



Every Spiritual Blessing—A Study in Ephesians

Please ask the Holy Spirit to give you understanding before you begin.

Lesson 13—Ephesians 5:8-21

1.) If you were a first century Christian woman in Ephesus, what challenges might you have to living out your faith?

2.) As a Christian woman living in the United States today, what challenges do you face to keep your faith in Christ active & growing?

- **Please read all of Ephesians Chapter 5, taking extra heed of verses 8–21.**

3.) In verse 8, some Bible versions say “For you once **were** darkness” rather than “**in** darkness”. Explain why there can be absolutely no fellowship with darkness once a person becomes born again. The following passages give additional insight:

(John 3:18–21; Ephesians 5:7 & 11; 2 Corinthians 6:14–7:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:4–10.)

4.) Paul instructs us, in vs 8 & 9, to walk as “children of light”, summarizing the fruit of the Holy Spirit’s work in our lives as goodness, righteousness, and truth. (Gal 5:22-25)

- What other counsel does he give to help us walk as “light” in verse 10?
- How do we do this?
- What scriptures can you find to validate your answer? (Here are a few to get you started: Colossians 1:9; Matthew 6:33; Psalm 119:105...)
- In verses 11–14a & elsewhere in scripture, we’ve been mandated to “expose” the darkness. Based on your study so far, how is this accomplished?
- If you haven’t already, take Jesus’ words to heart in Matt 5:14-16. Why not commit them to memory this week!

5.) “For God so loved the world...”, (Jn 3:16). Read verse 14 again. Paul summarizes from Isaiah & leaves this topic of “walking in the light” with a promise. What is it?

➤ Personal: Is there someone in your life who needs to know this? Who will tell them?

6.) Please take a moment to re-read Eph 5:15–21. To walk circumspectly (vs. 15) means to be cautious, to look around. It implies a careful consideration of all circumstances with an eye to the outcome in hope of avoiding mistakes or undesirable consequences. This is walking with our eyes wide open. This is wise walking. Share how the following verses help you remember to redeem your time wisely (vs. 16):

Psalm 90:12 _____

Psalm 103:15 & 16 _____

James 4:14 & 15 _____

7.) In verse 17 again, as in verse 10, we see that to be wise we need to know what the will of the Lord is. Can you see how these two go hand in hand? The wisdom of God is outlined in the scriptures through & through. The Book of Proverbs presents contrasts between the foolish & the wise, the righteous & the “un”; also shows the consequences of particular courses of action. Confusing circumstances & difficult trials require an extra measure of wisdom to handle according to God’s will.

(Read 2 Tim 3:14–17; Psalm 51:6; Prov 9:10)

- Read the account of Solomon’s dream & the first accounting of his wise judgment as king in 1 Kings 3 & 4:29-34. What stands out to you?
- The advice from James 1:5-8 bears re-reading regularly; what is he saying?
- How will taking this exhortation to heart & making it a daily focus refresh your walk with the Lord and help you to look with joy & peace to the future?

8.) Giving over control of our lives to the Holy Spirit In vs 18 indicates a continual filling, not a one-time event. Giving over control to a drunken stupor is no substitute for walking in the power of the Holy Spirit. Don’t do it, Paul says! What are the five characteristics Spirit filled Christians will possess in relating with one another? (vs. 19–21)

a.

b.

c.

d.

e.

“Teach me Your way, O Lord; I will walk in your truth; Unite my heart to fear Your name. I will praise You, O Lord my God, with all my heart, And I will glorify Your name forever.

”Psalm 86:11 & 12