

CALVARY CHAPEL COSTA MESA

– COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE –

“Lordship Released” - Ephesians 5:18

FELLOWSHIP

Maybe you manage the gas in your car a little better than I do. What ratio of empty to full do you use as a trigger to head to the filling station? I tend to go get gas somewhere before running on vapors. I know that's bad, maybe I'm exaggerating a bit, you don't have to email me. Ha. But, it is kind of a science for me. What is the math between the size of my tank, the miles since my last fill up, and the relationship the needle on the dash fuel gauge and I share. Maybe I'm justifying my own procrastination. The trip to Costco and the cheapest price are not always on my normal everyday routes. Actually, maybe the concept of an electric car is kind of cool to me, I could fill up every night, at home, just like my iPhone, while I sleep. This week we studied what it would be like if as a Christian the Lordship of Jesus was totally released on our lives. To be a new creation means that the believer is to be fueled by the Spirit of God. But just like nitro shouldn't be poured in a regular combustion engine, natural resources, personal abilities, or physical sweat won't work in the engine of a Spirit-filled life. Paul gives an *imperative* in Ephesians, i.e. not a suggestion, but a strong, apostolic exhortation, to stay in a constant state of being filled. The Greek reads something like, “keep on being filled” with the Holy Spirit. The resource and empowering work of the Holy Spirit is an every moment relationship, not a weekly fill-up. D. L. Moody in his book *Secret Power*, said, “The fact is, we are leaky vessels, and we have to keep right under the fountain all the time to keep full of Christ, and so have a fresh supply.” Pastor Chuck used to recount it this way, “Stay under the spout, where the glory comes out.” The health of our relationship with God is confirmed by the daily activity of His Spirit in our lives.

PRAY, READ, DISCUSS

While the focus of our study is on verse 18, the context of this paragraph, and even chapter, are very helpful in our trying to understand the main point. Decide as group what you would like to read, but below are verses 17-19 in the New Living Translation. I chose this partially because I believe it helps us understand what the results of *dissipation* or *debauchery* are.

“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, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, and making music to the Lord in your hearts.”

- Bible teacher, Russell Kelfer observed that, “By watching Jesus, you see how God behaves when He is allowed to be Himself in us. There is the crux of it all. The fruit of the Spirit is nothing more than Lordship released.” What does the Lordship of Jesus mean to you? When did you first experience His Lordship? Where are the areas of your life that you still need His Lordship over?
- Jesus taught the disciples what life would be like after He left. A life in relationship with the Holy Spirit. John 14:17 “He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn't looking for him and doesn't recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you.” How has the Holy Spirit affected your Christian life? When has he given you confirmations or assurances that you needed in adverse circumstances? What have been some of the experiences where He was doing the work and not you?
- The city of Ephesus was home to the temple of the goddess Diana. The music, worship and lifestyle of her followers was induced by wine. Paul contrasts our joy and melody of life as being induced by the Holy Spirit. How does the world and its substances compare to Jesus when handling worry, pain, fears, pressure, doubts, burdens, etc.

PRAY

This week pray for each other that we will have the empowering work of the Spirit in our lives.

