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Grace Evangelical Church
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"Who's The Authority Around Here?"
Ephesians 5:18 – 6:9**

Josh McDowell tells of the time when his daughter Kelly was in the fourth grade.

At that time several students in her class swiped an object off the teacher's desk when the teacher was out of the room. The children only wanted to play with the object, but in the process they broke the object, and then returned it to where it had been situated on the teacher's desk.

When the teacher returned, she discovered the damage, and she asked Kelly's classmates what happened. A girl yielded to the pressure and lied. When the teacher asked Kelly what had happened, Kelly in a matter-of-fact way, explained what took place.

The next day, Josh took his daughter, Kelly, out for breakfast at a local restaurant. He told her that she had done the right thing, in spite of the pressure or harassment she may get from her classmates. (Evidently, Kelly had related to her Dad what had happened).

Josh then asked his daughter Kelly, "Why is lying wrong?"

Kelly answered, "Because the Bible say its wrong."

Josh continued, "Why does the Bible say it's wrong?"

Kelly answered, "Because God commanded it."

Josh asked another question, "Why did God command it?"

Kelly replied, "I don't know."

Josh took her hands in his and locked eyes with her and said, "Because God is truth, Kelly, Truth comes from His nature, and whatever is contrary to God's nature is sin."

The Biblical God is truth. That is why Deuteronomy 32:4 says that the biblical God is "the Rock, his work is perfect. . . a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is He." That's why Christ (who is God in flesh) said that He was the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6).

Truth is certainly eternal, unchanging, ultimate and absolute reality. That means the biblical God in His eternal nature and in His written Word that we have here is the final authority for teaching and life or for daily conduct.

To say that in our political correct world is not popular in the public arena. In fact to say that the biblical God and His Word the Bible are the final authority for doctrine and the kind of life-style we should live is completely rejected and scoffed at.

That's why it's okay to lie, as the one little girl was doing in Josh's account. It's okay to live an immoral life-style. It's okay to gossip and cheat. Yes, it's okay to do what I want if no one gets hurt. I am my own god and I can do what a want. I am my own authority.

Why is there that attitude today?

Why does the Freedom From Religion organization keep trying to get the name of God out of our culture?

The human heart does not in any way want to submit to the authority of the Biblical God its Creator and Redeemer through the death and bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ. The human heart does not seek after the

true and living God. It is in flagrant rebellion against the biblical God as the final authority in teaching and life. (cf. Romans 3:10-18).

However, when we come to our text today in Ephesians 5:18ff, we find, an entirely different emphasis. Yes, we discover that God's authority is necessary for us to have a life that can experience the fullness of God and harmony in our relationships.

How depraved is that old nature we have received from Adam which thinks that humanity apart from God is where it's at, or the deception of Satan which influences one to believe that he or she is the final authority in life, is god.

But the biblical God gives us in our text directions on what God's authority can do in our lives when we listen to Him and follow His Word.

Note what our text says.

Be filled with the Spirit – then there are five results.

These are presented in five present participles in this section of Scripture.

**Speaking

**Singing

**Making melody

**Giving thanks

**Submitting

Note, then, how our text teaches us about how God's authority can make our lives entirely different from those who reject the authority of God in their lives – yes, make our lives Christ-like, yes, imitators of God.

I. God, the Holy Spirit must fill each of our lives personally.

1. The negative.

Don't be continually drunk, (present imperative) intoxicated with wine. Liquor certainly influences an individual – influences one to behave in a way he wouldn't normally do. A person loses control of himself. In fact, I understand that alcohol is listed, pharmacologically as a depressant. It is not a stimulant.

Dr. Martyn Lloyd Jones writes in his book on "Life in the Spirit in Marriage, Home and Work," that "alcohol depresses first and foremost the highest centres of all in the brain . . . They control everything that gives a man self-control, wisdom, understanding, discrimination, judgment, balance, the power to assess everything; in other words everything that makes a man behave at his very best and highest.

2. The positive.

But, strong contrast, Be continually filled (present imperative) with God the Holy Spirit. On the other side of the coin, the positive, Lloyd Jones writes that the Holy Spirit does just the opposite. **"If it were possible to put the Holy Spirit into a textbook of Pharmacology, I would put him under the stimulants, for that is where He belongs. He really does stimulate . . . He stimulates our every faculty . . . the mind and the intellect . . . the heart and the will.**

3. Summarization

Comparison -

Only one comparison of wine with the God the Holy Spirit.

Wine influences or controls a person.

God the Holy Spirit influences or controls a person.

Contrast –

The result of drunkenness is dissipation or debauchery.

People who are drunk give way to wild and uncontrolled actions. They behave like animals, many times worse than animals. They lose control of who they really are.

The results of being filled with the Holy Spirit are totally different. If excessive alcohol can dehumanize a person, the person filled by the Spirit of God makes the believer more human, for He makes us like Christ.

The one influenced by the Holy Spirit does not lose control of himself, but is controlled by the Spirit of God, for one of the fruit of the Spirit is self-control – stimulated to act like the Lord Jesus Christ. In fact the word, fill is not just the meaning of control but complete permeation of the Spirit of God into every area of life. The believer has all of God he or she will get in this life, God just wants more of the believer.

4. Clarification

I think that its well to pause here before talking about what happens in the believer's life when he or she is controlled by the Spirit of God and ask, "Why this teaching on being filled or controlled by the Spirit of God?"

For it's easy to read the text, "Don't be intoxicated with wine, but be filled with the Spirit." But it's entirely different matter to be filled or controlled by God, the Holy Spirit.

Why, then, this teaching on being controlled by the Spirit of God?

** Paul is writing to believers in Jesus Christ – He is writing to each of us who know the Lord as personal Savior. He writes to those who were once dead in their trespasses and sin, and now have been made alive in Him through their faith in Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:1-10). In Romans 8:9, Paul writes that those who have not the Spirit of Christ do not belong to God, but since the Spirit of God dwells in you, the Holy Spirit bears witness with your spirit that you are the children of God.

Paul is saying that unless one has the Spirit of God living in his or her life, one is not really born into God's family – one does not have eternal forgiveness and life. Receiving of the Spirit of God comes by accepting Jesus Christ as one's personal Savior.

**This brings up the ministry of the Holy Spirit to the individual.

(1) Our position in Christ.

I use an acrostic called cribs to describe the ministry of the Holy Spirit to the believer in Christ – in fact it is the believer's position in Christ through faith in HIM.

C - convicts of sin righteousness and judgment (John 16:8-11).

R - regenerates the believer –giving the life of God – eternal life (Titus 3:5).

I - indwells the believer – lives in the believer spiritually (I Corinthians 6:19-20).

B – baptizes the believer, placing the believer into the body of Christ – His church (I Corinthians 12:13).

S – Seals the believer until the day of redemption –going home to be with the Lord or until the Lord returns (Ephesians 1:13;4:30).

These actions of the Holy Spirit occur in each person who accepts Jesus Christ as Savior. All of us here who know the Lord today have had CRIBS happen to us, really at the time we accept Christ as person Savior. We should add spiritual gifts to that – a G – for spiritual gifts I believe are given the time of one's time of accepting Christ as personal Savior – So each believer is endowed with a spiritual gift, a God-given gift (s) for serving the Lord.

One needs, then, the Holy Spirit in one's life to have the very life of God.

But there is more than that. That is just the beginning. To have an ongoing eternal experience with the living God, the believer must have a minute by minute relationship with the Holy Spirit living in his or her life.

(2) Our Experience in Christ.

So where does the filling or the controlling of the Holy Spirit come in. This is the experience of the believer's relationship with Christ through obeying the indwelling Holy Spirit.

As I read the Word of God, the Holy Spirit enlightens my thinking that this is what God wants me to do, and as I start doing what God says, the Holy Spirit controls, yes, empowers me to do God's will.

When I disobey God's Word, I sin, I grieve the Holy Spirit, and if I continue in sin, I can quench the Holy Spirit, then, I need to confess that sin to the Lord (I John 1:9) and go on obeying the Holy Spirit, or let Him control my life.

This is why the text commands us to be filled or controlled by the Holy Spirit continually – for our relationship with the Holy Spirit is a daily, minute by minute relationship. My sensitivity to Him in my life determines whether or not my life is really showing off Jesus Christ – if I am imitating God Himself.

I remember back in my college days at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, I had to come to grips with who the Holy Spirit really was. I had grown up in a wonderful Christian home, accepted Christ at the young age of 7, and knew something about Christ, the Bible and what it meant to live for Him. But when I got to college, I started thinking through what I believed, and wondering about certain things. Then through some books I had purchased, I begin to be made aware of who the Holy Spirit was. He not only lived in me, but He must have complete control of my life in order for my life to really count for the Lord and glorify Him. He must be the authority in my life, not myself. This renewing in my life gave me a whole new perspective as to what it meant for me to be filled or controlled by the Holy Spirit. That on-going experience with the Holy Spirit is still with me today

I'm wondering, though if this is not what happens to some of our Christian young people who go off to college – they know Christ as Savior, they know the right words to say, even have a grasp of some of the teachings of God's Word, but then after sitting in the classroom for awhile and developing different friendships, they begin to lose that personal relationship with Christ that they thought they had or they professed they had.

They have let their relationship with the Lord slide, and the daily realization that they are indwelt by the Holy Spirit, that He is alive in their lives to empower them to live for Christ. I might add that every student who goes off to college, particularly a state school should become involved in a Christian campus group that honors the Lord.

Such can also happen to us as adults who know the Lord. The Christian life becomes a nice comfortable way of life. We have our Christian friends. We may read our Bible and pray, but we are just floating along grateful we are going to heaven, but there is no evidence in our lives that God the Holy Spirit is alive in us to empower us to really live for Him and be a witness for Him.

What the Scripture is talking about when he pens to be controlled by the Spirit of God continually in our lives is the supernatural experience of living for Jesus Christ at all times. It's God's teaching in the nitty gritty of our daily lives.

So, what does a life controlled by the Spirit of God look like? Or what does the authority of the God the Holy Spirit living in our lives look like? Notice the text.

II. God the Holy Spirit causes the believer to be God focused first of all (Ephesians 5:19) – To give God praise.

1. Speaking to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs.

This has to be the use of Old Testament Psalms, other hymns that have been written, perhaps Scripture at that time, and spiritual songs, other songs that have been written.

This seems to be in the context of collective worship by the body as they together bring praise to God through the Psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Perhaps they recited together a Psalm, or another portion of God's Word. It is using God's word to summon one to praise the Lord. Like we use a responsive reading in our worship services – speaking to each other, but in the process together giving God His worth, encouraging each other to worship the Lord and given Him the glorify.

There was not just speaking God's Word in various forms, but there was also

2. Singing - not to one another, but to the Lord.

3. Making melody in one's heart to the Lord.

Both of these words combine vocal and instrumental music to the Lord, for the word, making melody – means to play on a stringed instrument.

4. Always giving thanks on behalf all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to God, even the Father.

The one who is filled with God's Spirit has an attitude of gratitude, for who God is and what He does and provides. In the midst of our challenges we give thanks that God is in control and working out all things for our good and His glory.

The Scripture is telling us here that a believer filled with the Holy Spirit will not be a grumbler or complainer. He may slip into that mood momentarily but he confesses it quickly to the Lord as sin, and continues to have that song of praise and thanksgiving to his God.

That's why the Psalmist has said, the Lord brought him out of the pit of destruction, out of the miry clay, and set him on the rock making his steps firm, and put a new song in his mouth, a son of praise to our God (Psalm 40:1-3).

The believer filled with the Holy Spirit will have a life that gives God praise and thanks first of all in his personal life, and when the local church comes together it will be filled with praise and thanksgiving to the true and living God. A worship service should be a joyful service of praise to the eternal God revealed in Jesus Christ.

A person who doesn't have the Spirit of God living in him, can't praise the Lord and really give Him thanks, for the Spirit of God living in the believer causes Him to give God the worth that is due Him as Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

A believer not in fellowship with the Lord, can't give the Him the praise and thanks that He deserves because he or she is not grieving the Spirit or quenching the Spirit who lives with in. That's why one in that situation needs to confess the sin in his or her life and start praising the Lord in fellowship with Him.

III. God the Holy Spirit brings harmony to believer's relationships (Ephesians 5:21-6:9).

1. Harmony among believers' individually (Ephesians 5:21).

Note Ephesians 5:21 – "Be subject continually to one another in the fear of Christ." It has been translated submitting continually to one another in the fear of Christ."

"hypotassomenoi" is the word. It causes all kinds of consternation in our world today in all facets of human behavior, as it did in the days of the New Testament. The old nature does not like that word. What are you talking about, submitting to one another. I am the master of my own fate. The devil does not like that word. I am god, aren't I? Those in the married relationship have trouble with the word. I can do my own thing. Children have trouble with the word. You mean I have to obey my parents? Those in the work place have trouble with the word. Do what my employer says, or treat my employees fairly?

But here it is. In God's word. It stirs up all kinds of emotions, because we like to be independent.

And now believers who are filled or controlled by the Holy Spirit continually submit to one another. What's the Scripture teaching us about God's authority at work in our lives by the Holy Spirit of God?

Let's look first at . . .

(1) The meaning of the word submitting -

It has the meaning of to arrange under, to bring under the influence. It has the idea of organizing voluntarily to fill out a pattern that constitutes a complete whole. Someone has suggested that the word submit carries with it the concept of support.

The opposite of submitting would be to be aggressive, self assertive, and brash, not willing to be long-suffering, and tolerant of another's views and ideas. It is learning to listen, and to sometimes disagree agreeably.

It is not giving up one's own individuality and identity, but rather accepting each other as made in the image of God, with infinite value, and learning to give and take in the body of Christ and serve together for the glory of God.

As believers we are here to support and encourage one another, and to spur one another on to good works as the writer of Hebrews tells us. And as the Proverb says, "As iron sharpens iron so one man sharpens another" (27:17).

Tom Constable in his notes on Ephesians lists four responsibilities of submission:

(1) An attitude of entrusting one's self to God. The ability to submit comes from Him (I Peter 2:24). Yes, from being controlled by the Spirit of God as our text indicates (Ephesians 5:18).

(2) A respectful behavior (I Peter 3:1-2).

(3) Developing godly behavior (I Peter 3:3-5).

(4) Submission means doing what is right (I Peter 3:6).

Submission, then is not doing what is contrary to the God's will as revealed in His Word, the Bible.

In that meaning, there is . . .

(2) The ultimate submission

For you see we submit to one another as believers in Christ out of reverence (fear) of Christ. Thusly in submitting to one another, and supporting one another we are really submitting to Christ, giving Him first place in our lives. That is what the Spirit's ministry is all about in the final analysis – to glorify Jesus Christ.

2. Harmony in the family relationships (Ephesians 5:22-6:4).

This passage of Scripture has been misunderstood, misinterpreted, and completely ignored in our culture today. You will notice, though, that the word submit is not in verse 22 when it says that wives are to submit to their husbands as to the Lord. But it is inferred from the previous verse that says as believers we are to submit to one another in the fear of Christ.

It is well to keep in mind that in the New Testament times the Jews, Romans, and Greeks, saw women as secondary citizens with few or no rights. **The pious Jew daily said a prayer in which he thanked God for not making him a woman. He could divorce his wife by just writing a "bill of divorcement."**

When Christianity spread through the Roman Empire a change came to the position of the women who accepted Jesus Christ as personal Savior. There was also a new position for the man who accepted Jesus Christ as Savior

(1) The new standing for men and women who accepted Christ as personal Savior.

Paul in Galatians put it this way, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ (3:28).

The believer in Jesus Christ, regardless of race, status or gender, was significant in the body, the church of Jesus Christ. Spiritual position is the same for all believers. They are accepted in Christ, heirs of God and joint heirs with Jesus Christ, having the access to the same Father.

That of course did not mean that they lost their individual distinction and their individual abilities, and spiritual gifts that God gave them at the time of accepting Jesus Christ as personal Savior.

But there was another happening for the men and women who accepted Jesus Christ as Savior.

(2) The new order for those who accepted Christ as personal Savior.

In this passage, the Scripture teaches that the husband is the head of the wife (Ephesians 5:23). What does that mean?

It means that God has established an order in world at the time of creation. Why did God speak to Adam first when He came searching out Adam and Eve after they sinned in the beautiful Garden of Eden. God held Adam responsible for what happened with him and Eve, although Eve was tempted first. Adam had been designed by God to be the leader in the marriage relationship.

Thusly as we study the Scripture, we see God's order starting in the Triunity.
 God is the head of Christ (I Corinthians 11:3). The Holy Spirit is to glorify Christ (John 16:13-14).
 Christ is the head of man (I Corinthians 11:3).
 Man is over nature (Genesis 1:28)
 Man is the head of woman (I Corinthians 11:3; Ephesians 5:23).
 Parents have authority over their own children (Ephesians 6:1).
 Governors have authority over those they govern (I Peter 2:13-14).
 Employers have authority over employees (I Peter 2:18; Ephesians 6:5-9).
 Spiritual leaders authority over their flocks (I Peter 5:1-4; Hebrews 13:17).

Obviously as there is an order in the Trinity between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, God has designed an order in His creation in the different dimensions of its functions.'

1. In the marriage relationship, the husband has been designated as the head of the relationship and is to love his wife (Ephesians 5:23,25-27).

Does that mean that he is the dictator and boss, the last word on everything. Of course not.

As the passage tells us the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, and gave Himself up for her (Ephesians 5:23, 25).

Christ provided each of us His redemption through faith in Him. That is not what the Scripture is saying that the husband can do. Rather, it is referring to him being the one who serves his wife and sacrifices for her. He is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. He protects her and provides for her (nourishes and cherishes her). He is the loving leader seeking to meet the needs of his wife. In that process as the head of his wife and family, he is held responsible for what happens in the home. As father of his children, he is a representative of the Lord to them. He seeks to provide an atmosphere in which his wife and children can grow and develop spiritually.

2. In the marriage relationship, the wife is to be submissive to her husband's leadership and respect him (Ephesians 5:22, 33).

What does that mean? It does not mean that she is inferior, or must loose her identity, nor give blind obedience, or give up who she is.

Rather, as mentioned in the word, submission, is means she finds her physical protection and spiritual development under his leadership while supporting him and respecting him. Because of her husband's love for her, she realizes she is part of the team, they are in this together, loving each other, giving and taking, and growing together in Christ to do His will.

Someone has likened the husband and wife relationship to a three-legged race. They work together to have harmony in their relationship to the glory of God. This all happens as both husband and wife let the Holy Spirit control their lives. Of course, there will be challenges, but forgiveness and God's grace go the distance to help work through the difficulties that come in the marriage relationship.

3. In the family the children are to obey their parents as they grow to adulthood (Ephesians 6:1-3).

Again the order of God is set forth, and submission is taught to the children. This is also tied in with being filled or controlled by the Spirit of God. This is to be done in the Lord, for the children's parents are responsible for rearing the child and teaching him or her the things of God. That is why children are to honor their parents, to respect their parents. Those who do have the opportunity to live a long life according to the promise of God.

Some have interpreted this promise, since it was directed to Israel in her promised land to refer to the fact that the child who learns to obey his parents will represent his family well and be a valuable asset to the society in which he will live.

4. Fathers, as leaders in their family, along with mother, are to provide spiritual guidance and nourishment for their children (Ephesians 6:4).

Paul addresses fathers for they are held responsible for the spiritual nourishment of their family. Again Paul continues the order here, and that raising children should be done in the Lord – in submission to HIM. He tells them that they are not provoke their children to anger, or sand paper down his children, but in the positive, **bring them up in the discipline – it means to nourish or to feed – Calvin says to deal with them gently, or rear your children tenderly.**

Then Paul adds to instruct them – means verbally talking to them and providing opportunities to learn about God and about life. Certainly, today we would say providing learning from the Bible, seeking to protect his children from that which is ungodly and against the Lord.

This was radical teaching in Paul's day, for a Roman father had absolute power over his family. He could sell them as slaves, he could make them work in his fields even in chains, he could take the law into his own hands, for the law was in his hands, and punish as he liked. He could even inflict the death penalty on his child.

The father who knows the Lord knows that building a relationship with his child is key to guiding him, and if need be use discipline in love. He seeks to strike a balance between love and direction and guidance. And what the father's and mother's desire is as the child grows to maturity, that child will come to know Christ and let Him be the authority in his life by submitting to Him.

Paul, then, adds one more area regarding God's authority and submission that is part of the Spirit filled life.

3. Harmony in the work place (Ephesians 6:5-9).

In this section Paul writes about slaves and masters for that was the prominent situation in the New Testament times. At the time of Paul's writing, it has been estimated that there were possibly 60,000,000 slaves. The constituted the work force and included not only domestic servants and manual laborers, but educated people as well, like doctors, teachers, and administrators. Slaves could be inherited or purchased, or acquired in settlement of bad debts, and prisoners of war were often slaves. The arrangement was never challenged.

It's hard for us to understand how such a dehumanization of an individual could exist. In fact, slaves were sometimes whipped, mutilated, their teeth knocked out, even thrown to wild beasts.

So what happened was that some of those who were slaves came to know Christ as Savior. They became part of the local church of Jesus Christ.

(1) The instruction to slaves – employees (Ephesians 6:6:5-8).

They were to seek to please their masters, submitting to them, not pleasing themselves, for they were in the final analysis serving Christ, who would reward them.

Being filled by the Spirit, in serving their masters they were serving the Lord with sincerity or wholeness of heart, knowing that ultimately they would give an account to the Lord, for He was the final authority.

2. The instruction to masters – employers (Ephesians 6:9).

Christian masters, filled with the Holy Spirit or employers who came to know Christ, and were filled with the Holy Spirit, were to also show respect to their slaves and not threaten them, or misuse their authority as fathers with their children. This was all to happen because they were responsible ultimately to their Master, Jesus Christ.

Again God is the final authority for the masters or employers.

Certainly God is against slavery of any kind. It was an entirely new relationship that Paul is teaching the slaves and masters who accepted Jesus Christ as Savior. In this teaching, Paul was not condoning slavery.

At this time I understand that there were some measures under way to change the status of slaves and masters. Christianity put both the slave and master on the same level spiritually as both were one in Christ, having the same relationship with Jesus Christ. Still, as we know, it would not all change over night. There would be some dark days even in the history of our country. Still, true biblical Christianity is for all to be free as an individual and free in Christ to do God's will filled with the Holy Spirit.

Who is the final authority in our lives as believer's in Jesus Christ? Only one answer - the Holy Spirit of God.

Without letting Him control our lives, we don't like to submit to one another in the Lord, husbands have challenges submitting to the Lord and being the leader of their homes, and loving their wives as Christ loved the church, wives have trouble respecting their husbands in the Lord, children don't like to obey their parents as they should, fathers will not be the dad to their children that they should be, employees will not like submitting to the employers, and employers will not treat their employees like Christ would.

But when we let the Spirit of God start controlling our lives, we let God be praised in our lives and in our church family. We start seeing harmony take place in our relationships individually, in our families, and in the work place.

But it is a process of learning and submitting again and again, for the filling of the Holy Spirit in our lives can take place again and again as we confess our sin of disobedience to the Lord, and again submit to Him, breathing in the refreshing power of the Holy Spirit.

It something we adults who know the Lord need to keep learning. It's something our children and youth need to keep learning.

When I talk about the necessity of the Holy Spirit to be filling or controlling our lives, I remember the story of Bill Bright with his little son Brad.

He was in the process of teaching his sons who had asked Jesus into their lives about who was in control of their lives, who was on the throne of their lives.

At the breakfast table one morning, their mother had prepared a special dish called egg in the bonnet. It was a delicious think piece of French toast with a hole in the middle and in that hole was a beautiful poached egg.

Bill says that he was enjoying the serving. But when he looked over at his little lad, Brad, who was 4 ½ years old, he was not eating his egg in the bonnet. Bill, told his son Brad to eat his breakfast. Brad replied, "I don't want it." Bill, then mentioned to his son, that he liked it. Brad was quick to reply again, "I don't like it and I'm not going to eat it." Brad became somewhat dramatic and started to release a few tears.

Bill said that he had to make a decision, should he tell him to meet him in his room for discipline, or should he tell Brad to forget it and he would eat it for him.

Then Bill said that he thought of a better idea. He said to Brad, "Brad who is on the throne of your life this morning?" The tears began to roll down Brad's cheeks. Bill continued that Brad was understanding the point he was making, for he had learned the concept that Christ must be on the throne of one's life.

Bill repeated his question to Brad, "Who is on the throne of your life?"

Through tears Brad said, "The devil and me."

Bill asked, "Whom do you want on the throne of your life?"

Brad quickly answered, "Jesus."

So Bill said, "Let's pray."

And little Brad prayed, "Dear Jesus, forgive me for being disobedient and help me to like this egg."

Bill added, "God heard that prayer, and Brad enjoyed the egg; as a mater of fact, he ate it all. You see he had said that he did not like it before he had ever tasted it. We are a lot like that sometimes as adults aren't we?"

That evening when they had their evening prayers together, Bill asked Zachary, their oldest son, who had been on the throne of his life that day? He replied that Jesus had been. Then he asked Brad, their youngest, who was on the throne of his life that day?

Here was his reply, "Jesus." Then Brad added, "Except for breakfast."

What a simple truth, but in the fabric of life, it is what the Christian life is all about – the believer keeping Jesus Christ on the throne of his or her life. We do this by letting the Spirit of God continually fill or control our lives. It is matter of submitting to the Holy Spirit as we live each moment and each day for the Lord. It's not based upon our feeling but on the Word of God, just letting the Holy Spirit control what one thinks, says, and does to the glory of God.

Let's permit the Holy Spirit to control our lives this week, so that it will be evident that Jesus is on the throne of our lives in all our relationships.