

# Ephesians XI

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Paul speaks from verse eight to 20 about “the fundamental and practical root of building up the glorious church of God.” Verses eight to fourteen are about opening our spirits up to God all the time. The alpha and omega of spirituality is opening up your spirit to God. We see several ways to help us to do that from verse 15 to 20. Paul says in verse 15, “Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise.” Paul is saying like listen up from verse 16 to 20 so we can live as the wise.

First, Paul says, “Make the most of your time because the days are evil.” In order to be the true church Paul has been addressing from 4:10 and on we should make the most of our time. We don’t want to be lazy. The glorious church and love according to Romans chapter 12 are supposed to be busy. Mother changes diapers of her baby and cleans her blankets and clothes because she loves her baby. Mother is so busy. When I look at my wife raising five children and getting involved in ministry, tear fills my eyes. I truly pray for her. She raises five children and ministers in our church for 80%. I only minister for 20%. When you are lazy, you can’t work on spirituality.

Laziness is like a city that is besieged by an enemy. They are in the middle of the thick battle and a dumb soldier opens up the gate of the fortress asking a question, “Who is outside?” Laziness is like that. When you are lazy, all the enemies come through the gate into your fortress. When you are full of the Spirit of God, you are bound to be diligent.

The word “making” out of “making the most of your time” means “redeem.” So, it means “redeem the time.” Why did Paul use that word? Redeem the time! It is about a diligent person working in God’s time, doing God’s work, in His place, and with the God’s chosen people. In another word, if you work on your own when God is not working, you are not being diligent before Him. That’s your work which is the reason you burn out!

“Time” in Greek is *kairos* which is not referring to physical time. Physical time in Greek is *hora*. *Kairos* refers to giving God what He desires in His time. Therefore, those that live in eternal time do not live by physical time but by *kairos*.

We can see this in the parable of fig tree. Jesus went to a city and he was hungry. He stopped at a fig tree and sought for a fruit but there was none. Afterward Jesus cursed the fig tree which dried up. We find an amazing account in the Bible. It records that it was not the season for figs. What does that mean? Can we perceive this as Jesus gone mad due to heat stroke? It was not the season for figs and Jesus cursed this poor fig tree. The tree dried up to death. We should be able to deliver when God desires it. That’s *kairos*. Be ready to give to God when He desires. When God comes to us, we should receive Him without any exception. This is *kairos*! Eternal life is living in *kairos*.

Spiritual people discovered many amazing things like “present life does not drift into the future for those that live in the eternity but rather the future drifts into the present.” This is not my saying but Augustine. This is a sharp revelation. Those that live in *kairos* do not drift into future from the present but the future drifts into the present. I hope you understand it.

Second, let’s look at verse 17 “so then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.” The will of God should be the most important standard of your actions. You should never move if it is not the will of God. The time is important and the will is next. I speak this frequently “What matters to us is not whether we can do it or not but whether it is will of God or not!” A church should not be shaken, or fear anything even what seems to be impossible. Instinctively, ask God a

question “What is Your will?” when something happens. Don’t say things like, “What am I going to do? Now, my business is over! Tithe doesn’t matter!” The important thing is “Is it the will of God or not?” If you don’t know the will of God, you become the unwise. I would like to stress the important point one more time. This is the reason Ephesian Church was willing to die for the revelation of God.

Let’s review the revelation. It refers to what God reveals. It can mean the reinterpretation of the word. We will address Rhema in chapter 6. All 66 books in the Bible should be heard as the word in your ears. We should not treat the Bible as “book from 2,000 years ago and that’s it!”

For Paul, the revelation in Ephesians means the reinterpretation of the word of God. Accurately, it is the word of God spoken to you. The Pauline theology is not established without revelation. I have heard that other theologians also spoke about that. I don’t know exactly what they said but the gospel of Paul begins with revelation. Of 27 New Testament books Paul wrote 13 of them. That’s about the half of New Testament. So, if you don’t understand the revelation of Pauline epistles, you don’t fully understand the N. T. In short, we should accept the revelation of principle of Pauline theology.

Without knowing the will of God we become the unwise. The unwise means the condition that has no life of Jesus. If you live holding onto the things that are not the will of God, you have no work of life of God. Thus, you are confused all the time. Only when the will of God is established, the work of Holy Spirit takes place. When the work of the Spirit of God takes place, the will of God is in progress. Where the will of God is not taking place or the will of God is not present, no progress at all of anything. It is just a man’s effort trying to get something done. About half the time pastors in churches minister without knowing the will of God. They go, “Ah, it is pleasing to God to witness!” I am not saying not to witness.

Let me give you an example. God says to some churches, “This is not the right time to witness to others. It is time for you get on your knees before Me!” If that is the will of God, everyone should stop witnessing and start getting on his knees. Let me give you another example. Paul was on his way to Asia from Macedonia but the Holy Spirit said, “Do not go there!” Paul could have said, “God is glorified through missions. Why should I stop?” Paul could have chosen to still go the Asia. Right? Paul, however, stopped his journey to Asia and turned toward Europe because that’s the will of God. Some of you say, “This is the work of God. He will be glorified through this.” No! Simply because some are the things of God they don’t automatically glorify Him. There are His will, His time and His intention. If you don’t catch them and receive them and continue in your walk, you will be in the middle of confusion. Your ministry will be in confusion. Your life itself is also in confusion. Be willing to die for the will of God. The will of God is important!

Pastors and pastors’ wives please take a moment to review your past ministry. “Why was my ministry so difficult? What did I lack?” I don’t think it is attributed to what you lack. From one perspective the reason your ministry didn’t go so well was because you did many things apart from God’s will. Whether you pray a lot or not is secondary. The first and foremost thing is to understand the will of God and receive it. That’s why the Book of Ephesians treats the revelation and the wisdom so precious and Pauline theology does not exist without the revelation.

I emphasize again that the revelation is not hearing something when you are praying in a mountain like spiritual guru. Revelation is reinterpretation of the word of God and the words given to you. Revelation literally means the revelation of God. In my church, this is the reason we are willing to die for God’s revelation. That’s how we understand the will of heaven, the work of God, the direction of God’s movement, and His will. What can a church do without understanding the will of

God and His plans? Nothing! If you have the problem with the direction that God works over here and you work over there. You say that you are giving glory to God. That's nonsense! That's wrong. So, first, we catch the right time of God "is this the time to work or not? Second, "is this God's will or not?" If it is not the will of God, we should not do it even if the world collapses.

Look at someone like Jeremiah! He was not in a circumstance to speak on behalf of God at the moment, but he was willing to die for it if it was the will of God. He proclaimed the word of God even if it meant for him to become a traitor of his nation. This is the characteristic of the servants of God. Please examine yourself that you call yourself a servant of God with your mouth but do you really have good characteristics of the true servant? You are a servant of God, but rather Jesus is your servant. Isn't that true? We can't motion to Jesus, "Hey Jesus, follow me!"

Third, let's look at verse 18 "And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit." The third secret is to be filled with the Spirit. Getting drunk and be filled with the Spirit have some similarities. Some of you know what I am talking about if you used to drink quite a bit before accepting Jesus Christ. When you get drunk, you act by the power of the alcohol. When timid people drink, they become bold. They speak loudly by the power of alcohol and they also become honest to speak what's on their mind. It is all because of the influence of alcohol. This is the same with the Spirit. Believers, we are supposed to live by the power of the Spirit. Just like we see in the Book of Acts "drunk with new wine," getting drunk and being filled with the Spirit are similar.

Again, we are supposed to live by the power of the Holy Spirit. If you don't live by the power of the Spirit, what you have inside will come out. We should always be filled with the Holy Spirit. Every denomination has a different perspective on being filled with the Spirit, but I agree with Dr. Altori (?). – Proof Reader (Please check the spelling of this man for me) He contends that there are indwelling Spirit, Spirit Baptism, and being filled with the Spirit. The Spirit Baptism is only once in a life time whereas being filled with the Spirit is continuation. It is in a present tense. Immerse yourself in the Spirit of God. Unless you are filled with the Spirit your own strength will come forth.

We can find secrets to be filled with the Holy Spirit in the Scripture. Of course, you can be filled with the Holy Spirit by praying for a few hours. This is out pouring from above. Instead of being filled with the Holy Spirit it is more accurate to say that we enter into the fullness of the Holy Spirit. This is closer to the original meaning of Greek. Rather than interpreting it as running over after being filled with Spirit, it is better to interpret it as entering into the Holy Spirit. Moreover, when you obey the will of the Holy Spirit, you should be immediately filled with the Holy Spirit. That's right! If you obey the will of God, you will be filled with Him right away. For example, here is a good program on TV and God speaks to me, "Minho, let's go and pray!" If I immediately turn off the TV and follow Him to pray, then I am filled with the Spirit immediately. So, when we talk about being filled with the Holy Spirit, "entering" is a closer interpretation of the original word. Please continue to train to enter into the will of the Holy Spirit. Don't let your reason and rationality suppress the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Keep entering into the Holy Spirit.

Let's look at it in more detail. Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit four times. In Luke 1:35 angel speaks to Mary, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God." Jesus was filled in the Spirit while He was in Mary's womb. This refers to the indwelling Spirit. The indwelling Spirit means the work of salvation. Since the indwelling Spirit signifies the salvation which leads to enough power to the confession of Jesus as the Lord and Savior. The confirmation of the salvation doesn't come by the indwelling Spirit. That's not enough!

Second, in Luke 3:21 - 22 “Now when all the people were baptized, Jesus was also baptized, and while He was praying, heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came out of heaven, ‘You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased.’” This is the second filling of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove. The Greek word for bodily is *somatikos* which means “substance.” The plastic bottle of water is substance. The word of God is saying like the Holy Spirit came in bodily form of the plastic bottle. It makes sense. On this second time of filling of the Holy Spirit Jesus embodied the works of the Spirit of God. Again, on the second time of filling with the Holy Spirit, the power of the word of God is embodied in Jesus.

In Luke 4:1 Jesus is filled with the Spirit of God for the third time “Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led around by the Spirit in the wilderness.” The third filling of the Holy Spirit is a stage where one is completely led by Him. It is like when the Holy Spirit says, “Turn left,” then you turn left. When He says, “Turn right,” turn right. When you are filled with the Holy Spirit, you do not oppose the will of the Spirit. Even death is possible for the Lord. The baptism of the Holy Spirit refers to a stage where word of God is embodied. The third stage of being filled with the Holy Spirit is being led by Him. If He leads you to suffering, you suffer. If He leads to tribulation, you go through it. If He tells you to die for Jesus, you die for Jesus.

We also see another instance of being filled with the Holy Spirit in Luke 4:17 “And the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. And He opened the book and found the place where it was written, ‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord.’” The word for “upon” in Greek is *epi* which means “immerse.” Luke records the filling of the Spirit twice in chapter 4. In verse 1, Jesus is led by the Holy Spirit. In verse 18, the Spirit of God is upon Jesus. When you are immersed in the Holy Spirit, you have the power for ministry like to preach the gospel to the poor. When you are filled with the Holy Spirit, the door of ministry opens up. If you are not full of the Holy Spirit, please don’t try to minister.

Pastors should come to the worship service on the Lord’s Day always filled to the max. Be filled with the Holy Spirit two hours before the worship and go up to the pulpit in the best condition. Through the pastor the Spirit of God will open up all the believers.

Suppose you were filled with the Holy Spirit, but as soon as you turn to the world the fullness of the Spirit disappears. Is there anyone who experienced the lightening of fire while watching TV? No. When you watch TV, you become cold and chilly. When you are not facing God or turn your eyes from Him, your fullness of the Holy Spirit disappears. The filling of the Holy Spirit is sensitive!

Third, after living with God consistently for a long time the filling of the Holy Spirit becomes your personality. Just like living with evil spirit for a long time results in the personification of evil spirit in you, maintaining the filling of God for a long time results in personification as well. Those that easily emit the characteristics of God have been living with God for a long time. Not only evil spirits personify in us but also the Holy Spirit personifies in us. For example, this associate pastor in our church personified Jesus in Him. Although his wife does not cook for him at home, he eats “California roll” without saying anything like “why don’t you cook?” Instead of yelling at her he simply eats the rolls of rice at a fast food restaurant. That’s because the Holy Spirit has personified in him.

Fourth, you must dispose your spirits. Extract the spirit of worldliness, the spirit of unbelief, the spirit of greed and so on. Be filled with the Holy Spirit daily. When it comes to ministry, it is like *epi*;

minister when you are immersed in the Holy Spirit. Please refrain from healing ministry and prophetic ministry if you are not filled with the Holy Spirit. Please avoid it intentionally. You never want to do them on your own strength.

Finally, the question is “what happens when you are filled with the Holy Spirit?” We see the answer in verse 19 “speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord.” In short, when you are filled with the Holy Spirit, you become a poet and a singer. When you are filled with the Holy Spirit, you naturally sing songs of praise to God. You become romantic! You turn into a poet and you read poems. David in Psalms always lived in the presence of the Holy Spirit which is why he spoke beautiful words to God like poetry.

In verse 20 Paul says, “Always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father.” You overflow with thanksgiving. When you are filled with the Holy Spirit, the uncertainty of present, the agony of the past, and the uncertainty of the future become completely certain now. When you are filled with the Holy Spirit, all the uncertainties are now certain in present. All the future events will become present and the past agonies will also become present healing you from them. Out of your heart will overflow the gratitude. You become a poet and a singer who are filled with thanksgiving. When you are filled with the Holy Spirit, you are also filled with grateful heart. That’s why we should be filled with the Spirit.

Through the four filling of the Holy Spirit in Jesus we just looked at the indwelling Spirit, the baptism of the Holy Spirit, and the filling of the Spirit. I have just shared with you about the spiritual growth and secrets to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Make most of your time. Please don’t be lazy! Live the life of *kairos* and the eternal life. Be able to work with the people God desires, in a place God desires, and the work God desires. Be willing to die for the will of the Lord. We should always discern His will. Although it may be difficult and challenging, keep on trying to discern the will of God. If you don’t know His will, don’t do anything. The real problem we have is doing things ahead of God. We don’t want to be work-oriented. Those that are focused on God make move when the pillar of clouds is lifted up and the pillar of fire is lifted up. If you alone make a move, you will either freeze to death or burn to death. Finally, be filled with the Holy Spirit. Immerse yourself fully in Him. May you personify the Holy Spirit! Amen!