

Beltway Park

para-normal
[Continually Seek More]
Beltway Park February 21, 2010

Text: Ephesians 5:15-20 (p.1159)

Life is _____.

Material wealth and scientific _____ have not fixed all the struggles, all the difficulties or all the pain of life.

Life is difficult, and it's not because we don't have enough or haven't advanced enough. Life is difficult because the days are _____.

We live in a _____ world which is still ruled by the "ruler of the kingdom of the air" (*Eph. 2:2*). No matter how much we acquire and how much we accomplish, life is going to have its troubles, difficulties and pain.

This charge (be filled with the Spirit) is about real life - living _____ and victoriously in evil days.

How do we live a _____, joy-filled life in the midst of days that are evil? "Be filled with the Spirit."

_____ do believers need to be filled with the Holy Spirit?

When a person becomes a follower of Jesus, they receive the gift – the _____ – of the Holy Spirit. (*Eph. 1:13-14*). But at the same time, we will always need more. (*Eph. 5:18*).

This command "be filled with the Spirit" is not something we do once and are done. Those first believers hearing this in Ephesus would have heard "_____ be filled with the Spirit." This is something we must seek to do literally for the rest of our lives as followers of Jesus.

In the same way as a _____ can have air and still be filled with air, we as followers of Jesus have the Spirit yet can be filled with the Spirit.

As we are filled with the Spirit, God increases our capacity. As we are continually filled with the Spirit, the only thing that will blow-up is the _____ in us that is keeping us from the fullness of life Jesus promised.

We cannot live wise, full, abundant lives in this world on our own. We were not _____ to do so. (*Gal. 5:25; Lk. 4:1-2; Acts 4:31; 11:24; Gal. 5:22-23*)

_____ can a Christian be filled with the Holy Spirit?

_____ - _____ - _____. It's not so much a formula as it is a habit of engaging God.

Prayer is a universal struggle for believers – almost like we have an _____ who is trying to keep us from connecting to God.

Jesus had a hectic, busy life (just like us). But He _____ often and prayed. We must pray, and often in our prayers we need to ask God to fill us with His Spirit. (*Lk. 5:15-16*)

Listening to God is going to take work in our world (just like it did in Jesus' world). It is going to take _____ and being quiet.

It is also going to take focus and effort. Part of listening is _____. (*Jer. 29:11-13*)

A life being continually filled with the Spirit is about being empowered to radically love God and radically live for His _____.

Reading this week: *Surprised by the Power of the Spirit*, chapter 8.

For further study: "Why I Believe in the Supernatural," a four-part series by David McQueen available on the **para-normal** page of *beltway.org* or in our Learning Center.
