"Where are you?"

A message delivered to
MAYER COMMUNITY CHURCH

May 23, 1999

TITLE: "Where are you?"

TEXT: Ephesians 5:17-18

THEME: Being filled with the Spirit

THRUST: This is a critical component to salvation!

INTRODUCTION:

Several weeks ago,
we asked the question: "What are you?"
Hopefully, answering with, "I'm a Christian."
Two weeks ago,
we asked the question: "What are you doing?"
Hopefully drawing our attention to our responsibilities
in the kingdom of God.
We have been focusing on the outpouring
of God's Spirit on His people.
A promise of personal fulfillment
to all who will ask in faith.
We have seen that this outpouring / in-filling of the Spirit
is demonstrated through the *fruit* of the Spirit – *Love*.
The Apostle Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 13 that without love,
time spent in exercising the *least* of the gifts is white noise!
If we are exercising the *greatest* of the gifts, *prophecy*,
and that gift is accompanied with
complete revelation and knowledge,
and that gift is fortified with
the degree of faith Jesus had,
without love our character is reduced to zero.
We would say, "Wow, what a man/woman of God!"
God says, "you are nothing, a zero!"
Without love our sacrificial giving is worthless!
Paul goes on in that profound chapter to show us
the positive character of *Agape*`.
The kind of love that is not controlled by circumstances
but is the fruit of the Holy Spirit.
If you want to *test* the fruit of your life or of your ministry,
let 1 Corinthians 13 become food for your soul.
How do we make sure that we don't have a zero for character?
How do we make sure that the exercise of our spiritual gifts
is hand-in-glove with the fruit of the Spirit?
How can we know that our sacrificial giving

is laying up treasures in heaven, rather than worthless?

Ephesians 5:17-18

From this passage of scripture, I want us to try and answer
the question: “Where are you?”
Have you ever been in conversation with someone,
and after a few statements you begin to wonder,
“Where in the world they’re coming from?”
“Where are you?”
“Where are you coming from?”
In **John 7:38, 39** we read, "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.'" **39** But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet {given,} because Jesus was not yet glorified. (NAS)
Granted, this passage is speaking
of the redemptive work of Jesus on the cross;
but the spiritual lesson is here ...
how can we ever expect to see the fulness of the Spirit
unless Jesus, through the cross,
is being glorified in our lives!
What are we thinking?
Where are we coming from?
We are *not* told in Scripture that it is the job of the Holy Spirit
to glorify Jesus. The work of the Holy Spirit is
to reveal, and rebuke our sin, and
to reveal Jesus to us
so that our relationship can become deeper.
It is *our* responsibility to glorify Jesus.
“Give unto the Lord the glory due His name.”
This passage in Ephesians 5 tells us what to do
in order for Jesus to be glorified in our lives.
What are we to do?
We are to be Submitting to the Spirit’s leading!
This is implied by the contrast in **v.18** between
being drunk with wine and being filled with the Spirit.
Drunkenness carries the connotation
of being influenced by the power of alcohol.
We speak of being “Under the influence.”
Therefore, the implied truth here
is that we are to be *under the influence* of the Holy Spirit.
This is stated more emphatically in Romans 8:

Rom 8:5 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.
Gal 5:16 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

I used the word *submitting* rather than *submit*
because it is true to the passage.
We have a tendency, as Christians,
to think in terms of "once is enough."
"I confessed my sins to Jesus and He forgave me,
past, present and future!"
God's forgiveness is a wonderful truth and a benefit
of our covenant relationship with Jesus,
but God never intended forgiveness
to be a one-shot deal!
The reason is, we still sin; and,
God wants us to acknowledge those sins.
That is the whole premise of 1 John chapter one!
I understand that Pastor Lonnie talked a bit about this
last week ... get your credit report from God.
Is your report "A-1"?
Are there marks against you?
Well, according to 1 John 1:9
God has given us the means to have those
blemishes removed from our lives!
Confession is to be entered into as often as we sin!
Forgiveness is granted as often as we confess!
The words *forgive* & *cleanse* are in the subjunctive mode.
That simply means that there is some doubt,
some uncertainty, some indefiniteness
about their fulfillment,
not on God's part, but because of our part!
In retrospect, confessions is to be continual, repeated.
So too in this passage in Ephesians 5.
We are to be in a continual state of being filled.
"Be being filled with the Holy Spirit...."
The reason for that is because
we are to be, according to John 7, mighty channels
for the Holy Spirit's ministry.
Verse 17 of this chapter tells us
that it is God's will for us
to be continually filled with the Holy Spirit!
"Therefore, do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. Be not drunk

with wine but be continuously filled with the Spirit."

The word *filled* is an imperative – make this happen!

Jesus said, "Not everyone who says 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom, but he who does the will of the Father."

Jesus put supreme importance on doing the will of God.

He said of Himself,

"I have come to do Thy will, O God." (Heb 10:7, 9).

You may ask,

"Are you saying that unless we are continually being filled with the Spirit, that we aren't going to heaven? That we aren't saved?"

I didn't say that,

I can only point you to what Jesus said,

you work it out.

Why do we think Paul stated,

"Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling?" (Phil 2:12).

Luke 13:23ff

Do you understand the passage?

Did you hear what Jesus said He will answer

"I don't know where you are coming from...."

Are you "up to date in your relationship with Jesus?"

Are you secure in your salvation experience?

Are you secure because today's credit report

came back "A-1?"

Or are you secure because of your doctrinal position?

Listen to what Paul stated to the Christians at Rome,

Rom 8:14 For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. (NAS)

Where are we coming from?

The continual presence and work of the Holy Spirit

is a critical component to our salvation!

Paul warns us

"Grieve not the Spirit...." (Eph 4:30).

"Quench not the Spirit...." (1 Thess 5:19).

Where are we coming from?

If there is *anything* blocking or hindering

the work of God's Holy Spirit, He is trying to tell you,

so that you can confess it and be filled anew!

"I find the great thing in this world is not so much where we stand, as in what direction we are moving: To reach the port of heaven, we must sail sometimes with the wind and

sometimes against it – but we must sail, and not drift, nor lie at anchor."
~Oliver Wendell Holmes in The Autocrat of the Breakfast Table.
Christianity Today, Vol. 33, no. 5.

Where are we coming from?
Where are we going?

CONCLUSION: *Pass me not...* Fanny Crosby ~1868

1
Pass me not, O gentle Savior
Hear my humble cry
While on others Thou art calling
Do not pass me by

Chorus:
Savior, Savior
Hear my humble cry
While on others Thou art calling
Do not pass me by

2
Let me at Thy throne of mercy
Find a sweet relief
Kneeling there in deep contrition
Help my unbelief

3
Trusting only in Thy merit
Would I seek Thy face
Heal my wounded, broken spirit
Save me by Thy grace

4
Thou the spring of all my comfort
More than life to me
Whom have I on earth beside Thee?
Whom in Heav'n but Thee?