

A.R.M.

Fill -
Fullness

Ephesians

Keywords Devotional



Ephesians Ch 1, v 10

that in the dispensation of the FULLNESS of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him.

God's will is to unite heaven and earth in Christ, and this event will be fully accomplished in the fullness of time. When human history reaches its completion, and time is filled up to the full, God will bring new creation into existence through Jesus. There will be a day when we reach the fullness of time, and it will find its completion in Christ.





Ephesians Ch 1, v 22-23

22 And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head
over all things to the church,
23 which is His body, the FULLNESS of Him who FILLS all in all.

The body of Christ is referred to as the fullness of Jesus. Jesus fills all things, including His people. We are only the body of Christ because Jesus has filled us with His very near presence through His Holy Spirit, which enables us to be the fullness of Jesus in the earth. The same way Christ has filled the entire cosmos with His glory is the same way He fills His church with His glorious presence and light.



Ephesians: Full - Fullness

Connecting the Verses

There will be a day when the fullness of time is realized in Christ. In that day, Heaven and earth will be one in Jesus. In anticipation of that coming reality, Jesus has filled His church with His fullness. The body of Christ is the fullness of Jesus. There is a sense in which the church is completely perfect in the sight of God, because of the church's position in Jesus.

Not only is the body of Christ the first example of heaven and earth being united in Christ, but that same body of Christ carries a dimension of completeness that time itself will experience one day. Just as the body is the fullness of Christ, so there is a fullness of time coming, and both the church and time itself find their completion in Jesus.



Ephesians: Full - Fullness

Connecting the Verses

Christ fills His body so that sin no longer has to. The presence of God in a believer is not compatible with a continual, habitual lifestyle of sin. Now that we're filled with Christ, we don't need to fulfill every sinful desire of our flesh. We used to live for the sinful desires of our mind and body because we thought we'd be fulfilled by doing this.

But, fulfilling sinful passions just left us more and more empty each time. We are not only filled with the presence and Spirit of God. We're filled with His love so that we are not lacking.

We can be completely fulfilled by the love of God found in His word and His presence. The fullness of Jesus brings us perfect contentment that no amount of sin ever could. The church should be known for being filled with the fullness of Christ, not their old sin and darkness.



Ephesians: Full - Fullness

Connecting the Verses

The church is the fullness of Christ, who fills all things. Christ fills His body with His presence and glory. And, believers are filled with the fullness of God when they know His love deeper. Jesus laid down His life so that we might be filled with the fullness of God daily through a growing knowledge of His great love.



Ephesians: Full - Fullness

Connecting the Verses

Christ has filled His people with His Spirit and made it possible for them to live in the fullness of God and His love. Before Christ would fill all things, including His church, He would first have to lay down His life and descend into our world in order to sacrifice Himself for our sins. The love that's demonstrated in the humble sacrifice of Christ, is exactly what we need to know better every day to be filled with the fullness of God. God's love is best seen in the gospel message of Jesus, who laid down His life so that we could live. This love of God makes it possible for us to be filled with His fullness each day. And, a growing knowledge of this love takes us deeper into the fullness of God.



Ephesians: Full - Fullness

Connecting the Verses

Jesus is the perfect standard we aim for. Therefore, He sets the standard for perfect maturity. He is the measurement of true progress in our faith. In other words, we are growing and maturing when we are becoming like Jesus. And, one day, we will be perfectly like Him, not just in position, but in our lifestyle. We will reach perfect maturity when we attain the fullness of Christ. Christ has filled His church with His presence and His Spirit so that we would spiritually grow through increasing knowledge of His love.

We are maturing towards the fullness of Christ when we choose to be filled with the Spirit and walk in the fullness of God. This fullness of God comes through knowing God's love deeper. The love of Jesus is both the goal and the method of growth. We are most filled with God when we know His love most intimately, which means that we're most like Christ when we most embody His love for both God and man. To be filled with His love, we must know His love.




Ephesians: Full - Fullness

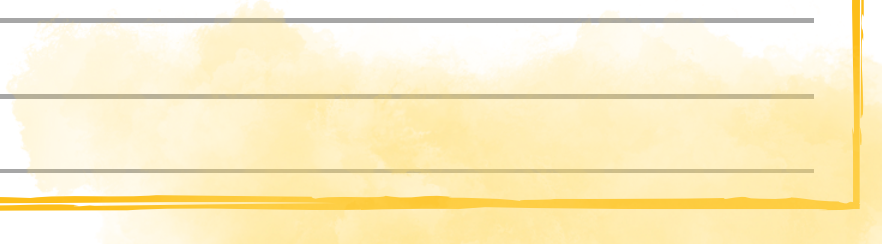
Connecting the Verses

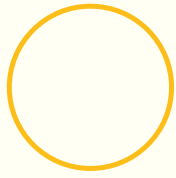
God has filled us with His Spirit in order to lead us into His fullness each day. Part of being filled with God's Spirit and love means that we are choosing not to fill ourselves with the wrong things. Instead of being intoxicated by alcohol and allowing wine to drive our life, we should live in the fullness of God by allowing His Spirit to lead us into a deeper experience of His love. And, this means that we're growing in obedience to God which includes not getting drunk with wine. God didn't fill us with His Spirit for us to be controlled by wine.





THOUGHTS & PRAYERS





Connecting Ephesians 1:7-12

Before the body of Christ can be filled with the presence of God through His Spirit, Jesus has to make way for our redemption and forgiveness. This atoning work of Christ marks the beginning of the last phase of human history until time reaches its fullness in Christ.

God has developed a master plan in His perfect wisdom and sovereignty, and this divine plan can't be stopped. This plan includes filling His church with His very fullness in order to move human history in the direction of heaven and earth being united in Christ.

This wisdom and prudence is behind every aspect of God's plan. It was God's good pleasure to send His Son into our broken world to bring one phase of human history to its completion. It was God's good pleasure to accomplish our salvation and gives us every good thing we have in Christ. And, each of these events moves humanity one step closer to that day when the church reaches the perfect measure of maturity and reigns alongside Jesus in the new creation.



Connecting Ephesians 1:7-12 (Continued)

This inheritance we have in Christ includes being filled with His very near presence in expectation of the full inheritance we'll experience in the new creation. As we eagerly expect God to finish His perfect plan in the fullness of time, we are called to daily be filled with the Spirit rather than the sinful pleasures and things of this fading world.

God fills His church in order to use them to advance His Kingdom and purposes on the earth. We are called to participate with God in moving human history towards its full end in Christ.



Ephesians Chapter 1, v. 22-23

*22 And He put all things under His feet, and gave
Him to be head over all things to the church,
23 which is His body, the FULLNESS of Him who FILLS all
in all.*



Connecting Ephesians 1:22-23

Christ's death and resurrection signal the beginning of the last stage in God's master plan. The fullness of time is coming, and this will include the ultimate destruction of all spiritual authorities and rulers who have rebelled against God.

Jesus has conquered them through His death and resurrection, but their full end is coming on that day that time reaches its completion. That same conquering Savior that fills all things, has chosen to fill His people with His very near presence.



Connecting Ephesians 1:22-23

(Continued)

Because we, as the church, are the fullness of Christ in the earth, we're empowered to live in His victory over spiritual forces of evil.

We know how the end will turn out because God has validated His promises through the ultimate victory of Christ on the cross. All things are under His feet, and we get to be His fullness in the earth to advance His conquering Kingdom. We don't just know what God has promised in the future, but we know His promises are guaranteed to happen because of what He's already done.

Now that the church is empowered to be the fullness of Christ in the earth, we're called by God to stop fulfilling the sinful desires of our body and mind. We're filled with the Spirit in order to resist the temptation to fulfill our old sinful desires. Now, that we are filled with the fullness of God through His presence and love, we can rest in Jesus' victory over our spiritual enemies and resist their old schemes of temptation and sin.



Ephesians Chapter 2, v. 1-3

*1 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses
and sins,*

*2 in which you once walked according to the course of
this world, according to the prince of the power of the
air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,
3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in
the lusts of our flesh, FULFILLING the desires of the flesh
and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath,
just as the others.*



Connecting Ephesians 2:1-3

God has taken spiritually dead corpses and filled them with the light of His presence and fullness. The life of Christ has replaced the deadness of sin. And, in the fullness of time, everything in God's creation that is of death and darkness will be replaced with His light and life.

Before we came to Christ, we used to be ruled by the spiritual forces of evil, and because of our sin, we were filling up wrath for ourselves on the day of Judgment. But, Jesus changes everything by bringing us into His life and filling us with His presence. Jesus broke the chains of sin and darkness that once filled our lives, and He has filled us with His Spirit in order to live a life of holiness and righteousness. This is what it means to live in the fullness of God.



Connecting Ephesians 2:1-3

(Continued)

Now, in Christ, we don't have to fulfill every sinful desire and craving we have. We can choose to be filled with the Spirit each day in order to fulfill God's calling on our lives. And, if we want to live in the fullness of God's Spirit each day, we need to know the love of God. Instead of fulfilling sinful desires, we're invited to know God in order to be deeply fulfilled by His love.

Sin promises to fulfill us, but it never does. We can satisfy every sinful desire we have and we would never be fulfilled. The fullness of God's love and presence is the only thing in existence that can truly leave us fulfilled. And, from that place of fulfillment, we joyfully advance His Kingdom through love, obedience, and resisting old sinful desires.



Ephesians Chapter 3, v. 14-19

*14 For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our
Lord Jesus Christ,*

*15 from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is
named,*

*16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of
His glory, to be strengthened with might through His
Spirit in the inner man,*

*17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith;
that you, being rooted and grounded in love,*

*18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what
is the width and length and depth and height—*

*19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge;
that you may be FILLED with all the FULLNESS of God.*



Connecting Ephesians 3:14-19

When God regenerates a person in Christ and adopts them into His family, that person inherits the name of their Father. This is part of what it means that we are filled with the fullness of God. We are graced by God to inherit His very name and represent that name in the earth as His children.

Paul prays that the body of Christ would know God's love in order to be filled with the fullness of God. The same Spirit that fills us, is the same One that strengthens us to effectively fulfill God's calling for us. And, this strength comes through a knowledge of God's love. The Spirit of God reveals to us a deeper understanding of the love of God.

If we want to live in the fullness of God, and be filled with His divine power, we need to know His love better. And, God's love is revealed best in the perfect work of Jesus. We desperately need to understand the gospel better each day, which means we need to meditate on the fact that Jesus has descended into our world to grant us access to the fullness of God's presence.



Connecting Ephesians 3:14-19

(Continued)

Before we could be filled with God's Spirit, Jesus had to fill a human body in order to lay down His life for our sins. Now, through Jesus' humble obedience to the point of death, we are recreated to be the fullness of Jesus in the earth. This is the love we're called to be filled with each day as we live in the Spirit.

In order to fill the earth with God's glory, we need to be filled with His love daily. And, one day we will attain the fullness of maturity in Christ, where we will love perfectly as He has loved us. But, until that day, we are called to seek the presence of God in order to be filled more with His love. We cannot pour out a love that we haven't been filled with. We can only walk by the Spirit when we are filled with the love of God.



Ephesians Chapter 4, v. 7-16

7 But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.

8 Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men."

9 (Now this, "He ascended"—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth?

10 He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might FILL all things.)

11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,



Ephesians: Full - Fullness

Ephesians Chapter 4, v. 7-16

*12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry,
for the edifying of the body of Christ,*

*13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the
knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the
measure of the stature of the FULLNESS of Christ;*

*14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro
and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the
trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful
plotting,*

*15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things
into Him who is the head—Christ—*

*16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by
what every joint supplies, according to the effective working
by which every part does its share, causes growth of the
body for the edifying of itself in love.*



Connecting Ephesians 4:7-16

God is gracious by giving us eternal life in His Son. He is gracious for filling us with His Spirit. And, God is also gracious for filling His body with special gifts. These spiritual gifts and positions in the church are part of the fullness of Jesus. Before He could fill His church with His Spirit, His gifts, and these wonderful roles, Jesus humbly descended into the grave to rescue us from the sin and death that held us back from these beautiful blessings.

Now, that we are filled with God's presence and Spirit, that same humility and self-giving love of Jesus should fill us, as His church.

Christ's humility and self-sacrificial love should provide the framework for how we use the spiritual gifts that God has filled us with.

God doesn't fill us with gifts for our own benefit, but the benefit of the rest of the church. One day we will reach perfect maturity, love, and unity in the fullness of Christ, but until that day, we should be moving the church into maturity through the gifts we've been given by God. In other words, God has filled us to promote love, unity, and spiritual growth in the body.



Connecting Ephesians 4:7-16 (Continued)

And, spiritual growth is determined by Jesus. He is the standard for our lives, and He is the One who measures our progress. If we want to grow spiritually, we need to become more like Jesus. This happens through a growing knowledge of God's love. God has filled the church with spiritual gifts and positions in order to bring the church into more maturity and love. Instead of using our gifts to fulfill our sinful desires, we should be using them to fulfill God's calling for the church.

And, God's desire is for His people to grow in Christ until the day when we reach the fullness of maturity in Jesus. This is why God has filled us with His love, His Spirit, His gracious gifts, and His fullness. We are living by the Spirit when we are loving people into spiritual maturity and helping them become more like Jesus. The fullness of God is meant to be experienced as a body, not as isolated individuals.



Ephesians Chapter 5, v. 17-20

17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be FILLED with the Spirit,

19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

20 giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, 21 submitting to one another in the fear of God.



Connecting Ephesians 5:17-20

God has shown us how this whole thing ends. He has clearly laid out His plan for His people to know. And, His plan includes heaven and earth being united in Christ on that day when time reaches its fullness. This plan of God for all creation gives us insight into the will of God for us, as His people. God's will for our lives will fit into His overall plan for humanity and all of creation. And, we are called to understand the will of God for us.

His will is for His church to be the fullness of Jesus in the earth. His will is for us to know the love of God in order to be filled with His fullness. His will is for us to resist the temptation to fulfill our lustful cravings and sinful desires. His will is for us to mature in Christ in anticipation of the day when we reach the measure of the fullness of Jesus. And, His will is for us to be filled with His Spirit every day, rather than the sinful things of this world. This is God's clear will for His people each and every day.



Connecting Ephesians 5:17-20 (Continued)

To be filled with the Spirit means that our mouths are filled with the truth of God's word, rather than ungodly language. Our words should be a reflection of God's word. And, this looks like praising God, thanking Him, and speaking the truth to people for their encouragement and edification. In other words, one of the signs that we're filled with the Spirit is that our hearts and lips are full of His truth.

But, we can't be filled with the truth and love of God, if we're already filled with too much wine. We have to daily choose to submit to the Lord or our sinful desires and cravings. Will we be filled with the Spirit and walk in the fullness of God, or will we fulfill the fleshly desires of our body and mind?

We cannot be filled with the love of God while fulfilling the desires of our flesh, and this includes being drunk with wine. Our minds cannot be governed by God's Spirit and alcohol at the same time. We have to choose. We either live fulfilled by God's love, or we live to fulfill our sinful passions and desires.



Connecting Ephesians 5:17-20

(Continued)

Then, Paul says that we should submit to one another in the fear of God. Two more pieces of evidence that we are filled with the Spirit are that we fear the Lord and live for the benefit of others. And, when we live to better the lives of others, it looks like submission or self-sacrificial love.

Instead of submitting to our old sinful desires, we submit to the will of the Lord. Godly submission seems to be the result of being full of God's love and His Spirit. If the church is the fullness of Jesus in the earth, we should long to know His love in order to be filled with that same love for others.



