

Spiritual Power

Ephesians 5:18 Message

**Avoid the wasteful
recklessness of drunkenness
and instead submit to the
Holy Spirit's power and
influence**



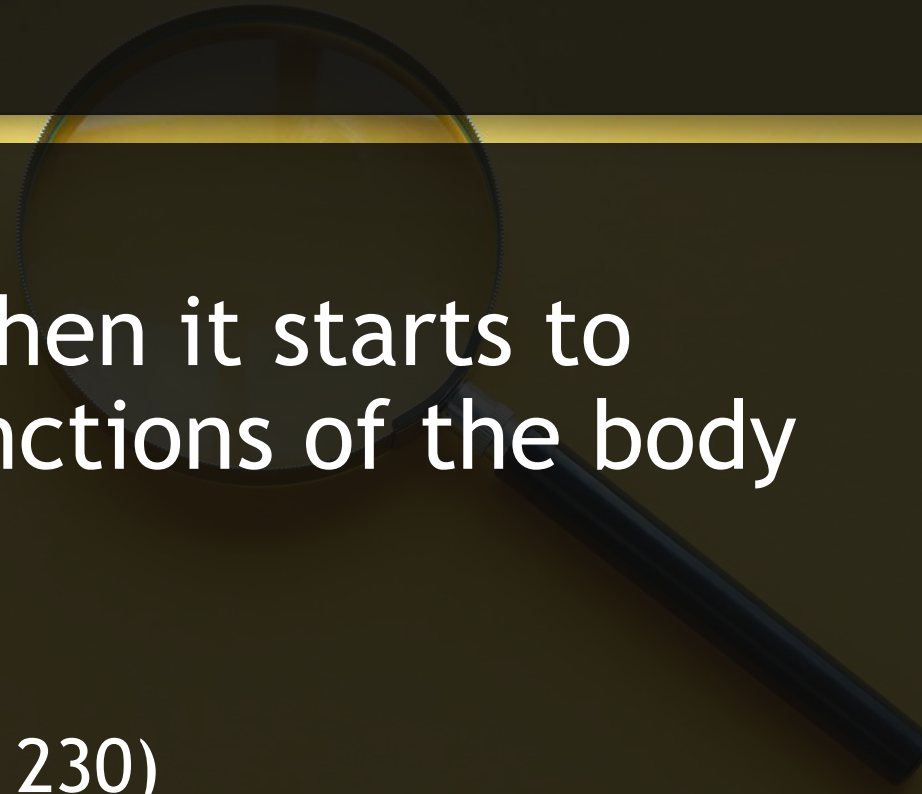
Eph 5:18

- I. Constantly avoid drunkenness

“Drunkenness”

“Drunkenness...begins when it starts to interrupt the normal functions of the body and mind”

(John MacArthur, *Ephesians*, p. 230)



Eph 5:18

- I. Constantly avoid drunkenness
- II. Drunkenness is wasteful, reckless and leads to ruin

Dissipation = wasteful, reckless living, leads to ruin, disorderly life, lack of self-control

The Bible condemns drunkenness

- Vivid description of its effects: sickness and hangover, destructive consequences, distorted reality, misery, insensible to harm, and enslavement which craves more (Prov 23:19-35)
- “Woe to those who rise early in the morning that they may pursue strong drink; who stay up late in the evening that wine may inflame them” (Isa 5:11)
- Deeds of the flesh (Gal 5:21)
- Don’t associate with a drunkard (1 Cor 5:11)
- Drunkards won’t inherit God’s kingdom (1 Cor 6:10)

Wine (alcohol) is not evil

Drink offerings in
the temple
(Ex 29:40)

Makes the heart
glad
(Ps 104:15)

“give...wine to
him whose life is
bitter”
(Prov 31:6)

A picture of
salvation
(Isa 55:1)

Paul told Timothy
to drink wine for
his illnesses
(1 Tim 5:23)

Jesus created
real wine at the
wedding at Cana
(Jn 2:6-11)

Biblical guidelines - Ask...

Will it enslave me (1 Cor. 6:12)?

Will it cause a weaker brother to stumble (Rom. 14:13ff)?

Will it violate my conscience (Rom. 14:22-23)?



Eph 5:18

- I. Constantly avoid drunkenness
- II. Drunkenness is wasteful, reckless and leads to ruin
- III. Instead, submit to empowerment by the Spirit

Works of the Holy Spirit on believers

Seals - keeps us secure and indicates that we belong to God



Baptizes - places us in the body of Christ so we participate in His death and life



Indwells - takes up residence in us, available to influence and empower us

(Eph 1:13; 4:30; Rom 6:1-10; 8:9-11; 1 Cor 6:19; 12:13; Jn 14:16-17)

“Filled”

- Eph 3:19 - Completely saturated, to be filled to overflowing with God’s character, power and influence
- Eph 5:18 - The indwelling Holy Spirit uses His character, power and influence to fill us

Filled “by” the Holy Spirit

- Holy Spirit already indwells believers
- He is like the air within a balloon
- “Filling” saturates us with His character, power and influence
- Saturate us with what?
 - Ability to understand God’s will
 - Ability to do God’s will



Holy Spirit is the effective power in our obedience

“It is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure” (Phil 2:13)

God is “working in us that which is pleasing in His sight” (Heb 13:21)

Jesus assured us that “apart from Me you can do nothing” (Jn 15:5)

It is “God who works all things in all persons” (1 Cor 12:6)

Paul’s working was “the grace of God with me” (1 Cor 15:10)

How do we submit to His filling?

Ask God to
fill you by
His Spirit

Do what He
has called
you to do

Trust that He
will fill you,
empowering
you