



Empowering People to Change the World

Greater is He that is in You!

Steve Holt

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Two weeks ago, when we entered into Ephesians 5, the theme was “imitate Christ” – verse 1.

As I shared, the imitation of Christ involves two major things:

1. Walk in love as Christ has loved us (verse 2).
2. Walk in the light as the Lord walks in the light (verse 8).

This is impossible to do unless you are filled with the power of Jesus in your life! You just cannot naturally do this.

Verse 18

1) The Spirit-filled life is about control. The first thing is that Paul compares the Spirit-empowered life to being drunk with wine. It's a control issue. Who's in control of your life?

- This means that when you are filled with the Holy Spirit, you are not in control. Do you think the church in Acts 2 would have done what they did if they were not filled with the Holy Spirit?
- Peter, who just a month before could not even admit he was a Jesus follower to a servant girl, was now preaching the Gospel to thousands; and 3,000 got saved and baptized!
- It is in the passive mood, meaning you can't do it! Only God can do it through you!
- This is not natural...this supernatural...only God can do it!
- When the Holy Spirit gets a hold on you, you become a different person. Even in the Old Testament, when Samuel anointed David with oil, the Holy Spirit came upon him. It says David became a different person.

- Even Jesus, who was fully man and fully God, had to be filled with the Holy Spirit. In Matthew 3:16-17, Jesus is filled with the Spirit at His baptism, and though He had done no miracles before that, He went into the wilderness and came out filled with power. It was after being baptized by the Spirit that Jesus was filled with power.

2) The Spirit-filled life is commanded. We are being commanded to be filled with the Spirit.

- It is in the imperative, meaning all Christians are commanded by God to be filled with the Spirit.
- John had prophesied about Jesus in Matthew 3:11, that He would baptize people with the Holy Spirit and fire.
- It was the first thing that happened that changed everything in the early church—they got baptized and filled with the Holy Spirit and went about proclaiming and demonstrating the Kingdom of God.
- It was written of the initial filling of the Spirit that it was like “tongues of fire” coming upon the believers.
- The implication is that everyone who says he/she is a “Christian” is being commanded by God to be filled with the Holy Spirit; because if you are not filled with the Holy Spirit, you cannot live the Christian life!

3) The Spirit-filled life is a daily choice. This is not a title but a choice we make to put Christ on the throne of our hearts.

- The meaning is “being filled” - aorist tense; be consistently, daily, filled with the Spirit.
- It is not a title but a condition of the heart.

- It is an everyday condition.
- We are about to see participles in the next three verses that tell us just what a Spirit-filled Christian looks like and acts like.
- But that's for next week.

Greater is He (Holy Spirit) that is in you than he (Satan) that is in the world!

- Now don't miss this, Church! What is it that sets us apart? Why are we a new society? Why are we not afraid? Why are we a community that loves each other? Forgives others?
- Because He who is within us is GREATER than any other spirit in the world.

1 John 4

Verse 1

- Greater is He that is in you because you need discernment regarding false prophets!
- There are people out there who pretend to be prophets, but they are not from God!

Verses 2-3

- Confession - more than just a belief, but trust. People who trust in Christ.
- The spirit of the Anti-Christ is in the world, and we must be able to distinguish truth from falsehood.

Verse 4

- You are an overcomer! You can overcome all of this because...

GREATER IS THE POWER WITHIN YOU THAN THE POWER IN THIS WORLD!

This is a mentality, a belief system in your mind!

Say this now, “Greater is the power within me, than any power in this world.”

- Greater than Satan
- Greater than government mandates
- Greater than my boss
- Greater than my feelings
- Greater than my mistakes
- Greater than my failures

Supernatural Manifestations of “Greater is He Mentality”

1. You are overcoming obstacles in your life.
2. You no longer live in fear but walk by faith.
3. You expect God to move in power.

Special Time of Prayer for New Leaders in our Church

- Jen Sauls, Coordinator for Care Ministry
- Jerry Forte, Coordinator for Community Groups
- Sherm Moates, new elder
- Leo Goeas, new elder
- Doug Guilzon, new elder
- Scott Heyler, new elder

Questions for Community Groups

- 1. What is the filling of the Holy Spirit?**
- 2. Why do we need to be filled with the Holy Spirit?**
- 3. Do you have a “Greater is He Mentality?” Why or why not?**