

**Devotional Guide**  
**Walk Wisely**  
**Ephesians 5:15 – 21**

**Monday**

Ephesians 5:15

In Ephesians 5:15 - 21 we are exhorted as Christians to walk as wise, and we are instructed what that means. Walking wisely requires first of all that we look carefully how we walk. The Greek word translated as “carefully” includes the meaning of “exactly,” “more accurately,” “with more thorough investigation”.

*Think About It:* There are many questions recorded in Scripture that God has asked of people that can help us to examine our walk. For example: 1. Gen. 3:9 "Where are you?" God knew where Adam was; He asked this question of Adam so that Adam would think about where he was, and why he was hiding! Where are you, and why? 2. Genesis 4:9 "Where is Abel your brother?" Where are you in relationship to your brother? Have you sinned against your brother in any way? Are you in fellowship with your brother? 3. Genesis 16:8 "Hagar, servant of Sarai, where have you come from and where are you going?" 4. I Kings 19:9 "What are you doing here, Elijah?" Why are you emotionally and spiritually exhausted? Why have you run away from the battle? Why do you want to give up on life? Why do you feel so all alone? 5. Malachi 1:6 "Where is the honor due to Me?" Are you honoring God in your life? Are you giving your best to God? 6. Matthew 26:40 "Could you not watch with Me one hour?" Are you giving God time in your prayers and meditations? 7. John 20:15 "Whom do you seek?" What does your heart long for? Do you desire God's company? Do you want to see Jesus? Do you really believe He lives?

*Prayer:* Lord, grant me insight to carefully examine my spiritual walk.

**Tuesday**

Ephesians 5:16; Colossians 4:5; Ecclesiastes 12:1

Walking wisely requires that we “make the best use of time” – that we redeem the time. The Greek word translated “make the best use of” or “redeem” also means “to buy up, to rescue from loss.”

*Think About It:* Why must time be “bought up” and “rescued from loss”? What happens to my time if I don’t redeem it? How can I rescue my time from being lost? Do I waste a lot of time? How could I better spend my time?

*Prayer:* Lord please help me to make the best use of time.

**Wednesday**

Ephesians 5:17; Romans 12:1 – 2; 2 Corinthians 5:17; James 4:4; 1 Peter 4:4; 1 John 2:15; Matthew 6:24  
The walk in wisdom is concerned with understanding what the Lord’s will is. Romans 12:1 – 2 explains what is required to understand the Lord’s will. First of all, if we are to understand God’s will, we must our bodies as a living sacrifice; we must be fully committed to God through faith in Christ. We must not be conformed to this world; we cannot be a friend of this world and a friend of God at the same time.

*Think About It:* Why is a total commitment to Christ a requirement of understanding God’s will? What are some of the symptoms of conformity to this world? Am I a conformist to this world? What forces must I overcome in order to be a “non-conformist” to this world?

*Prayer:* Lord, help me to love only You, and not the things of this world.

**Thursday**

Romans 12:2; 1 Corinthians 2:12, 16; Ephesians 5:26; Colossians 3:16; 2 Corinthians 10:5

Walking wisely requires that we understand the will of God, which requires not only that we offer ourselves to God and not be conformed to this world, but that we be transformed by the renewal of our mind. The Greek word for transformed comes into English as “metamorphosis” -- a complete transformation, which begins with the new creation in Christ, and is empowered by the indwelling Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:12, 16); and proceeds with “the washing of water with the word” (Ephesians 5:26) – the ministry of the Word of God; letting the word of Christ dwell in us richly (Colossians 3:16) and taking every thought captive to obey Christ (2 Corinthians 10:5).

*Think About It:* The mind that is being transformed and conformed to Christ is in a position to “by testing discern what is the will of God” – that is, by analyzing, examining, and testing everything in the light of the Word of God in the power of the Holy Spirit, we are able to discern the will of God, what is “good, acceptable, and perfect” (which could also be translated, “what is good, well-pleasing, and complete regarding the will of God”). Do I analyze, examine, and test things in light of God’s Word and the power of the Spirit in order to determine the will of God? Where do I need help in discerning God’s will in my life right now?

*Prayer:* Lord, grant me insight into what is good, acceptable, and perfect.

### **Friday**

Ephesians 5:18; Acts 13:52; Romans 13:13

The walk in wisdom is not a walk of intoxication with wine, which is debauchery (wastefulness, dissipation, unsavedness) but one that is filled with the Spirit of God. “Filling” carries the sense of fullness, of being made complete. We are not, in contrast to drunkenness, “intoxicated” with the Spirit; we are, in contrast to those who are dissipated and unsaved, saved and made complete by the Spirit.

*Think About It:* What does Scripture have to say about drunkenness? Are there other kinds of “intoxication” that can be characterized as debauchery, besides intoxication with alcohol? Why is debauchery incompatible with walking in wisdom?

*Prayer:* Lord, may those who seek to fill their empty lives with dissipation see a better way in me, because I am filled with your Spirit.

### **Saturday**

Ephesians 5:19; Acts 16:25; James 5:13; Ephesians 5:14

The walk in wisdom has a characteristic way of interacting with others. In Ephesians 5:19 that interaction is said to involve addressing others in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in our hearts to the Lord. “Psalms” refer to the Old Testament psalms; hymns to songs of praise to God (e.g. Acts 16:25); and spiritual songs that may include, besides praise to God, rejoicing, testimony, and exhortation (Ephesians 5:14 is probably a verse of a spiritual song).

*Think About It:* While of course walking wisely in Christ involves corporate worship in which we literally sing, what does the exhortation of Ephesians 5:19 tell me my conversation with others should be like?

*Prayer:* Lord, help my conversation to be seasoned with praise, rejoicing, thanksgiving, godly exhortation, and testimony.

### **Sunday**

Ephesians 5:20 – 21; Colossians 1:12, 3:17; 4:2; 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Walking as wise must be characterized by giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and by submitting to one another, out of reverence for Christ. The submission aspect of the Christian walk is so important that Paul expands on it at length in the next section of his letter.

*Think About It:* Do I give thanks to God always, and for everything? What percentage of my conversation and my thinking is given over to thanking God, in contrast to complaining and criticizing?

*Prayer:* Lord help me to be thankful, always and for everything.