

Thornbury Baptist Church  
Small Group Discussion Questions

**Talk Date:** June 22nd 2025

**Talk title:** The Power of Pentecost – The Spirit’s Fulness

**Passage:** Ephesians 5:15-21

**Speaker:** David Lawrence

**Discussion Questions**

- For those that have listened to the talk, what points stood out?
- David made the point that it is important to keep the connection between the fulness of the Holy Spirit and the presence of Jesus (see 3:16,17). In what ways does this connection help us understand what it means to be filled with the Spirit?
- Verse 18 contrasts being filled with the Spirit, with being drunk and giving in to ‘debauchery’ (=extreme indulgence of one’s appetites, especially for sensual pleasure; dissipation – see ch4:17-19). What does this contrast suggest about what it means to be filled with the Spirit?
- What is the connection between turning from self, and receiving the Spirit’s fulness? (see for example, John 14:15-17; Acts 2:38).
- In Ephesians 1:13,14 we read that the Ephesian Christians were given the Holy Spirit when they first believed. So why does Paul need to tell them to ‘go on being filled’ with the Spirit (5:18)? Is there a clue in 5:1, 15 and 17?
- Ephesians 4:30 states that it is possible to ‘grieve’ the Holy Spirit. ‘Grieve’ means to cause grief or sorrow, or distress. Cast your eye over 4:17-31: what causes the Spirit to become distressed?
- David suggested that in 5:19-21 we see three activities that ‘position us’ to receive the Spirit’s fulness. What are they, and in the experience of people in the group, what contribution do they make to being filled with the Spirit of Jesus?
- If a new Christian asked you ‘why do I need to be filled with the Spirit?’, what would you tell them? And if they then asked, ‘how can I go on being filled with the Spirit?’, how would you answer?

Spend time praying with one another in the light of your discussion.

**Takeaway**

What is the main thing each person is taking away from this discussion?