



June 5, 2016
Elevation | 11:00 am
Pastor Eric Wakeling

Make the Most of Every Opportunity Ephesians 5:15-21

Premise (Ephesians 5:15-16):

- The days are evil so be wise and make the most of every opportunity.
- Be careful then how you live. περιπατέω (peripateō) to walk (around); to live, conduct one's life. How do I live this way?

Do not be foolish, but understand God's will. Ephesians 5:17

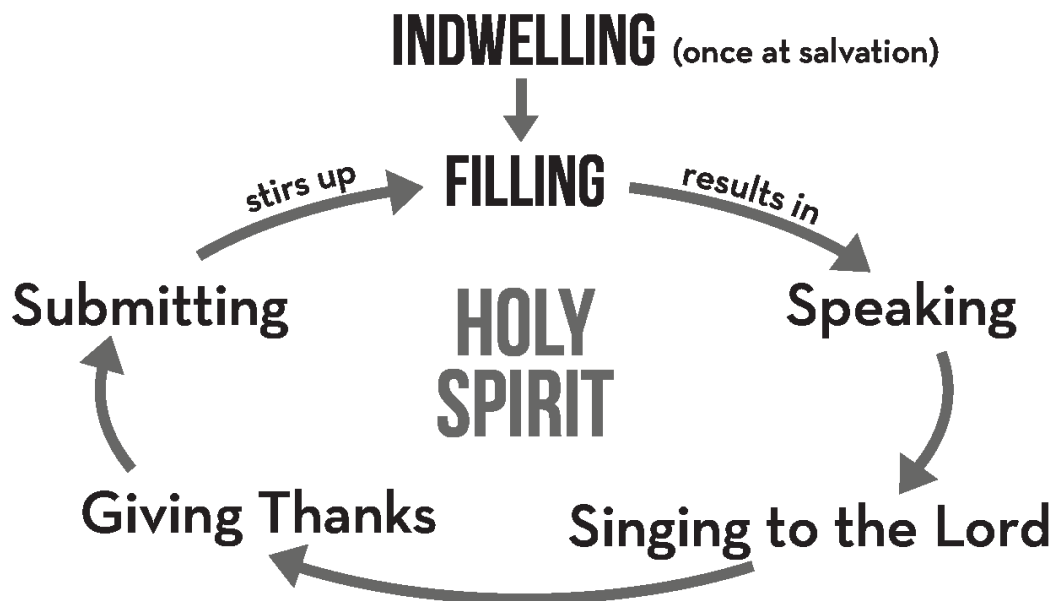
"So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is."

- It is wise to make the most of our time. It would be foolishness to do otherwise.
- We learn here that it is also foolishness to misunderstand the will of God.
 - Wisdom and folly – Proverbs 4:10-14; 9; 10:8, 14. Psalm 1
 - God's will is often understood to refer to personal guidance and God's plans for our immediate future. The divine will in Paul's writings has a different focus without completely neglecting the personal dimension. The will of God is basically God's gracious saving plan and the formation of a people into the likeness of Christ. Any personal guidance must first be understood within God's gracious saving purposes for the world and for God's kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven.
 - What is the will of God according to the Scriptures? John 6:40. Matthew 6:9-15 – The Lord's Prayer. Ephesians 1:5-9.

Don't be filled with anything other than the Holy Spirit. Ephesians 5:18

"And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit."

- Dissipation - ἀσωτία (asōtia) debauchery, dissipation, wildness
- References to the Spirit in Ephesians prior to this passage – 1:3, 13-14, 17; 2:18, 22; 3:16; 4:30
- Indwelling of the Spirit vs. Filling of the Spirit
 - Ephesians 1:13 – *"having also believed you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise."*
 - 1 Corinthians 12:13 – *"For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit."*



Four results of being filled with the Spirit, which are also ways to be filled with the Spirit.
Ephesians 5:19-21

- **Speaking to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs (v.19a)**
 - Colossians 3:16 *“Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”*
 - Express godly words to one another:
 - Psalms (Psalm 115; 116)
 - Hymns (1 Timothy 3:16; Ephesians 5:14) – sacred hymns they used
 - Spiritual songs (Exodus 15; Luke 1:46-55) – words of praise to others for what God has done
 - For more on psalms, hymns and spiritual songs biblically, visit online: goo.gl/wzHwb9 (not an endorsement of the whole website)
- **Singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord (v.19b)**
- **Giving thanks – always, for all things, in the name of Jesus, to God (v.20)**
- **Submitting to one another in the fear of Christ (v.21)**

Next Steps

1. Take the Make the Most of Every Opportunity card and place it in a prominent location in your life to help you remember. Maybe even get a frame for it and keep it in your home to remind you to use your time wisely.
2. Set time aside this week to practice speaking good words to someone, singing with your heart to the Lord, giving thanks and submitting. Spend time in prayer asking for the Holy Spirit to fill your life with power.

LifeGroup Discussion:

1. How have you understood God's will and how do you understand it now after hearing this message?
2. What are your thoughts on being filled with the Spirit and the circle chart listed above? Has this been your experience? How do you think this can become more of your experience?
3. What are a couple things you can do to make the most of every opportunity?