

## Lesson 15: When the Holy Spirit Controls Your Life: Walking into Your Future with Confidence

**Text:** Colossians 4:2-6

**Theme:** This lesson summarizes how the Holy Spirit empowers the believer to take the Gospel to a watching world.

**Introduction:** Christians are commanded to be filled with the Holy Spirit (Eph 5:18) and to walk in the Spirit so that we don't walk in sin (Gal 5:16). Being filled with the Word of Christ in Col 3:16 parallels the believer's instruction to be filled with the Spirit of Christ in Eph 5:18. Our passage today, Colossians 4:2-6, provides a synopsis of what a Spirit-filled believer looks like in three areas of life: our worship as manifested by prayer, our walk as manifested in our lifestyle, and our witness as manifested in our testimony.

### I. The Holy Spirit Controls Your Worship

- A. Pray Diligently – “Continue in prayer”
  1. This is an \_\_\_\_\_.
  2. Anticipate your prayer time with God.
  3. Continue in your time with God (Acts 1:14; 6:4; 2:42; Rom 12:12; Eph 6:18; I Thess 5:17).
- B. Pray Watchfully – “and watch in the same”
  1. Stay aware – I Pet 5:8
  2. Stay \_\_\_\_\_!
  3. Stay at it.
  4. Stay attuned to what God is doing – keep a journal.
- C. Pray \_\_\_\_\_ – “with thanksgiving”
  1. Prayer is linked with gratefulness – Phil 4:6.
  2. Thankfulness acknowledges submission to God's will – I Thess 5:18.
  3. Application: Don't let your prayer life turn into just a rehearsal of your “gimme lists” before God. Let it be a time of fellowship.
  4. Illustration: Adam communing with God prior to sin (Cf. Gen 3:8).
- D. Pray Specifically
  1. For others – “Withal praying also for us”
  2. For opportunity – “that God would open unto us a door of utterance”
    - a) God is the one who gives opportunity.
    - b) We must be alert and obedient to opportunities.
  3. For clarity – “to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds:”
  4. For \_\_\_\_\_ – “That I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.”
    - ◆ Application: Pray for your spiritual leaders to have clear teaching of God's Word combined with a concerned heart for souls.

### II. The Holy Spirit Controls Your Walk – v. 5

- ◆ Paul likes to use the metaphor of the Christian life as a walk (Col 1:10; 2:6)
- A. Walk \_\_\_\_\_ – Make steady progress till the end of the race (II Tim 4:7).
- B. Walk Carefully – Keep alert to even “good things” or “bad things” that can ensnare you (Ps 140:4-5).
- C. Walk Openly
  1. We can't isolate our Christian walk from making contact with the world.
  2. “There is no impact without contact” – Dr. Joe Aldrich
- D. Walk \_\_\_\_\_
  1. Be urgent about your Christian life.
  2. Buy up opportunities for Christ like a merchant would buy up precious commodities or like a deer would seek drink (Ps 42:1).

### III. The Holy Spirit Controls Your Witness – v. 6

- A. Witness Consistently – “Let your speech be *always* with grace”
- B. Witness Courteously – “with grace”
  1. Don't turn people off to the gospel by your obnoxious behavior.
  2. Be like Jesus – truth packaged in grace (John 1:14, 17).
- C. Witness \_\_\_\_\_ – “seasoned with salt”
  1. Salt was a preservative and was used to create thirst.
  2. Let your life and witness create a thirst for Christ in others.
- D. Witness Compassionately – “that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.”
  1. Be creative with your witness based on the person you are witnessing to (cf. Jesus with Nicodemus, woman at the well or Phillip and the Ethiopian eunuch.)
  2. Have a concern for the soul you are ministering to – not just a desire to get through a presentation or to “win” a convert – Ps. 126:5-6.

### Application

1. Do you know God as your personal Savior?
2. Are you living like God is in you?
3. Are you ready to release the power of the Holy Spirit in your life?

This lesson concludes our series: *God in You – Releasing the Power of the Holy Spirit in your Life.*

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