

What are the biggest hindrances to keeping your eyes open to see these opportunities?

4. How often do you pause to pray about what the will of the Lord is in any given situation?

Do you believe that His will is clearly made known to those who are walking in disobedience to what is clearly revealed in His Word? Why, or why not?

5. How has a relationship in the body of Christ helped you to discern God's will in your life?

6. Take time in your group to give thanks for some specific direction God has or is giving you.

I. A. Time, will.
III. A. Ongoing.
III. B. Worship, thanksgiving.



Lesson 20: Walking in Wisdom

Pastor Scott Nelson | Ephesians 5:15-20 | May 16-17, 2009

How would Paul respond to the motto, “Life is short, play hard”? He would probably say, “Life is full of opportunities, live wisely!” At least this is what he seems to be saying in Ephesians 5:15-20. As followers of Jesus, you and I have incredible opportunities to live with our eyes open wide, our ears tuned to heaven, and our hearts filled with thanksgiving. Rather than just reacting to life as it comes at us, you and I must learn how to redeem or buy up the time (make the most of our opportunities to build the kingdom), learn what the will of the Lord is, and be filled with the Spirit. This is how the Word of God defines success and—despite what you may read in “How to” books, and what you hear from motivational speakers, or what some televangelists teach on prosperity—this is the only kind of life that will make a difference for eternity.

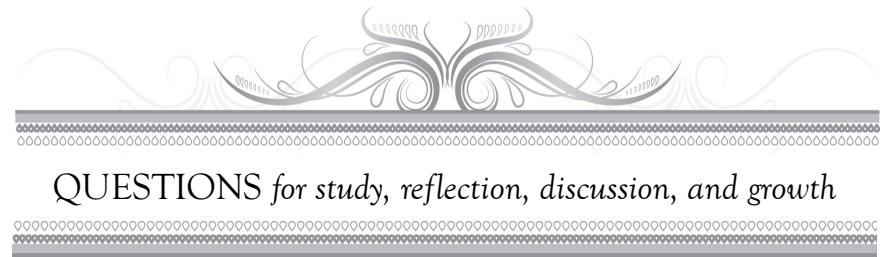
Question: What does it mean to walk in wisdom?

Answer: Walking in wisdom means that I live life with my eyes open wide!

- I. If I am walking in wisdom, I am redeeming the time (Ephesians 5:16).

- A. My days are numbered (Psalm 90:12; 39:4-5).

I have all the _____ there is to do God's _____.



QUESTIONS *for study, reflection, discussion, and growth*

- B. My purpose is before me (John 9:4 and Luke 4:43).

- II. If I am walking in wisdom, I am understanding what the will of the Lord is (Ephesians 5:17).
 - A. I am keenly aware that He has a plan for me.
 - B. I am constantly discerning His will through His Word and through the leading of His Holy Spirit.

- III. If I am walking in wisdom, I am filled with His Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18ff.)
 - A. This filling of God's Spirit is to be _____.

"With the indwelling [the gift of the Spirit at salvation] each Christian has all of the Spirit, but the command to be filled by the Spirit enables the Spirit to have all of the believer. The wise walk, therefore, is one that is characterized by the Holy Spirit's control." Harold W. Hoehner
 - B. This filling of the Spirit is to be characterized by a heart of _____ and _____ (Ephesians 5:19-20).

Notes:

- 1. Read Ephesians 5:15-20, Proverbs 1-3, Colossians 4:5-6, Philippians 1:9-10.
- 2. If next week were to be the last week of your life here on earth, what would be your top three priorities?

Would you live this week differently than you are currently living? If so, in what ways?

- 3. What practical steps do you need to take to make the most of your opportunities for building the kingdom of God?