

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. Ephesians 5:15-20 (NIV)

Making The Most

That's exactly what I want to do. **What's that?** I want to make the most of every opportunity. I don't want to waste time. I don't want to misspend my life. I don't want to go where I should not have gone. I don't want to do what I should not have done. I want my life to have been well used by you. At the end of my life I will want to know with certainty that I have known and done your will. Anything less than that will have been a waste of time and a misspending of my life. **It is very good that you have this desire in your heart. Where do you think this desire has come from?** This desire certainly did not originate with me. This desire has come from you. You want me to well use my life in your service. **That's true.** You have caused this desire to burn hotly in my heart. **That's right. Do you believe that I am both the giver and granter of the desires of your heart?** Yes, I do. I believe that you will grant whatever desire you have placed in my heart. You would not give me a desire that you would not fulfill. **No, I would not.**

So, you have nothing to worry about? I would not say that. **Why not?** The world is an alluring place. My heart and mind and life are continually being bombarded by the thoughts, and opinions and values of the world. It is not difficult to get off track. It is easy to take missteps and head the wrong direction. I need to be vigilant. I need to be watchful. I need to be on guard. I must be reliant on you and not on myself. I must rely on your power and strength. I must ask for your wisdom. I must follow your direction. I must let you guard and guide my life. On my own, I cannot know and do your will. On my own I cannot well spend my life in your service. **No, you cannot.** So, every day I will ask you to fill me with your Spirit so that I can know and do your will. **That will be very good. Then you will have nothing to worry about as you love, follow and serve me. Then you will make the most of every opportunity. Then you will have well spent your life by knowing and doing my will.** Thank you Lord.

Holy Spirit, fill me afresh and fully so that I will be able to know and do the Lord's will. Give me your power. Guide the work of my hands. Make full use of my life for the glory and kingdom of God. I will rely on you and not myself. Amen

Identity*Filled With The Spirit*

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.

NIV

Ephesians 5:15-20

Identity*Filled With The Holy Spirit*

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 5:15-20

Identity*Filled With The Spirit*

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 5:15-20

Identity*Filled And Stimulated With The Spirit*

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.

AMP

Ephesians 5:15-20

Identity*Filled With The Spirit*

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;

NASB

Ephesians 5:15-20

Identity*Filled With The Spirit*

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,

ESV

Ephesians 5:15-20

Identity*Filled With The Spirit*

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,

NKJV

Ephesians 5:15-20

Identity*Drink The Spirit Of God*

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 5:15-20

Identity*Filled Instead With The Spirit*

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.

TLB

Ephesians 5:15-20

Identity*Filled With The Spirit*

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 5:15-20

Filled With The Spirit

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

Identity – Ephesians 5:15-20

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. Ephesians 5:15-20 (NIV)

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

Holy Spirit, fill me afresh and fully so that I will be able to know and do the Lord's will. Give me your power. Guide the work of my hands. Make full use of my life for the glory and kingdom of God. I will rely on you and not myself. Amen

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

What convinces you that you cannot know and do God's will in your own wisdom and strength?

When have you relied on your own understanding and mistook that for God's will?

When have you attempted to accomplish God's will with your own power and failed miserably?

What gives you a sense of urgency to want to know and do God's will?

How determined are you to let the Holy Spirit fill you so that you can know and do God's will?

How do you allow the Holy Spirit to fill you on a day-by-day, moment-by-moment basis?

When has the Holy Spirit helped you to know and do God's will with His power?

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

Let the Holy Spirit fill you as you rely on Him to help you to know and do God's will.

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

Have faith that the Holy Spirit will help you to know God and do His will.

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

Share with another person or your small group how the Holy Spirit has helped you to know and do God's will.

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... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May you be filled with the Holy Spirit so you can know and do God's will.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Holy Spirit, fill me so I will be able to know and do God's will today.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Holy Spirit, how will you help me to know and do God's will today?
