



*Behave
Responsibly*

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21
again

Ephesians 5:17-20

pg. 1176

**“Therefore do not be foolish, but understand
what the Lord’s will is.”**

Ephesians 5:17

The will of God is for us all to trust Jesus (John 6:29, 40). Yet, trusting Jesus with my life doesn't necessarily help me seize an opportunity.

“We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives.”

Colossians 1:9

“Usually when Christians speak of discerning the will of the Lord, they have in mind God’s will regarding major decisions about a spouse or a career. This is not what the text is about. The text is more concerned about God’s intent for the way we live every day, about what is pleasing to him. Perhaps we would not have so much trouble in finding God’s will for important decisions if we were more accustomed to discerning his will throughout life.”

Snodgrass, K., Ephesians (p. 308)

You know there's a special assignment for you if you are a virgin and God tells you you're pregnant. You are eighty-six, your husband is ninety-nine (Gen 17) and you discover you are pregnant. Your kids are riding a donkey at the beach and the thing starts talking to you. You are riding your horse in the country and a blinding light speaks to you and knocks you on your butt. You are cruising around the Mediterranean, fall in the water and get swallowed by a giant fish.

“Be very careful, then, how you live – not as unwise but as wise...Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is.”

Ephesians 5:15 & 17

“Do not get drunk on wine which leads to debauchery. Instead be filled with the Spirit.”

Ephesians 5:18

Filling of the Spirit

1:23: Christ is the fullness of God who fills everything in every way

3:19: Christians can know the God's love and be filled to the fullest measure of God.

4:10: Christ went up for the fullness to come down.

4:13: Christians are to attain to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

When we allow the Holy Spirit to fill us:

- 1. *We speak differently* (verse 19a; Col. 3:16-17)**
- 2. *We live a lifestyle of worship* (verse 19b)**
- 3. *We become more thankful to God for what we have* (verse 20)**
- 4. *And finally, we submit to one another* (verse 21).**

**“Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit,
said to them...”**

Acts 4:8

“After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.”

Acts 4:31

Four Commands of the Spirit

Two *Positive* commands:

1. Be filled with the Spirit (Eph. 5:18)

2. Walk by means of the Spirit (Gal. 5:16)

Why be filled and walk by the Spirit?

- 1. God's Word commands it (Eph. 5:18; Gal. 5:16).**
- 2. There is no fruit without it (Rom. 7:15-18; 8:3).**
- 3. We cannot please God (Rom. 8:5-8; Jer. 17:5).**
- 4. We neither grow (Jn. 14:17) nor know (Rom. 8:6)**
- 5. We cannot live and minister in power (Eph. 6:10-18).**

Four Commands of the Spirit

Two *Negative* Commands:

1. Do not grieve the Holy Spirit (Eph. 4:30)

2. Do not quench the Holy Spirit (1 Thess. 5:19)

We grieve the Spirit when we:

- 1. Doubt Him**
- 2. Refuse to surrender ourselves to Him**
- 3. Fail to listen to His voice (Isaiah 48:18; Ps. 78:10)**
- 4. Have a divided heart (James 4:4-5)**
- 5. Neglect, pervert, or dishonor God's Word**
- 6. Ignore Him**
- 7. Are bitter towards another person (Eph 4:29-32)**

Five Consequences

- 1. Loss of Fellowship with God (cf. 1 John 1:5-7).**
- 2. Divine Discipline (Heb. 12:5-11; Psalm 32:4; 1).**
- 3. Loss of Testimony (1 Pet. 2:12-17; 3:15-17; 4:15-16).**
- 4. Loss of Rewards (1 Cor. 3:12-15; 2 Cor. 5:10).**
- 5. Loss of Fellowship with Believers (2 Thess. 3:6-15; 1 Cor. 5; Matt. 18:17).**