

# “What the World Needs is Christians Submitted and Filled with Holy Spirit”

Acts 2:1-24, 36-41

9-year-old Ellie Garcia, who is now in the presence of Jesus the Christ after her murder about a week before her 10<sup>th</sup> birthday, not long ago made a TikTok video where she said,  
“Hey, guys. I just wanted to give you a little catch-up. Jesus. He died for us. So, when we die, we’ll be up there with him. In my room, I have three pictures of him.” Now she sees her Savior face to face, as one day all who trust in Him will.

## Christians who are submitted and filled...

1. \_\_\_\_\_ their heart, soul, and mind to the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of the Heavenly Father.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Him through \_\_\_\_\_ prayer.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ the message of Jesus no matter how \_\_\_\_\_ they may appear to others.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ as they enjoy \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ with believers for the glory of God.

“Bethlehem was God \_\_\_\_\_ us; Calvary was God \_\_\_\_\_ us; and Pentecost is God \_\_\_\_\_ us.” (Robert Baer)

## “How a nine-year-old killed in Uvalde shared the gospel”

Dr. Jim Denison May 31, 2022

...In stark contrast to Ellie Garcia, a ten-year-old boy in Florida was arrested Saturday evening, May 28, for threatening in a text message to attempt a mass shooting. Detectives interviewed the boy and developed probable cause for his arrest. **In such troubled times, how can we raise more Ellie Garcias?...** As we will see today, we have a binary choice to make. The wrong choice imprisons us, while the right choice liberates us.

### Option one: “We belong to ourselves”

Alan Noble is one of the most perceptive evangelical cultural analysts in America. He has written for the *Atlantic*, *Vox*, *Christianity Today*, the *Gospel Coalition*, and *First Things*. His latest book, ***You Are Not Your Own: Belonging to God in an Inhuman World***, has received praise from Tim Keller,....

Noble views our root problem as “a particular understanding of what it means to be human: we are each our own, we belong to ourselves.” He quotes the influential claim of John Rawls that “freedom consists in pursuing our own conception of the good life while respecting the rights of others to do the same.”

**However, Noble warns that if “we belong to ourselves,” there can be no common good, only “billions of private goods.”** Since we have no objective means of validating ourselves with reference to objective truth or morality, we are constantly chasing the validation of others. Some have given up, according to Noble, choosing an “alternative space to pursue existential justification” through social media and video games. Some choose marijuana, psychiatric medications, or other drugs and substances. But the prevalence of “deaths of despair” (suicides, alcohol-related deaths, and drug overdoses) and the epidemic of depression driven by feelings of inadequacy illustrates the pain we cannot resolve through self-reliance.

### Option two: “You are not your own”

**Noble then pivots to the good news: you are not your own.** As Paul noted, “Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God” (1 Corinthians 6:19). As a result, “You are not your own, for you were bought with a price” (vv. 19–20).

**When we submit our lives to the One who made us and knows what is best for us, we experience a significance we can find nowhere else from no one else.** Jesus sets us free from bondage to sin and self, the constant quest to be enough and to do enough. There is now no image for us to maintain because we were made in the image of God. There is no identity for us to discover or create because our identity is found in Jesus’ love for us. **Noble notes that we are then free to live in light of God’s existence, goodness, and providence, trusting that he will make of us what is for his highest glory and our greatest good.** We serve others because we wish to serve them whether they serve us or not. We have no need to justify ourselves before others because we are justified by the God of the universe. We extend grace to others because we have received grace....

### The key to spiritual dynamite

Paul said of Jesus, “Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me” (Colossians 1:28–29). A saying often attributed to St. Ignatius or St. Augustine captures Paul’s testimony: “I will work as if everything depended on me; I will pray as if everything depended on God.” Said more briefly: as I work, God works.... Here’s the simple but transforming question: **To whom will you belong today?**