

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 (NIV)

Filled With The Spirit

Do you want to live and walk wisely in this world? Do you want to shine brightly for me in the darkness that surrounds you? Do you want to be able to think and speak and act wisely so you can be a bold and bright witness for me? Yes Lord, I want all these things to be true of the life that I am living with and for you. How can I live and walk wisely? How can I shine brightly? How can I be a bold and bright witness for you in the darkness of this world? How can I make the most of every opportunity to serve you? **By your questions and by my questions you should know something to be true.** What is that? What should I know to be true? **You tell me.** I will try. **I'm listening.** Thinking and speaking and acting wisely does not come naturally to me. Just the opposite is often true. I naturally think and speak and act foolishly. So, under my own power, with my own ability, left to my own efforts I have little, probably no hope, of living wisely as your bold and bright witness in the world. **It is wise of you to know this to be true.** That sounds like a start to me. **It is a great start. It is the best and only place to begin. You are acknowledging that you need my help to think and speak and act wisely.** Yes, I am. **That is very good.**

How do you think I will make you able to think and speak and act wisely? You will fill me with your Holy Spirit. Your Holy Spirit will give me wise thoughts to think, wise words to speak, and wise actions to take. **Yes, that is true. How will you know if you are allowing my Holy Spirit to work in and through you? What kind of thoughts and words and actions do you think will be flowing out of your life as my Holy Spirit works in and through you?** I will want to serve you and others. Life will not revolve around me. I will encourage and spur others on. I will help and lift others up. My life will be overflowing with peace and joy. My heart will be filled with praise. I will give thanks to you for how you are working in and through me to make me a light for you in the darkness of this world. **Yes, all these will be true of you as you allow me to fill you with you with my Spirit.** I welcome that, fill me up, use me in your service. **Yes, I am and yes, I will continue to fill you with my Spirit.** Thank you, Lord.

Lord, I know that life does not revolve around me. Life is not all about me. I am not the center of the universe. I am not the focus of everyone's attention. Help me to be filled with your Holy Spirit. Help me to think and speak and act wisely as I serve others. Amen

Promises*How You Live*

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

Promises*How You Live*

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. And further, submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

NLT

Ephesians 5:15-21

Promises*How You Live*

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. Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ.

NRSV

Ephesians 5:15-21

Promises*How You Walk*

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

Promises*How You Walk*

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

Promises*How You Walk*

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

Promises*That You Walk Circumspectly*

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

Promises*Watch Your Step*

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. Out of respect for Christ, be courteously reverent to one another.

MSG

Ephesians 5:15-21

Promises*How You Act*

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

Promises*How You Live*

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. Yield to obey each other because you respect Christ.

NCV

Ephesians 5:15-21

How You Live

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

Promises – 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?)***

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

Lord, I know that life does not revolve around me. Life is not all about me. I am not the center of the universe. I am not the focus of everyone’s attention. Help me to be filled with your Holy Spirit. Help me to think and speak and act wisely as I serve others. Amen

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

Why do you need the Holy Spirit’s help to live and walk wisely in the world?

Why would it be foolish to try to live and walk wisely in the world under your own power?

How are you being careful to allow the Holy Spirit to help you to think, speak and act wisely in the world?

How is the Holy Spirit giving you opportunities to think and speak and act wisely in the world?

How are you allowing Holy Spirit filling your life with peace and praise and joy and gratitude?

How are you expressing your thankfulness to God for all he has done and is doing for you?

What are you doing for others because of your reverence for Christ?

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

Allow the Holy Spirit to help you to live and walk wisely in the world.

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

Have faith that the Holy Spirit will help you to live and walk wisely in the world.

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 is helping you to live and walk wisely in the world.

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 Spirit so you can live and walk wisely in the world.

Prayer To Carry

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

Lord, fill me with your Spirit so I can live and walk wisely in the world.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Lord, how will your Spirit help me to live and walk wisely in the world today?
