Walk Worthy
Spirit-Filled Life • Message 3
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Prayer Points for Prayer Time:

- **Pray for a heart that is sensitive to the Holy Spirit's direction.**
- **Ask God to help you slow down and make time to hear His voice.**
- **Thank God for His Word and the direction it gives us.**

Worship Psalm:
Great is the LORD! He is most worthy of praise! No one can measure his greatness.
Psalm 145:3 (NLT)

Scripture Reading:
Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.
Ephesians 5:15-21 (ESV)

A. Introduction

Thanksgiving – Food Stats.

Number of turkeys consumed – 46 million.

77% of people said stuffing is their favorite side.

29% said cranberry sauce is their favorite… those people need help.
I talked to God this week, and He confirmed there is no cranberry sauce in heaven.

96% of people will have leftovers… although let's be honest, people will eat at 12, 3, and by 7 pm, you are calling it leftovers…

Most of us will be barely able to move on Thursday afternoon.

Thanksgiving is the one day of the year when people pray before eating and then immediately need to pray again after eating.

Our stomachs will be filled with all the things… the reason I say this is that there is a phrase I heard when I became a Christian… and it's what we read: *Be filled with the Holy Spirit.*

Now, I had no idea what that meant… maybe you are newer to faith and think it's all on you to do everything… See, I grew up in a church where we didn't talk about the Spirit; we replaced it with the Bible.

But the Spirit helps you walk like Jesus. Helps you become like Him…

And when you become a Christian, the Bible says He fills you or lives inside, and here's what He fills you with…

B. Spirit-Filled Life

1. **The Holy Spirit fills us with <u>WISDOM</u>.**
   (Ephesians 5:15. C/R: Proverbs 9:10)

Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise.
Ephesians 5:15 (ESV)

Paul mentions that walking in the Spirit is the third way we imitate God.

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.
Proverbs 9:10 (NIV)

There is a big difference between knowledge and wisdom… some of the smartest people I know aren't wise in this sense… because knowledge comes from books… wisdom comes from the Spirit. Some of the least-educated people are some of the godliest people I know…

Wise people are led by the Spirit.

You can know a lot about marriage and not be a great spouse.

You can know a lot about friendship and not be a great friend.

You can know a lot about finances and not be great with money.

That's why we sometimes say there are book smarts and street smarts… but what you really want is Spirit smarts… which is kind of combining the two… because the Spirit sees and knows what we may not.

When I was in Texas and interviewing for the job here… we were certain it was going to be a good fit… so I talked to some people, and they said, *I wouldn't tell your boss because it's still a long shot*. *I would wait and tell him if it gets more serious…*

And I wasn't looking for another job, but another church had called me about six months before, and it didn't work out. So I didn't want my boss to think I was uninterested in my current job… so at first I wasn't planning on telling him. Then one day I was praying… and I really felt like God was saying, *You need to tell your boss. Just bring him in…*

And honestly, the problem with God's voice is it's often quiet. It's hard to discern. Like, I want Him to come over the loudspeaker at the store… *Paging Bryan Jones, do this*… But it doesn't work like that…

So I tell my boss… and about two weeks after I tell him, one of the other pastors—we will just call him Richard because that was his name—emails my boss because he somehow saw I was preaching and said, *Did you know Bryan was going to preach?* And my boss was like, *Yes, he told me two weeks before that…*
And I just said, *Eat that, Richard…*

But when you lean into God, He will begin to speak…

One of the number one questions is: How do you discern God's will? How do you know what God's will is?

God's will-

1. **The voice of Scripture.**
   God won't lead you to oppose Scripture. The Word of God will illuminate the path you are taking.

Some of us want God to reveal our next assignment when we haven't been obedient to our current instructions.

You don't need to pray about whether you should forgive somebody. He's already told you that.

You don't need to pray about whether you should tell the truth. He's already told you that.

You don't need to pray about whether you should pursue holiness. He's already told you that.

Sometimes we're asking God for a new word when we haven't obeyed the last word.

2.) The whisper of God.

Are you getting alone and still? *Be still and know that I am God*… you have to fight to be still.

You will be amazed when you slow down how well you can hear…

Psalm 46:10 says, *Be still, and know that I am God.*

And here's the problem: being still is hard!

"In contemporary society our Adversary majors in three things: noise, hurry, and crowds. If he can keep us engaged in 'muchness' and 'manyness,' he will rest satisfied."
— Richard J. Foster

And here's the great irony… when we need to make decisions… when we get busy… the first thing that tends to go is our time with God. So, in weighty seasons, you can't speed up. You have to find ways to slow down and hear from God.

3.) Clarity of circumstances.

God opens doors and closes doors… it's almost like a convergence of guidance from God.

He opens doors that we couldn't open ourselves. He closes doors that we desperately wanted to walk through. Sometimes you look back and realize that what felt like a disappointment was actually God's protection…
Two places that called, I would have had to push pause…

Don't assume everything is from God. Jonah just happened to see a boat…
That's why you need the whole grid…

4.) Godly counsel.

I need you to speak into my life…

If everybody around you agrees with you, you might need to find some different people.

2. **The Holy Spirit fills us with a sense of <u>OPPORTUNITY.</u>**
   (Ephesians 5:16-17)

… making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.
Ephesians 5:16-17 (ESV)

Have you realized how short our time is here on earth?
Check out this video…

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SNgyEmYyQF4

In the King James Version, it says to redeem the time that we have here.

In Greek, there are two words for time. One is *Chronos,* and the other is *Kairos*. *Chronos* is the idea of chronological time. *Kairos* is the idea of a season.

What season are you in? What does it look like for you to redeem the time you are in?

Are you single? That's your season… How can you live in that season and redeem it, not wish it away or waste it away? And I know for some, it's not the gift you wanted, but it's the season you are in…

Are you married? Maybe you have young kids… Mom and Dad, your kids are going to grow up fast… make the most of this season. Take trips, take pictures… help them become like Jesus. Don't waste the season…

Maybe you're retired, and God is wanting you to redeem the time…

One of the greatest things you can do is live in the season you are in…

New season **Good season** **Bad season**

New seasons – Move into a new area, new child, new job, new church, new home…
It just seems like one of those seasons when you are trying to figure it out…

Good seasons – Life is going well. God is blessing you…

Bad seasons – This is where things are difficult, and there seems to be no hope…
This is where Clemson fans are right now…

But if things are good… don't worry about bad things happening or feel guilty. This is the season to redeem the time. Live in that season…

If things are bad, don't pretend like they are good or numb out on them…
Keep trusting God and learn the lessons He wants you to…

Jesus started His life with this phrase: *The time has come,* and He ended with, *The time has come*…

Jesus understood the importance of seasons…

3. **The Holy Spirit fills us with <u>FULLNESS.</u>**
   (Ephesians 5:18-21)

And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit.
Ephesians 5:18 (ESV)

The passage does not say it's wrong to drink alcohol… but it does speak to the warning of the destruction excessive drinking and drunkenness can bring…

In Roman culture… they would drink excessively and play euphoric music, which would lead to sexual immorality… and they would drink to try and temporarily escape their lives.

Alcohol is being contrasted with the Holy Spirit… Paul is saying people are using alcohol to do what the Holy Spirit wants to do…

Maybe you need to calm down after a long day… you need a glass of wine to calm down…

Maybe you're sad, and alcohol helps comfort you…

Maybe you're insecure, and alcohol gives you confidence… The Holy Spirit wants to make you bold…

Maybe you're lonely, and alcohol makes you feel less isolated… but the Spirit wants to comfort and build you up…

Alcohol is a depressant… and being filled with alcohol amplifies the flesh…
Being filled with the Spirit amplifies holiness…

Filled – means *plēroō*, and it has three meanings:

1. **Wind** – Filling a sail, and all of a sudden you take off.
2. **Saturation** – Drenched and doused.
3. **Under total control** – Filled with sorrow, anger, fear… being under the total control of that emotion…

The filling of the Spirit isn't something we can earn. It's just a gift…

Don't quench the Spirit…

How do you know you are walking in the Spirit? How do you really know?

… addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.
Ephesians 5:19-21 (ESV)

Can I ask you… how many times a day do you thank God for His blessings? It's so easy to ask and say, *God, I need this*… but worship is the overflow of a heart that just says, *Thank You, Jesus. Thank You for the life, thanks for the gifts, thanks for Your love…*

Thanks for what I do have…

This past summer, I was reading a book. The author was telling about how a friend would go to a newsstand every day and get a paper. And every time, the owner was rude, short, and negative toward his friend. He talked about being outraged. Finally, after seeing his friend being mistreated, he finally asked his friend, *Why do you let that man talk to you like that? Why don't you snap back?*

His friend said, *My joy is far too important to let others steal it. I choose gratitude.*

I was hit by those words. I can very often make gratitude a reactive feeling, but it's not. It's a proactive decision. It's your decision, and it's mine. No one can take it away. You can give it away, or you can let others rob you of it.

See, the problem with feelings is you can spend a lifetime waiting for the circumstances to be perfect, and they may never be…

Perhaps that's why, as kids, many of us were taught that old song, *This Is the Day, This Is the Day That the Lord Has Made. I Will Rejoice and Be Glad in It.*