

GUIDED BY GOD

Led by the Holy Spirit, Galatians 5:16-25

Walk in the Spirit

Galatians 5:16 (KJV) 16 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

- A few scriptures above our passage, Paul tell the church at Galatian to be servants of each other through love
- Paul was saying as believers we are to love each other as we love ourselves
- The Galatian believers were saying that was a difficult thing to do under the Mosaic Law because they may not feel or have the desire to love and serve others
- Paul said, "***Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.***"
- To walk in the Spirit means:
 1. The Holy Spirit is living in you
 2. You are open and sensitive to promptings and influence of the Holy Spirit
 3. You pattern your life after the direction or influence of the Holy Spirit
 4. You willingly and freely are being led by the Holy Spirit
- You are not following *legalistically*, you are following by *faith*
- There is no resistance to following the Holy Spirit's guidance
- Being led by the Holy Spirit means the Holy Spirit is *doing the work* and not you
- The Holy Spirit is not the *drum major* of your life that leads by virtue of drum major's *position*
- The Holy Spirit is the *locomotive* of your life that leads you by His *power*
- We are being led by the Spirit because we have willingly connected ourselves to God through the Holy Spirit
- To be led by the Spirit is to walk in the *presence* and the *power* of the Holy Spirit
- When we are walking in or being led by the Spirit, we will not do what our sinful nature craves and desires

The Battle Within

17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot

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do the things that ye would. 18 But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.

- Walking in or being led by the Spirit is key to being victorious over the flesh; but it's not always easy
- There is a battle going on inside each of us between the flesh and the Spirit
- The flesh is not your *body*, but the flesh is your bodily *appetites*
- The battle can only be won if you have the right weapons
- The flesh fights for *dominance*
- Your flesh is not willing to settle for 2nd place, it wants control
- You do not have the power in and of yourself to overcome your flesh
Romans 7:23 (KJV) But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. Romans 8:7 (KJV) Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.
- The flesh is *contrary* to the Spirit
- It's desires and passions are contrary to the Holy Spirit
- Your flesh does not consider consequences, impact on others, or even God as long the fleshly desires are satisfied
- The flesh works to keep a person from *doing* what they know is right to do
- The power of the flesh is evident when you fight against something you know you shouldn't be involved in, but you were worn down by the constant urgings of the flesh
- The power of the flesh will cause you to act selfishly, lie, cheat, steal, overeat, commit immoral acts, be prideful, be angry, etc.
 - **Romans 7:15-20 (KJV) For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. [16] If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. [17] Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. [18] For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. [19] For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. [20] Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.**
- The flesh "tries" to keep the Law
- You can't do what God wants you to do on your own
- The guilt you feel is a result of the fruitlessness of trying to keep the Law without any power from God

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- The antidote to life in the flesh is life in the Spirit
- You can fulfill the will of God for your life through the influence and power of the Holy Spirit

The Works of the Flesh

19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, 20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, 21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

- Although the battles between the flesh and the Spirit is an invisible battle, the impact, the results of life in the flesh are outwardly visible
- We can't see the flesh, but we can see what the flesh does
- The works of the flesh are categories of sins:
 1. *Sensual sins* – adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness
 2. *Religious sins* – idolatry and witchcraft
 3. *People sins* – hatred, variance, emulations (jealousies), wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envying, murder
 4. *Social sins* - Drunkenness and revellings
- No one who commits these sins will ever inherit the kingdom of God
- The only way to inherit the kingdom of God is to confess and repent of these sins and put them out of your life
- If God is righteous, then His people must live righteous lives to accepted by Him
- God is serious
- Those who inherit the kingdom of God are not people who do a few good works, a few acts of kindness, do something religious, etc., but people who walk in the Spirit of God
- The glorious privilege of spending all eternity with God is given only to genuine believers; those who have given their lives to Jesus Christ

The Fruit of the Spirit

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

- Just as there are examples of the *works* of the flesh, Paul gives examples of the *fruit* of the Spirit

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- The key distinction between *works of the flesh* and the *fruit of the Spirit* is fruit if the Spirit isn't achieved by "working" but by *abiding*
John 15:4-5 (KJV) 4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. 5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.
- The works of the flesh is *plural*, and the fruit of the Spirit is *singular*
- The fruit of the Spirit refers to a *cluster* or qualities that are to be seen in all believers
- The fruit of the Spirit can be grouped into three clusters:
 1. *Countenance* - love, joy and peace
 2. *Conduct* - longsuffering, gentleness, goodness
 3. *Character*- faith, meekness, temperance
- There is no law against the fruit of the Spirit
- When we have the fruit of the Spirit, the Law is not necessary because we *already* fulfilling it

Be Led of the Spirit

24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

- If we belong to Jesus, we have *crucified* our flesh
- Those who belong to Christ have been directed and empowered by the Holy Spirit to crucify the flesh
- The flesh will not totally be defeated until we see Jesus
- Until then, we have to daily crucify the flesh by resisting the flesh
- And since we are living by the Spirit, we are to *walk* in the Spirit
- Walking in the Spirit here means to *walk in line with* the Spirit, to keep in step with the Spirit
- We are allowing the Holy Spirit to guide and direct our lives day by day
- The Holy Spirit give us life, the life of God, therefore we are to walk and live out the life God give us