

“Filled with the Spirit”

Eph. 5:18

Hi, I'm Crawford Loritts with a Legacy Moment.

The nature of my ministry requires me to travel a great deal. When I'm away from home, although I love my wife dearly, I need to focus on what I'm supposed to do, where I'm speaking, what meetings I'm involved in, so I obviously can't be sitting back in a hotel room grieving over the fact that Karen is not with me. But when it comes time to go home, and my mind is turned back towards our home in Fairburn, Georgia, my mind is filled with Karen. I'm thinking about what we'll do when I get home, where we're going to go, where we're going to hang out. She orients my thinking. She controls my mind. It makes me want to please her.

In a real sense, that's an illustration, if you will, of what the Holy Spirit wants to do in our lives. He wants to control us. He wants to direct the operation of our lives.

That's why Ephesians chapter 5, verse 18 says, “And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit.” We are to be controlled by the Spirit of God.

This command to be filled with the Spirit of God means to be controlled by the Spirit. We know that from the wine analogy. Just as wine alters and controls our behavior, so the Spirit of God is to alter and control our behavior.

Notice, too, it is continuous: “And do not get drunk with wine but BE filled with the Spirit.” “Be being filled” is what it says in the Greek text.

Here's what I want you to remember today. Why not invite the Spirit of God, who lives in your life, to control and empower your life? Confess any and all known sin, and surrender yourself to the direction and control of the Spirit of God.