

*Be very careful, then, how you live--not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. Ephesians 5:15-21*

## **Be Filled**

**Watch your step. Be very careful how you walk.** Why is that? **The times that you live in are filled with evil. You must be wise about how you live. I want you to make the most of your time.** How will I do that? **You can know my will by meeting with me in my word as you have been doing. I will show you my will and my ways as you study and pray through my word. The truth that is in my word will set you free so that you can serve me and bear fruit for my glory. I will show you the next steps that I want you to take in life. I will guide you to where I want you to go. I will give you all that you will need to follow and serve me.** That's exactly what I want and desire above all else.

**Make sure that you think and act wisely.** What do you have in mind when you say that to me? **Don't waste and misuse your time.** What do you consider to be time wasters? **I'd like you to answer that question for me.** I know that I have wasted a lot of time when I have relied on my own wisdom, strength or guidance. I have gone off in the wrong direction to try to do what I was not called or gifted to do. **Yes, you have. How did that feel to you?** I felt very frustrated, discouraged and weary. I also felt weak and alone in all my efforts. **But, you made a very important discovery didn't you?** Yes, I did. **Tell me about it.** I learned that it is very unwise for me to try to take charge and be in control of my own life. **Yes, it is. Who then should be in control of your life?** You are the one that I want to be in control of my life. I want to be filled with your Holy Spirit. I can't live the life you want me to live unless I am filled with your Spirit.

**What do you mean by that?** If I'm not filled with your Holy Spirit I don't feel like singing at all. **Why is that?** I'm too tired and worn out because of all my self-effort. Who wants to sing because they can hardly breath? If I'm not filled with your Holy Spirit I don't feel very thankful either. **Why is that?** Instead of being thankful for all the great things that you have done through me, I'm more likely to be proud of my small and pathetic accomplishments. Oh and this very same self-centered pride makes it very difficult for me to be submissive to others in any way. **So, what are you asking of me?** I'm asking you to fill me with your Holy Spirit so that I can wisely live the life that you have called me to live for you. **Do you believe that I will hear and answer your prayer?** I know that you have been answering and will continue to answer my prayer. **Yes, you are right about that.**

*Lord, help me to live and walk carefully in this world so that I am making the most of every opportunity that you give to me. Fill me Holy Spirit so I will be able to encourage others and give thanks to God for all that I have been given. Amen*

**Spiritual Warfare***The Lord's Will*

Be very careful, then, how you live--not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

NIV

Ephesians 5:15-21

**Spiritual Warfare** *The Lord Wants You To Do*

So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do. Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, and making music to the Lord in your hearts. And give thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

NLT

Ephesians 5:15-21

**Spiritual Warfare** *The Will Of The Lord*

Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

NRSV

Ephesians 5:15-21

**Spiritual Warfare** *The Will Of The Lord*

Look carefully then how you walk! Live purposefully and worthily and accurately, not as the unwise and witless, but as wise (sensible, intelligent people), Making the very most of the time [buying up each opportunity], because the days are evil. Therefore do not be vague and thoughtless and foolish, but understanding and firmly grasping what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but ever be filled and stimulated with the [Holy] Spirit. Speak out to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, offering praise with voices [and instruments] and making melody with all your heart to the Lord, At all times and for everything giving thanks in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God the Father. Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One).

AMP

Ephesians 5:15-21

**Spiritual Warfare** *The Will Of The Lord*

Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil. So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father; and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.

NASB

Ephesians 5:15-21

**Spiritual Warfare***The Will Of The Lord*

Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

ESV

Ephesians 5:15-21

**Spiritual Warfare** *The Will Of The Lord*

See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another in the fear of God.

NKJV

Ephesians 5:15-21

**Spiritual Warfare** *What The Master Wants*

Wake up from your sleep, Climb out of your coffins; Christ will show you the light! So watch your step. Use your head. Make the most of every chance you get. These are desperate times! Don't live carelessly, unthinkingly. Make sure you understand what the Master wants. Don't drink too much wine. That cheapens your life. Drink the Spirit of God, huge draughts of him. Sing hymns instead of drinking songs! Sing songs from your heart to Christ. Sing praises over everything, any excuse for a song to God the Father in the name of our Master, Jesus Christ.

MSG

Ephesians 5:15-21

**Spiritual Warfare** *Whatever The Lord Wants*

So be careful how you act; these are difficult days. Don't be fools; be wise: make the most of every opportunity you have for doing good. Don't act thoughtlessly, but try to find out and do whatever the Lord wants you to. Don't drink too much wine, for many evils lie along that path; be filled instead with the Holy Spirit and controlled by him. Talk with each other much about the Lord, quoting psalms and hymns and singing sacred songs, making music in your hearts to the Lord. Always give thanks for everything to our God and Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Honor Christ by submitting to each other.

TLB

Ephesians 5:15-21

**Spiritual Warfare** *What The Lord Wants*

So be very careful how you live. Do not live like those who are not wise, but live wisely. Use every chance you have for doing good, because these are evil times. So do not be foolish but learn what the Lord wants you to do. Do not be drunk with wine, which will ruin you, but be filled with the Spirit. Speak to each other with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making music in your hearts to the Lord. Always give thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

NCV

Ephesians 5:15-21

# The Lord's Will

Year \_\_\_\_\_ Week \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Spiritual Warfare** – Ephesians 5:15-21

**In Context:** *Read Ephesians 5*

**Begin With Prayer:**

***Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.***

**Meditating On God's Word:** ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

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**Considering The Words:** ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

Be very careful, | then, | how you live | --not as unwise | but as wise, | making the most | of every | opportunity, | because | the days | are evil. | Therefore do not | be foolish, | but understand | what the | Lord's will is. | Do not | get drunk | on wine, | which leads | to debauchery. | Instead, | be filled with | the Spirit. | Speak to | one another | with psalms, | hymns | and | spiritual songs. | Sing | and make music | in your heart | to the Lord, | always | giving thanks | to God | the Father | for everything, | in the name | of our Lord | Jesus Christ. | Submit to | one another | out of | reverence for Christ. Ephesians 5:15-21

**Praying The Scripture:** ***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Lord, help me to live and walk carefully in this world so that I am making the most of every opportunity that you give to me. Fill me Holy Spirit so I will be able to encourage others and give thanks to God for all that I have been given. Amen

**What It Means:** ***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

**How are you being very careful about how you live and walk through life with Jesus Christ?**

**How are you making the best use of your time and every opportunity to serve Jesus Christ?**

Why is it so important to make the most of every opportunity that Christ gives to you?

How are you seriously trying to know God's will and how He wants you to live your life for Him?

**How has the Holy Spirit helped you to live the life that God has for you?**

How has the Holy Spirit filled you with joy so that you can encourage others and give thanks to God?

What thanks would you like to give to your Heavenly Father for all that He has done for you?

**Living It Out:** ***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Be careful how you live and walk in this world for Christ so you will make the most of every opportunity He gives you.

**Seeing It Happen:** ***(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)***

Have faith that the Holy Spirit will help you to live the life that your Heavenly Father has given you to live for Him.

**Get Ready To Share:** ***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group what thanks you would like to offer to God for all he has done for you.

**Close With Prayer:**

***Quiet Yourself Before The Lord***

*Pause And Offer Prayers Of...*

*With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You*

Adoration... \_\_\_\_\_

Thanksgiving... \_\_\_\_\_

Confession... \_\_\_\_\_

Intercession... \_\_\_\_\_

Petition... \_\_\_\_\_

