

Walking...While Under THE INFLUENCE

"THE GHOST" Series- Part 2

Driving Under the Influence (DUI) is a serious problem when you consider the many lives that are lost in accidents, and the losses that are incurred with legal fees, rising insurance premiums, and losing driving privileges to name a few. Alcohol, drugs, and driving a motor vehicle is a terrible combination. Another common loss is one of "sensitivity" when driving under the influence. For example, a man in Florida was arrested for DUI while driving a lawn tractor down the highway while intoxicated. He stated to the officer that he did not know that it was illegal to drive your lawn tractor down a highway while having a few beers. He also did not seem to know that he as a convicted felon should not be carrying a firearm, or that he was breaking the provision of his driver's license, or that it is an offense to state that you are going to harm a police officer. DUI and common sense are estranged from one another!

In our recent lesson on "The Ghost", our pastor shared that the Holy Ghost was sent by God to provide an influence in our life... a good influence!

*So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do. Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be **filled** with the Holy Spirit,*

-Ephesians 5:15-18

The Greek word translated "filled" is "plēroō" (*play-ro'-o*) and it means to *make replete*, fill to the top, to furnish completely, imbue, influence, finish, and satisfy. Paul is marking a big contrast: One can choose to allow alcohol to do those things in our lives, or, we could desire the Holy Spirit to influence, furnish us, and satisfy. It is DUI versus WUI...Driving Under the Influence versus Walking Under HIS Influence!

Can you recall a time when you felt you did something out of the ordinary because of the influence of others or something else?

What do you think it means to let the Holy Spirit influence you in your daily walk?

Let's look at another passage of Scripture and discover ways that the Holy Spirit desires to influence our lives: Romans 8.

Rom 8:11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

Rom 8:12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.

Rom 8:13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

Rom 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

Rom 8:15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."

Rom 8:16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

Rom 8:17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him*, that we may also be glorified together. -*New King James Version*

What does our text from Romans 8:11-17 say about the following situations and conditions and how the Holy Spirit influences us?

1. Death of the physical body.
2. Assurance of salvation.
3. Temptations.
4. Suffering.
5. Our final eternal inheritance.
6. Our relationship with God.

Ephesians 5:15-18 provides other circumstances, that with the Holy Spirit influence, we can Walk Under His Influence (WUI):

See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, (New King James Version)

1. Does "redeeming the time" imply that every Christian must devote every spare minute to serving the Lord? How do we determine the balance between leisure and service?
2. How can we learn to be alert for the opportunities that God brings our way?
3. How can you determine what is God's will and what is not?
4. What is one thing you must do this week to bring your self under the influence of the Holy Spirit?