Grace is not opposed to effort

Ephesians 5:15–18

15 So be careful how you live. Don’t live like fools, but like those who are wise.

16 Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days.

17 Don’t act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do.

18 Don’t be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 5:15–18

Focus on how we live

- It requires intentionality
- Understanding the Lord’s will
- The power of the Holy Spirit at work in our lives

We are called to live intentionally and thoughtfully through the power of the Holy Spirit at work within us

For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. *(NLT)*

For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. *(NKJV)*

Romans 8:29

Finally, dear brothers and sisters, we urge you in the name of the Lord Jesus to live in a way that pleases God, as we have taught you. You live this way already, and we encourage you to do so even more.

2 For you remember what we taught you by the authority of the Lord Jesus.

3 God’s will is for you to be holy, so stay away from all sexual sin.

1 Thessalonians 4:1-3

SANCTIFICATION - to be set apart; to be made holy

Our position in Christ is secure (Eph 1-3)

Our ongoing condition needs maturity and growth (Eph 4-5)

Ephesians 1:7–8

7 In Christ we are set free by the blood of his death,
and so we have forgiveness of sins. How rich is God’s
grace, 8 which he has given to us so fully and freely.

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15 So be careful how you live. Don’t live like fools, but
like those who are wise.16 Make the most of every
opportunity in these evil days.

Ephesians 5:15-16

17 With the Lord’s authority I say this: Live no longer as
the Gentiles do, for they are hopelessly confused.

18 Their minds are full of darkness; they wander far from
the life God gives because they have closed their minds
and hardened their hearts against him.

19 They have no sense of shame. They live for lustful
pleasure and eagerly practice every kind of impurity.

20 But that isn’t what you learned about Christ.

Ephesians 4:17–20

21 Since you have heard about Jesus and have
learned the truth that comes from him, 22 throw off
your old sinful nature and your former way of life,
which is corrupted by lust and deception.

23 Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and
attitudes.

24 Put on your new nature, created to be like God—
truly righteous and holy.

Ephesians 4:21–24

And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him.

Romans 12:1

2 Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

Romans 12:2

Focus on how we live

- It requires intentionality
- Understanding the Lord’s will
- The power of the Holy Spirit at work in our lives

46 “Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say?

47 As for everyone who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice, I will show you what they are like.

Luke 6:46–47

48 They are like a man building a house, who dug down
deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood
came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake
it, because it was well built.

49 But the one who hears my words and does not put
them into practice is like a man who built a house on
the ground without a foundation. The moment the
torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction
was complete.”

Luke 6:48-49

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Ephesians 2:10 NKJV

If we aren’t being intentional, we can’t expect much growth

How do I hear God?

How do I know it's God?

What am I going to do about it?

How do we hear God?

Being intentional

- Word of God
- Prayer
- Worship
- Faith
- The Holy Spirit

How do I know it’s God?

- Does it agree with Scripture?
- Have I prayed for clarity?
- Is it consistent with God’s character?
- What do trusted people say?
- What would happen if I did it?

What am I going to do about it?