

Intentionality: Strategic Living

PASTOR MIKE YODER • EPHESIANS 5:15–21



Be very careful, then, how you live — not as unwise but as wise,

Ephesians 5:15

making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.

Ephesians 5:16

Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.

Ephesians 5:17

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

Ephesians 5:18

speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord,

Ephesians 5:19

always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Ephesians 5:21

Wise Living (5:15,16)



Insightful Living (5:17)



We shall not find His *particular* will in Scripture. To be sure, we shall find general principles in Scripture to guide us,

but detailed decisions have to be made after careful thought, prayer, and the seeking of advice from mature and experienced believers.

Expressive Living (5:18–21)



On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to Me and drink.

Whoever believes in Me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.”

By this He meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in Me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from Me you can do nothing.”

John 15:5

Whereas excessive alcohol leads to unrestrained and irrational license, transforming the drunkard into an animal, the fullness of the Spirit leads to restrained and rational moral behavior, transforming the Christian into the image of Christ.

John Stott

Under the influence of the Holy Spirit we do not lose control; we gain it.

John Stott

The issue we always have to deal with is not how much of the Holy Spirit we have, because we have all of Him. The issue is how much He has of us.

Tony Evans

To be filled with the Spirit means to allow Jesus to have the fullest control in our lives that we are conscious of.

Michael Green

In so far as we do that, we will always be finding new areas of self-centeredness to surrender as the Lord, who is the Spirit, possesses us more and more fully.

Michael Green

If the Christian life is a supernatural life, then we need supernatural help to live it. It's not a matter of doing your best and letting the Holy Spirit make up the difference.

Tony Evans

Paul is reflecting on the Christian community. These are not words for the individual believer, but for believers as the people of God in relationship with one another.

Speaking



We must never separate the Spirit and the Word. To obey the Word and to surrender to the Spirit are virtually identical.

John Stott

Singing



Singing has two audiences. Christians sing to each other, reminding each other about God's character and work in Christ, but they also sing to the Lord as a way of offering praise to Him.

Klyne Snodgrass

Thanking



Submitting



Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

Colossians 3:15

Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.

Colossians 3:16

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

Colossians 3:17



Followers of Jesus are controlled
by the Spirit, discerning and
demonstrative in how they live.

