

# MARKS OF SPIRIT-FILLED BELIEVERS

## PART THREE

1. **SPIRIT-FILLED BELIEVERS ARE FIRST INDWELT BY THE HOLY SPIRIT**
2. **SPIRIT-FILLED BELIEVERS LIVE IN THE STATE OF COMPLETE CONTROL OF THEIR LIVES BY THE HOLY SPIRIT**
3. **SPIRIT-FILLED BELIEVERS ARE CLOSELY KNIT TO ONE ANOTHER AS GOD'S COMMUNITY**

**Scripture: Ephesians 5:18-21**, “And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but **be filled with the Spirit, ADDRESSING ONE ANOTHER** in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, **SINGING AND MAKING** melody to the Lord with your heart, **GIVING THANKS** always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, **SUBMITTING** to one another out of reverence for Christ.”

**Timothy G. Gombis (professor of New Testament):** The five participles do not lead to the filling by the Spirit, rather they indicate the means by which the command is carried out.

**Darrell Bock (professor of New Testament):** The passage is more likely about the kind of environment where access to the Spirit is encouraged.

4. **SPIRIT-FILLED BELIEVERS SING TO ONE ANOTHER AND TO THE LORD**

❖ **Ephesians 5:18-19**, “ And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, **addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,**”

“addressing [singing to] one another”—Songs are not just sung to God but also to one another for one another’s edification.

**Clinton E. Arnold, a New Testament scholar:** The singing of praise is always directed to God as the primary audience and recipient, but there is also a horizontal dimension. The people of God hear one another singing praise to God, and their hearts are encouraged and strengthened.

**Mark Dever, pastor and author:** Many musical worship leaders encourage members (by either word or deed) to close their eyes in pursuit of private emotional intimacy with God in the context of the corporate gathering. Now, no one in their right mind would argue that closing one’s eyes in corporate worship is categorically wrong...Congregational singing is an expression of the unity and harmony of the gathered congregation...**Much of the edifying power of congregational singing actually comes from enjoying the presence of our fellow worshipers.**

**Note:** It is difficult to know the exact meaning of “**addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,**” Bible scholars suggest:

⇒ in psalms (perhaps OT Psalms)

⇒ and hymns (song of praise)

⇒ and spiritual songs (spontaneous praise from the heart or songs in general)

**Philippians 1:6-11** is a HYMN, “Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

So also HYMNS in **Colossians 1:15-20; Hebrews 1:2b-4; John 1:1-18**

**John MacArthur:** The first consequence of the Spirit-filled life that Paul mentioned was not mountain-moving faith, an ecstatic spiritual experience, dynamic speaking ability, or any other such thing. **It was simply a heart that sings...** Whether he has a good voice or cannot carry a tune, the Spirit-filled Christian is a singing Christian.

❖ **Ephesians 5:18-19,** “ And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs **[WHAT TO SING], singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart [HOW TO SING],**”

**Do you know?** The word “sing” “singing” “sang” are used 164 times in the Holy Bible (ESV). The related words to singing like shout, song, melody, praise are not counted.

**John Piper:** On a topic “Why Is Singing So Important for Christians?” Piper says “Christianity is a singing religion.”

## The songs of the Bible

The Bible has all kinds of songs spread across its many books, from songs of temple praise to funeral dirges. Here are a few quick facts about the songs in the Bible.



### You can find 185 songs in the Bible

The Bible explicitly says some pieces of poetry were sung, chanted, or intended for musical accompaniment. There's more lyric-like poetry in the Bible that may have been sung, too.

# 185

# 150

### 80% of these are Psalms

That shouldn't be a surprise—Psalms is one of the longest books of the Bible, and it's nothing but songs.

### And Psalms isn't the only songbook in the Bible



Song of Solomon is an epic love song between a bride and groom.



Lamentations is a set of five dirges—songs mourning the fall of Jerusalem.



### Longest song: 1,732 words

Psalms 119 is the longest song in its original Hebrew language (and English). This psalm is the Bible-study anthem: it's all about the word of God and how important it is.

### Shortest songs: 7 words

The two shortest songs are only seven Hebrew words long. You can find them both in Second Chronicles (5:13, 20:21).

### Moses sings the first song in the Bible

This happens after the children of Israel safely cross the Red Sea.

EX 15

RE 15

### The song of Moses is the last song, too

John sees those who have overcome the beast singing "the song of Moses". The lyrics are different, but the message is similar.

### And the greatest of all the songs in the Bible?



That's Song of Solomon. The wise king wrote 1,005 songs, but this one was his favorite. The Bible calls it the "Song of Songs"—the chief or greatest of all songs.

See all 185 songs at [OverviewBible.com/bible-songs](http://OverviewBible.com/bible-songs)

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**“singing [singing praises] and making melody [making music] to the Lord with your heart”**

**Observe:** The Scripture doesn't say “Making melody with your voice.” It says **“making melody with your heart”**. Thank God! It is good if you have a melodious voice but even IF you do not, REMEMBER THAT GOD IS LOOKING FOR A MELODIOUS HEART, NOT NECESSARILY FOR A MELODIOUS VOICE. However, in heaven, everyone will sing with a melodious voice and heart!

**Heart represents** “the entire core being of the person, i.e. mind, emotion, and will.” We must sing with all our mind (understanding what we are singing with a focus on the Lord and with a sense of togetherness), with all our emotions (responding emotionally to the meaning of the song), and with all our will (deliberately, with freedom, and not with reluctance).

**Note:** Not every believer who sings necessarily evidences a Spirit-filled life. But Spirit-filled believers cannot but sing. SINGING IS NOT A PERFORMANCE TO IMPRESS PEOPLE. IT IS AN EXPRESSION OF OUR DEVOTION TO PLEASE GOD AND TO EDIFY ONE ANOTHER.

**Comment:** When Spirit-filled believers sing, they don't sing with distracted and dumb minds, cold emotions, and dead hearts. They sing with their minds (sense of God's presence & togetherness), with passion (joyful or sad), and with sincere hearts (in truth).

**Steve Cole:** Joyful, exuberant, heart-felt singing is one evidence that a church is Spirit-filled. Lifeless, listless, apathetic “worship” is not worship at all.

Those who lack a Spirit-filled life, evidence this sad state:

- ❖ **Isaiah 29:19**, “This people draw near with their mouth and honor me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me...”

Making melody in our hearts (3) Unto the King of Kings

Ch : Worship and adore Him (3)

Making melody in our hearts Unto the King of Kings

“singing making melody **to the Lord** with your heart.”

**Important observation by Clinton E Arnold:** Since every occurrence of “Lord” in Ephesians has reference to Jesus and not the Father, it is likely that this singing and praise is focused on Christ. This focus on the praise of Christ in early Christian worship did not escape the notice of Pliny, the governor of Bithynia in Asia Minor, when he observed in a letter to the Emperor Trajan in AD 109 that the Christians “met regularly before dawn on a fixed day to chant verses alternately amongst themselves in honor of Christ as if to a god.”

**How do we actively live out being filled with the Holy Spirit by practice these godly disciplines?**

- ⇒ Actively participate (don't be passive) in corporate gathering (don't neglect meeting together as a church, don't miss singing) for congregational singing (heartily sing together to the Lord and to one another)
- ⇒ At times, it is good to come together just for singing, praising, and thanksgiving. Just as we have special times for praying (intercession, fasting prayer), teaching (seminars, bible studies), evangelism (gospel meetings), why shouldn't we have special times only for singing and praising God together?
- ⇒ During hospitality or just house visiting, intentionally take time to sing together. Let's feed God's heart and one another's heart with joyful songs as we feed food to our stomachs.
- ⇒ Sing songs in your family devotions with joy (not as a mere duty). How can we call “family devotions” without devotional songs? If all your family members don't have a melodious tune, play songs on YouTube and join your voices.
- ⇒ Cultivate the habit of learning new songs, sing learned songs in private (esp. personal devotions), and our corporate singing would be congregational (everyone singing) and jubilant (joyful celebration).

THE MORE WE SING TOGETHER THE MORE WE EXPRESS BEING  
FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT. SINGING TOGETHER EXPRESSES ACCESS  
TO THE CONTROL AND DOMINION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.  
SPIRIT-FILLED BELIEVERS AND SINGING BELIEVERS.