

Talking & Walking

Series on Prayer & Holiness

- not a set of rules or things to do
- encouragement to intimacy with God that brings change

Thanksgiving Weekend

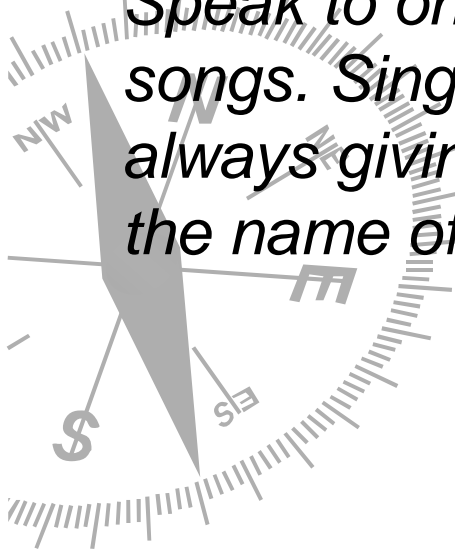
- family, food, relaxation
- recounting our blessings – taking stock
- not always easy or without difficulty



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“Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.

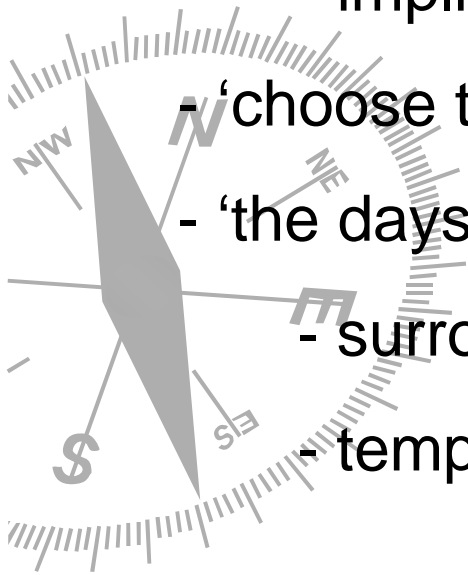
Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Ephesians 5:15-20



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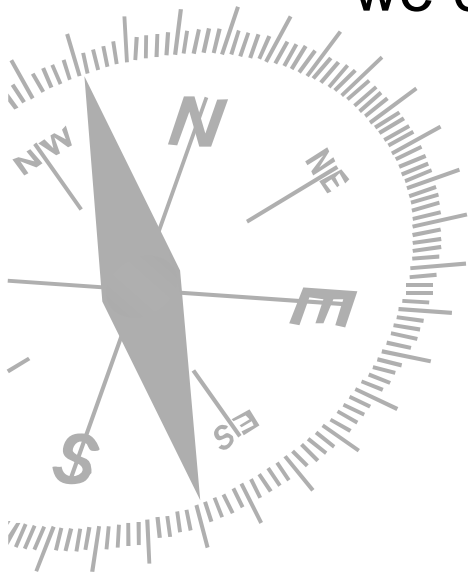
1. The Reality Check

- life is not ever without it's challenges, disappointments
- 'be very careful then how you live'
 - implication of danger
- 'choose to be wise, make the most of opportunity'
- 'the days are evil'
 - surrounded by the effects of a fallen world
 - tempted to adopt our culture's world view



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- Therefore.....
 - do not be foolish, but understand the will of God
 - we can run and hide, wail and whine
 - we can claim God's truth, have calm in storms



- peace
- power
- hope
- rest

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2. Perspective Check

- where will your celebration originate?

‘do not be drunk with wine’

- find relief your own way

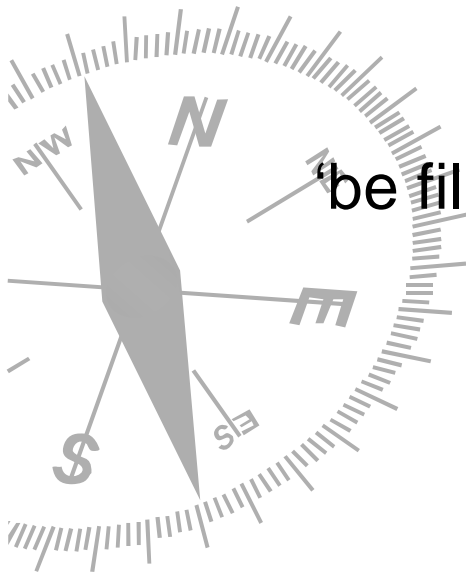
- artificial joy, tainted perspective

‘be filled with the Holy Spirit’

- allow the Spirit of God to reign

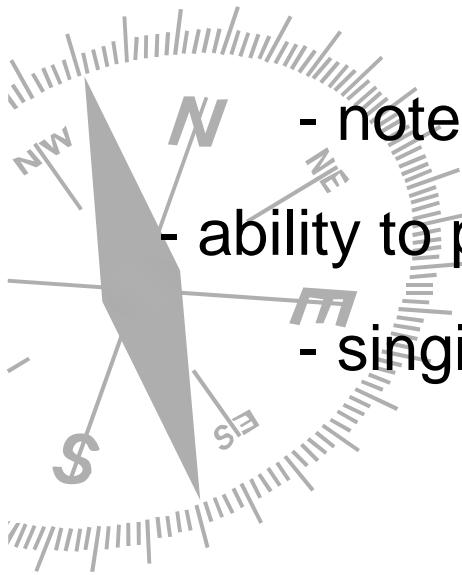
- allow God to grant peace in the storm

- gives every good and perfect gift



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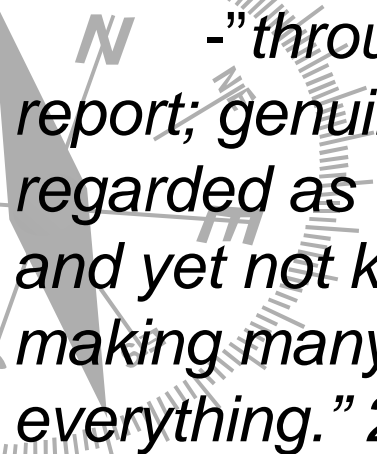
- changes our relationships with one another
 - become encouraging to one another
 - psalms, hymns, spiritual songs
 - sharing our journey, allowing others into life
 - note – absence of focus on us, our wisdom
 - ability to praise God and participate with others
 - singing, making melody



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3. Practice Check

- 'always and for everything'
 - problem for me, hard to be thankful in everything
 - Paul addresses this honestly



- "through glory and dishonor, bad report and good report; genuine, yet regarded as impostors; known, yet regarded as unknown; dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed; sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything." 2 Corinthians 6:8-10

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- Paul knew disappointment, suffering, rejection, persecution, chronic ailments, and yet thanksgiving for all

- 'giving thanks'

- practice of listening to God

- accepting what God has

- choosing to be full of His Spirit

- careful in relationship with the body

- praise as a practice

- thanksgiving – in all things the result

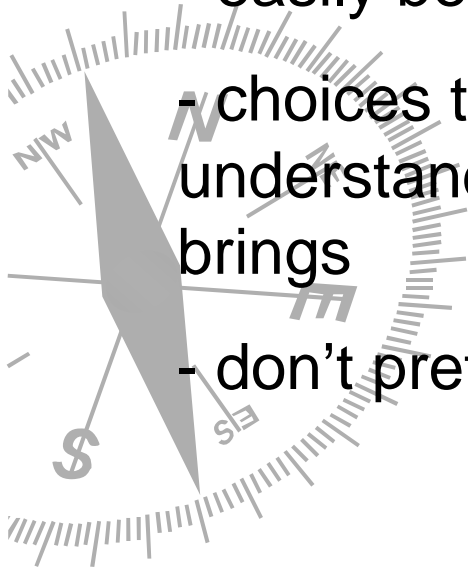


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So What

1. Be Real About Life

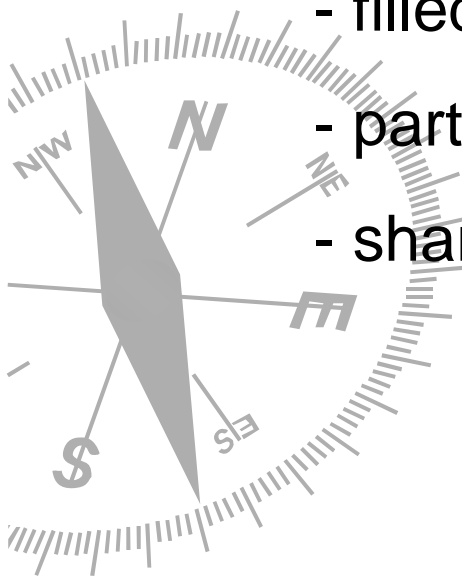
- dangerous and distracting out there
- easily become discouraged, disgruntled, disheartened
- choices to be wise, spend time well, listen carefully to understand the will of our Lord, and accept what He brings
- don't pretend, be real, work through it



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2. Renew Your Perspective

- failed expectations = disappointment
- don't turn to our world for escape from life
 - filled with the Holy Spirit
 - participating in encouragement, growth, praise
 - sharing our journey, seeing God at work



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3. Develop Your Practice of Thanksgiving

- always and in everything
 - don't fake it, take it to the Father, see his promises, hear his word, thank him

