precept for

life. **“...We have the mind of Christ.” (2:16b) “...We have the mind of Christ.”** Here it is. It’s the Word of God. You have the mind of Christ. You have access to the truth. Because Romans 8 tells us that [“the Spirit searches the mind and heart of God. And then He comes to us and He prays through us according to the mind and heart and will of God.”] (Paraphrased, Romans 8:27) We’re divinely connected. But in that divine connection you need to be very careful that you don’t attribute to the Spirit the things that do not belong to the Spirit or justify your actions by saying, hey, the Spirit led me. You say well how do I know whether the Spirit led me or not? Well let me give you a taste and then we’ll develop it later. It says this, **“...Do not [be] drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Holy Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father; and be subject to one another in the fear of [the Lord].” (Ephesians 5:18-21)** Listen, if you’re filled with the Holy Spirit it’s going to look like the fruit of the Spirit. So if you’re filled with the Holy Spirit and you’re moving under the guidance of the Holy Spirit you don’t have to tell everybody, hey, the Spirit told me. Just do it. They can discern whether it’s of God or not. You need to discern however so you need to be wise and not unwise. You need to make the most of your time.