

## *Spirit Filled Singing*

*Ephesians 5:14-20*

### Outline/Summary

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#### Context – What Christians are to be:

- Awake (14)
- Careful and Wise (15)
- Diligent(16)
- Thoughtful (17a)
- Obedient (17b)
- Filled with the Holy Spirit (18)

*One Command-“be filled with the Spirit”*

*Five Participles (things to be \_\_\_\_\_ing )-- all are expressions of being filled with the Spirit*

- Speaking to one another in Psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs (19)
- Singing (19)
- Making melody with hearts (19)
- Giving thanks (20)
- Submitting to one another (21)

*“Spirit-filling results in singing, thankfulness, and love for others”*

#### Narrowing the Focus – Singing:

1. Sing in the Spirit (v 18 – “do not get drunk,...but be filled with the Spirit”)

*Connection/contrast between “drunk with wine” and “filled with the Spirit”*

*Similar effects/influences:*

- Happy
- Bold (loud, opinionated)
- Loving
- loss of inhibition (something like the Spirit's work in Acts 2?)

*Different effects/influences:*

- positive effects due to ignoring reality (drunkenness) vs. perception of greater reality (by the Spirit)
- lack of self control (drunkenness) vs. greater self control (fruit of the Spirit)

*Self Control does not mean stayed-ness (dispassionate, aloof, or stoic), rather, Spirit filling is more like drunkenness in that it is effusive (e.g. Acts 2--Pentecost where they were accused of being drunk, 2 Sam 6--David's dancing, 2 Chr 30:21; Psa 150:5--Loud instruments...)*

2. *Sing Together* (v 19 – “to one another”) -- Related to our mutual submission (v. 21)
3. *Sing with Instruction* (Col 3:16 – “teaching and admonishing one another [with singing]”)

*We need songs that are instructional--a unique standard for Christian worship*

*The Psalms model this with the word “for”*

*“Sing to the Lord.... For he has done....” (eg, Psa 95)*

4. *Sing in a Variety of Songs* (v 19 – “psalms and hymns and spiritual songs”)
  - Three different things? What’s the difference?
  - Should see them as synonyms for songs with breadth of type (old/new, in Psalms/not in Psalms)
  - Different kinds of songs for different ways of expressing God’s truth

5. *Sing to the Lord* (v 19 – “singing...to the Lord)

<sup>ESV</sup> **1 Chronicles 16:25** For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and he is to be held in awe above all gods.

<sup>ESV</sup> **Romans 11:36** For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

6. *Sing from the Heart* (v 19 – “singing and making melody with your heart”)

*Worship language changed between Old Testament and New Testament*

*Piper’s Three Ways to Glorify God in Corp Worsh (from Desiring God)*

1. *When we feel unencumbered joy in the manifold perfections of God.*
2. *When we do not feel fullness, but rather longing and desire for that unencumbered joy in the God that we’ve before tasted richly of.*
3. *When we [do not feel] any longing, and yet are still granted the grace of repentance and sorrow and prayer for help.*

7. *Sing with Thanksgiving* (v 20 – “always giving thanks for all things”)

- *Thankfulness is praise ...and vice-versa*
- *Thankfulness for Jesus (20) = gospel-centeredness to our singing*

## ***Study Helps and Application***

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### Discussion 1: The power of music.

- Share ways in which music affects you or has impacted your life
  - *Memory--Can you memorize song lyrics easier than Scripture? (without even trying?) Do you remember some Scriptures **because** they are song lyrics? (“beloved, let us love one another ... first John four seven and eight”)*

- *Emotions*--Do certain songs stir powerful memories? Do certain forms of music make you more aggressive, melancholy, at peace? (ref. 1 Samuel 16:23)

Discussion 2: Singing with instruction. DSC doesn't always use the latest popular pop praise songs in corporate worship, even though some of them are catchy tunes and fun to sing. Let's talk about discernment in music.

- Considering the power of music, discuss the importance of the music having sound doctrinal content. (repetition, memory, emotional impact ...)
- Musical excellence: Is God glorified in excellence? Complex masterpieces? Simple repetitive proclamations of truth? Great singing? Singing from a grateful heart? (even if it's not on pitch...).

*God is glorified when we give our best. Skilled musicians give their best and those of us who aren't as skilled give our "vocal widow's mite" ... all to God's glory!*

- Content: Is it all about me? (*I ... I ... me ... my ...*) Who is in charge? ("Jesus I let you ... Lord *do this*, Lord *do that* ...") Is it appropriate for the sovereign King of Kings?

Discussion 3: Submission to one another. We can tend to be very opinionated about our preferences in music in church worship services/functions. It's too loud/not loud enough, too fast/not fast enough, more hymns! more praise choruses! ... *ad nauseum* (pray for Zach and Drew!). Let's examine our hearts and confess to one another:

<sup>ESV</sup> **Philippians 2:3b** ... but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.

- Has your ugly pride manifested itself in any of the following ways (think of others)?
  - Allowed a miniscule action/statement by a musician or worship leader distract you from worshiping?
  - "I'm a better singer/guitar player than she/he is?"
  - Grumbling, rebellion, or even leaving a church?
  - Refusal to sing or even come late to miss it?

Discussion 4: Making melody with our hearts.

- Review Piper's "Three Ways to Glorify God in Corporate Worship" (in the outline above). Where do you typically find yourself on this continuum? What hinders you from enjoying #1 more consistently?
- What prevents you from being more expressive (effusive) in worship?

- Pride? --What people will think of you?
- Are you un-moved? Why could that be?
- “It’s just not me...” --Is it that you never get excited about anything (a true stoic by design--be so to God’s glory!) or is it that you only get excited... about things that are important to you? (*ouch*)

### *Memory Verses*

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<sup>ESV</sup> **1 Chronicles 16:25** For **great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised**, and he is to be held in awe above all gods.

<sup>ESV</sup> **Psalm 48:1** **Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised** in the city of our God! His holy mountain,

<sup>ESV</sup> **Psalm 96:4** For **great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised**; he is to be feared above all gods.

<sup>ESV</sup> **Psalm 145:3** **Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised**, and his greatness is unsearchable.

### *Resources for Further Study*

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- *Unceasing Worship: Biblical Perspectives on Worship and the Arts* by Harold Best
- *Worship in Spirit and Truth* by John Frame
- DSC seminar on Worship (not currently on the web, but available on CD)
- web: *Worship Matters* -Bob Kauflin ([worshipmatters.com](http://worshipmatters.com))