

are full of sweet wine!" But Peter, taking his stand with the eleven, raised his voice and declared to them: "Men of Judea, and all you who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give heed to my words. For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only the third hour of the day; but this is what was spoken of through the prophet Joel: 'And it shall be in the last days, God says, That I will pour forth of my Spirit upon all mankind; And your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, And your young men shall see visions, And your old men shall dream dreams; Even upon my bondslaves, both men and women, I will in those days pour forth of My Spirit. And they shall prophesy.' "

Verse 15 shows Peter telling the multitude that the disciples are not drunk because it is only the third hour of the day. Rather, he says, the disciples have been filled by the Holy Spirit, whom God has poured out on them.

The idea of being under the influence of wine, as contrasted with being filled by the Holy Spirit, is found in both Ephesians 5:18 and Acts 2:15. Unless the contrast of filling with drunkenness in both places is purely coincidental, then the idea of filling appears to mean to be under the influence or control of the Holy Spirit rather than to be under the influence or control of wine.

Additional information for the formulation of a definition of filling would appear to come from scriptures that speak of the work of Satan and the demons in influencing and possessing people, as contrasted with the work of the Holy Spirit in influencing and possessing people.

It is true that in a general sense Satan energizes all unsaved human beings to do evil. Thus Ephesians 2:2 speaks of the 'spirit (Satan) now energizing in the sons of disobedience.'

But in a more specific sense Satan and the demons at various times influence, empower, and overpower human beings. Note the following scriptures:

Acts 5:3 -- "But Peter said, 'Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit, and to keep back some of the price of the land?'"

Luke 22:3 -- "And Satan entered into Judas who was called Iscariot, belonging to the number of the twelve."

Matthew 8:16 -- "And when evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed; and He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were ill."

Matthew 9:32-33 -- "And as they were going out, behold, a dumb man demon-possessed was brought to Him. And after the demon was cast out, the dumb man spoke; and the multitudes marvelled, saying, 'Nothing like this was ever seen in Israel.'"

Mark 1:32-34 -- "And when evening had come, after the sun had set, they began bringing to Him all who were ill and those who were demon possessed. And the whole city had gathered at the door. And He healed