

Sustaining Revival: A Study on Ephesians
Lesson 16 “Walking in Wisdom”

I. Introduction - We are studying the book of the Ephesians focusing on how to sustain revival.

A. The revival in Ephesus was the largest new testament revival recorded in Acts. Over 100,000 people were saved in a city the size of Greensboro within two years. Ephesus became a revival center in the first century. Multiple churches were planted out of this church including all 7 churches in the book of Revelation.

B. Paul wrote this letter to the church in Ephesus in A.D. 60 about five years later to establish them in truth after the goosebumps had worn off so they could have a sustained experience with God and continue to increase in person revival.

C. The first three chapters of Ephesians focus on positional truth (who we are in Christ, seated in heavenly places, how much God loves us, etc). The last three chapters of Ephesians focus on practical application or how we should live out of who we are.

1. *Ephesians 4-6* describe what God’s kingdom looks like when it comes to the earth.

2. Over the last few weeks we talked about how we are to imitate God. We do this by walking in love and walking in light. God is love and light and in the spirit so are we. We are now called to take that which is true in the spirit and do life life that way. These positional truths are supposed to be demonstrable and help us sustain revival.

D. Tonight we are going to look at third truth Paul says we are to walk in so we can sustain revival. This truth is ***Walking in Wisdom. The Power of God is usually what starts revivals, but it is the mind of God that sustains them.***

II. Walking in Wisdom

A. **Ephesians 5:15-17** Paul says we are to walk circumspectly (carefully). He doesn’t mean full of care like worry, but to live with intentionality. Everything we do needs to have purpose and not be random random or chaotic.

1. When we do this, we redeem or buy back time. Living with intention from the mind of God gets us more time!

2. The word time is **kairós**, kahee-ros'; an occasion, i.e. set or proper time:

Opportune time.

3. Evil - **ponērós**, pon-ay-ros'; from a derivative of [G4192](#); hurtful. According to W.E. Vines it is connected to the idea of being full of labor (self-effort) and care.

The idea is not only bad in character, but also **bad in effect! God doesn't want us wasting time! Doing a good thing at the wrong time wastes time.**

- a. **Luke 10:38-42** Martha was busy, but yet she was distracted because she was focused on a good thing at the wrong time.
- b. I don't know what Jesus was teaching about, but can I get a witness it was far more impactful for the kingdom than the food she was trying to serve. Martha didn't discern her *kairos* moment.
- c. In the early days of our church, God spoke **2 Timothy 2:4** to me about leaving my recruiting job and our board approved me to do it, but I didn't because of fear and guilt.
 - i. Every time I worked secularly something would come up I couldn't take care of or I would let down the employer.
 - ii. I probably set back our church a little because I wasn't as focused as I should have been. I didn't redeem time. Ultimately I obeyed and we are better for it.

B. How do I redeem time? **Matthew 6:33. Seek first (not only) the kingdom.** Jesus contrasts seeking the kingdom with providing for material things because seeking material things are the biggest time suck any of us have. **God will bring the things and in more abundance if we'll seek Him first.**

1. Wisdom comes from living in the presence of Jesus regularly. He's called us to His presence not just His principles. This means we seek Him first and foremost every day before we do anything else. **This keeps us living in a constant state of revival.**
2. **1 Kings 3:9-12** - Solomon asked for an understanding/hearing heart.
 - a. **Understand - Shâma** - to hear intelligently -
 - b. Solomon asked for a hearing heart, not just a set of principles to follow. God responded by saying He would give him wisdom. True biblical wisdom comes from hearing God, not just learning principles.
 - c. **2 Kings 3:16-28** Story of Solomon having to decide who the true mother of the child was. This came through hearing God, not learning a set of principles.
3. Example - Grace Life Church's *kairos* moment that redeemed time. We bought this building because we heard God and not from following church planting formulaic principles.

III. Conclusion - God has invited us to spend time in His presence and hear Him. That is where true wisdom comes from.

A. Pray Closing Prayer

B. Tell Online Audience Goodbye

IV. Discussion Questions.

1. What impacted you the most from tonight's teaching?
2. The power of God usually starts revivals, while the mind of God is what sustains them. Do you tend to place more value on the power of God or the wisdom of God? Why do you think this is?
3. Do you have an example of a time you heard God and redeemed time or money? If so, please share?
4. What are the biggest distractions in your life that keep you from spending time in the presence of God? How can you eliminate these distractions?
5. Give an example of how you heard God's voice and violated traditional "natural wisdom" and you saw Him move dramatically in your life.