

Today we'll learn that both wisdom and the filling of the Holy Spirit are essential for knowing God's will and living a life in accordance with God's will.

1. Walk in Wisdom (5:15-17).

- a. Walk carefully – “See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,” (15).
  - i. God wants us to awake from spiritual lethargy (14) and “walk circumspectly” (carefully).
    1. Jesus warned His disciples to “take heed” lest they be deceived in the last days (Matthew 24:4).
    2. Paul reminds us that the days are evil so we must choose our steps carefully (5:16).
  - ii. Believers should be known for wise living – “not as fools, but as wise.”
    1. Paul prayed that God would give the Ephesians believers wisdom (1:17).
    2. God's wisdom stands in sharp contrast to worldly wisdom – “For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God” (1 Corinthians 3:19).
    3. True wisdom is rooted in the Word of God – “The wise men are ashamed, they are dismayed and taken: lo, they have rejected **the word of the LORD**; and what wisdom is in them” (Jeremiah 8:9).
    4. Christ is the ultimate expression of wisdom – “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly” (Col. 3:16).
    5. God's wisdom will change the way we interact with one another and the lost world around us – “Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time” (Colossians 4:5).
- b. Redeem the time – “Redeeming the time, because the days are evil” (16).
  - i. Believers must make the most every moment and learn not to waste time.
    1. “Redeem” is in the middle voice (redeem for yourselves) emphasizing our responsibility.
    2. Never before in history have Christians had to deal with so many distractions.
  - ii. Believers must remember we live in an evil day in which we must always take the fight to the enemy.
    1. 6:13 “Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”
    2. 6:18, 19 “Praying always...for all saints; And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel.”
- c. Discern the will of God – “Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is” (17).
  - i. The fool follows his own instincts: the fool is lazy (Proverbs 24:30), can't control his tongue (Proverbs 18:6-7), dishonest (Proverbs 6:12), quick-tempered (Proverbs 14:29), proud (Proverbs 13:16), hates knowledge (Proverbs 1:22), despises correction (Proverbs 15:5), and reckless (Proverbs 14:16).
  - ii. The wise seek to understand God's will and do it.
    1. The wise look to the Holy Spirit to give them wisdom and understanding (1:17).
    2. The wise learn how to wield the Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God, in everyday life (6:17).

2. Be Filled with the Spirit (18-21).

- a. Avoid drunkenness – “And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess” (18a)
  - i. Drunkenness was a major problem in Roman world, and was even practiced as a means to experience union with their pagan gods.
  - ii. Drunkenness is the antithesis of wisdom and Spirit-filling – “Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise” (Proverbs 20:1; cf. 23:29-34).
  - iii. Drunkenness is an excess, a waste, that hinders us from being filled with the Spirit.
    1. The alcohol distillation process had not yet been invented in Paul's day.
    2. If the Ephesians were to avoid drunkenness, then we must be even more careful.
  - iv. The kings and priests of Israel were forbidden to drink alcohol because it could cloud their judgment.

1. Proverbs 31:4-5 "It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes strong drink: Lest they drink, and forget the law, and pervert the judgment of any of the afflicted."
  2. Leviticus 10:9 "Do not drink wine nor strong drink, thou, nor thy sons with thee, when ye go into the tabernacle of the congregation, lest ye die: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations."
- v. Christians today should also abstain from alcohol or any other addictive substance.
1. Will it compete with the control of the Holy Spirit? Ephesians 5:18 "And be not drunk wherein is excess, but be filled with the Spirit."
  2. Is it addictive? 1 Corinthians 6:12 "All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any."
  3. Will it harm my body? 1 Corinthians 3:16-17 "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are."
  4. Will it harm the glory of God? 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 "What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit which are God's."
  5. Will it harm my testimony? Romans 14:1 "It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor anything whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak."
- b. Be filled with the Spirit – "But be filled with the Spirit" (18c).
- i. The Holy Spirit indwells every believer at the moment of salvation (1:13-14; 2 Cor. 5:5; 1 Thes. 4:8).
    1. 1 Corinthians 3:16 "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?"
  - ii. The Holy Spirit fills believers as they yield themselves to His control (Romans 6:13).
- c. We can experience the filling of the Spirit:
- i. By worshipping with the people of God (19-20).
    1. "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs" (20).
      - a. "Speaking to yourselves" – worship music is to be instructive.
      - b. "Psalms" refers to the 150 Psalms of the Old Testament.
      - c. "Hymns" are songs of praise to God.
      - d. "Spiritual songs" is singing under the control of the Holy Spirit.
    2. "Singing and making melody in your hearts to the Lord" (20).
      - a. All worship music should come from the heart.
      - b. All worship music should exalt Christ, the ultimate Audience.
    3. "Giving thanks always for all things unto the God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (20).
      - a. Constant gratitude to God for all He has done for us through Christ should be the defining characteristic of believers.
      - b. Believers have cause to give thanks in all circumstances of life (Phil. 4:4-6).
  - ii. By submitting our selves to one another (21).
    1. Mutual submission is not just the result of Spirit-filling; it is the prerequisite to receiving grace from the Holy Spirit.
    2. If you want to be filled with the Holy Spirit, humble yourself and serve others.
    3. Philippians 2:4-7 "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:"

#### Conclusion:

1. Show gratitude to God by making wise choices, avoiding evil, making the most of every moment, and seeking God's will for your life.
2. Show gratitude to God by avoiding anything that would compete with the filling of the Holy Spirit.
3. Show gratitude to God by participating in Spirit-filled worship with other believers.
4. Show gratitude to God by serving others as Christ has served you.