

Surrendering Your Time to Jesus

Pay careful attention, then, to how you walk—not as unwise people but as wise—making the most of the time, because the days are evil. Ephesians 5:15–16

Text: Ephesians 5:15-21

South Orlando Baptist Church

Topics: Holy Spirit, Will of God

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Series: I Surrender All

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As You Surrender Your Time to Jesus...

1. _____ forward in wisdom (vs. 5:15)
 - A. An unwise person lives apart from God and against His commands.
 - B. Prayer, the Word of God, and the work of the Holy Spirit all help to find and use wisdom.

2. _____ the Day (vs. 5:16)
 - A. This phrase, “make the best use of time,” translates the Greek *exagorazō*, which can also mean “redeem” or “purchase.” Christians must actively take advantage of the opportunity to do good (Ps. 90:12). (ESV Study Bible)
 - B. Life is very short and because of its preciousness should not be wasted. (See Psalm 39:4–5; 89:46–47; James 4:14, 17).

3. _____ the will of God (vs. 5:17)
 - A. The will of God is revealed in His Word.
 - B. God’s Word helps us to learn what is pleasing to God (Ephesians 5:9-10).

4. _____ to the Holy Spirit (vs. 5:18-21)
 - A. Paul is “giving a command for believers to live continually under the influence of the Spirit by letting the word control them, pursuing pure lives, confessing all known sin, dying to self, surrendering to God’s will, and depending on his power in all things. Being filled with the Spirit is living in the conscious presence of the Lord Jesus Christ, letting his mind, through the word, dominate everything that is thought and done.” (Dr. John MacArthur)
 - B. The command in Greek (*plērousthe*) is a present imperative and does not describe a onetime “filling” but a regular pattern of life. (ESV Study Bible)

Questions for Application

1. How should Spirit-controlled believers relate to one another? (5:21)
2. What evidence do you see that your life is controlled by the Holy Spirit?
3. Often we equate wisdom with intelligence. What characterizes wise people according to Ephesians . 5:15-17? How can you live more wisely then?
4. Ephesians 5:19-21 looks like four separate commands in English. In Greek, however, they are actually linked grammatically to Ephesians 5:18 and describe several beneficial results of being filled with the Spirit. In your own words, explain the characteristics of those who are filled with the Spirit.
5. Do these results occur automatically when we are filled with the Spirit or must we also treat them as commands to be followed? Explain.
6. According to Paul's definition of filling, in what area do you most need to be filled with the Spirit?

How to Be Filled With the Holy Spirit Advice from Christian Leaders:

Charles Ryrie: Yield

Herschel Hobbs: 1. Avail Yourself 2. Submit

C. Sumner Wemp: "PAY" - 1. Present yourself 2. Ask 3. Yield.

Wayne Grudem: 1. Yield your life fully to God. 2. Depend fully on God for power to live the Christian life. 3. Obey the Lord's Commands in your life.

A. W. Tozer: 1. Present your body to Him (Rom. 12:1-2) 2. Ask (Luke 11:9-11) 3. Be ready to obey (Acts 5:32) 4. Have faith (Galatians 5:2)

Bill Bright: 1. Sincerely desire to be directed and empowered by he Holy Spirit (Matthew 5:6; John 7:37-39) 2. Confess your sins (Colossians 2:13-15; 1 John 1; 2:1-3) 3. Present every area of your life to God (Romans 12:1-2) 4. By faith, claim the fullness of the Holy Spirit according to: A) His Command: Be filled with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18) and B) His Promise: He will always answer when we pray according to His will (1 John 5:14-15). 5. Pray in faith to be filled with the Holy Spirit.