

“Spirit-Filled Singing”

The Ministry of the Spirit

August 23, 2026

MAIN POINT: Only a people filled by God’s Spirit will respond with Christ-exalting praise.

1. MEANS by which we become Christ-exalting people (v.18)

Ephesians 3:14–19 [14] For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, [15] from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, [16] that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, [17] so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, [18] may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, [19] and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

“When Christ ascended, he poured out the Holy Spirit on the church, ushering in a greater experience of God’s presence and power among his people. The Spirit transforms hearts by the miracle of regeneration and indwells all believers in abundant, new covenant measure. The Spirit also desires to fill God’s people continually with increased power for Christian life and witness. To be filled with the Spirit is to be more fully under his influence, more aware of his presence, and more effective in his service. All Christians, therefore, must continually seek to be filled with the Spirit by living and praying in such a way that invites the Spirit’s work among us, actively longing for God to accomplish his gracious purposes in us and through us. The filling of the Spirit brings to God’s people a deeper knowledge of Christ, an increased desire for holiness, a stronger commitment to unity and love, a greater fruitfulness in ministry, and a deeper gratitude for our salvation.” **Sovereign Grace Statement of Faith: The Filling of the Spirit**

2. MANNER by which we respond in Christ-exalting praise (v19-21)

a. ADDRESS ONE ANOTHER IN PSALMS, HYMNS, AND SPIRITUAL SONGS

Colossians 3:16 Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”

ILLUSTRATION: All Creatures of Our God & King

b. SING AND MAKE MELODY TO THE LORD WITH YOUR HEART

“Singing is the Christian’s way of saying: God is so great that thinking will not suffice, there must be deep feeling, and talking will not suffice, there must be singing.” - John Piper

Expressiveness in the Psalms

- **Clap** | 47:1 “**Clap** your hands, all peoples!”
- **Shout** | 47:1 “**Shout** to God with loud songs of joy”
- **Dance** | 149:3 “Let them praise his name with **dancing**”
- **Sing** | 95:1 “Oh come let us **sing** to the Lord”
- **Be Joyfully Loud** | 95:1 “**make a joyful noise** to the rock of our salvation.”
- **Bow** | 95:6 “Oh come, let us worship and **bow down**”;
- **Kneel** | 95:6 “let us **kneel** before our maker.”

Expressiveness is not the focus; Engagement with God is.

ILLUSTRATION: Linda Rockefeller

c. GIVE THANKS ALWAYS AND IN EVERYTHING

*"Christ is the ground and the content of Christian song. Christians sing about Christ. If they sing about God, it is especially what God has done through Christ. If about the Holy Spirit, it is the Holy Spirit as the gift of Christ; if about instruction to one another, it is the life in Christ." - Everett Ferguson quoted in "True Worshipers" **Bob Kauflin** pg. 104*

d. SUBMIT TO ONE ANOTHER

CONCLUSION

*"Here, then, is a message for both the defeated and the complacent, that is, for Christians at opposite ends of the spiritual spectrum. To the defeated Paul would say, 'Be filled with the Spirit, and he will give you a new love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, and self-control.' To the complacent Paul would say 'go on being filled with the Spirit. Thank God for what he has given you thus far. But do not say you have arrived.'" - **John Stott**, Commentary on Ephesians*