

**A Worship Minute...**  
**by Vaughan Roberts**

**We should sing to encourage one another.....**

*“Be filled with the Spirit. Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs”*  
(Eph. 5:18-19).

Paul is not urging us to receive a one-off experience when he instructs us to *“be filled with the Spirit.”* The verb he uses is in the present continuous. A better translation is, *“keep on being filled with the Spirit.”* He follows that command with a string of participles, which are lost in our English translations, which spell out what it means in practice.

The original reads like this: *“Keep on being filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs; singing and making music in your heart to the Lord; always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.”* (vv.18-21). It is striking that three of those five participles are to do with singing. Spirit-filled Christians sing.

‘Speak’ does not mean that we are only to read the words; it includes singing. We tend to assume that our songs are addressed only to God, but Paul tells us that we are also to sing to ‘one another.’ Christians in the New Testament met together primarily to encourage one another, and we are to do that even as we sing.

In Colossians Paul writes: *“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God”* (Col. 3:16). Our singing should be one form of our ministry of God’s word to each other. We all need to be built up in our faith. That happens through sermons, Bible studies, conversations and also as we sing. Our songs should be one of the ways by which we are taught the truths of the Bible.