

# DISCOVERING YOUR DESTINY #7

## Introduction:

- Each one of us has potential or destiny with God in every season of life.
- We were in His mind at the beginning of time.

**Ephesians 1:4** *For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight...*

- Sometimes people feel like they missed something in their walk with God.
- Some may feel that they have grieved the Holy Spirit; However, there is always mercy and grace for those who seek it.
- Why do some people seem to have assurance for heaven but seem to lack power for living a Spirit filled life.
- How do we maintain a Spirit-filled life:

## 1. Be Careful

**Ephesians 5:8** *For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light...*

- Notice it says “once in darkness...”
- What does that mean?

**1 Corinthians 1:18** *For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.*

- Does the cross have power?
  - It is what Jesus accomplished on the cross that paid the price for my sin and the resurrection broke the power of sin and death.
  - Notice it says “who are being saved”
  - The power of the cross is for today and tomorrow.
- Why does Paul say, “Be Careful...”?

**Ephesians 5:15-16** *Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.*

- Days are evil – so be wise.
- What does wisdom look like?
- Is wisdom the same as cunning or craftiness?

**James 3:17** *But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.*

- Notice these words= pure, peace-loving, considerate, submissive, merciful, impartial, sincere
- Make the most of every opportunity but use wisdom.

## 2. Be Filled

**Ephesians 5:17-18** *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...*

- Why the comparison of drunkenness and being filled with the Spirit?
- Ancient’s use of wine:
  - *“Overdose of wine was used to rid oneself of care and to gain a sense of mirth. It was also used to induce communion with the gods and by means of this communion receive ecstatic knowledge.”<sup>1</sup>*

Drugs	Holy Spirit
Bring false peace with strings	Peace that passes understanding
An artificial joy that does not last	Joy that lasts
Opens up the mind to all kinds of spiritual experiences that lead to bondage.	Produces communion with God
Receive false knowledge	Leads us to truth.
Alcohol a recognized depressant	Holy Spirit is a stimulant.

- There are two things we need to know in living the Spirit-filled life:
  - a) Our position in Christ because of the cross and resurrection.
  - b) To be filled with the Spirit

ILLUSTRATION:

- Jug of table tennis balls
- Jug of water
- Tray



## 3. Be Joyful

**Ephesians 5:19-20** *...speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

- Music is a universal language.

<sup>1</sup> FF Bruce

- Notice the singing & music are both vertical and horizontal.
  - In corporate worship, we speak to one another in Psalms, hymns and spiritual songs
  - Comes out of the overflow of the heart.
- Psalm illustration:
  - Psalm 23
  - Ps 34 “O Taste and See...”
  - Scripture songs
  - Hymns – eg “Amazing Grace”
  - Songs of the Spirit (spontaneous)

**Ephesians 5:19b** . ...*Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord,*

- Make music in your heart

#### **4. Be Thankful.**

**Ephesians 5:20** ... *speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

- Give thanks
  - For what I have
  - For people in my life.