

Living In The Spirit – 04/25/21

TEXT- Gal 5:16-26 *This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. 17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit,*

INTRO – God’s desire is for every person to live in the Spirit; metaphorically walk in the Spirit.

There are only two means of living:

- **By the flesh**
- **By the Spirit**

Definition of Flesh - sarx - (a) The human body

(b) The unregenerate state of men

It refers to that part of us that is alienated from God. It is a compulsive inner force inherited from man’s fall, which expresses itself in general and specific rebellion against God and His righteousness. The flesh can never be reformed or improved.

The flesh is in direct conflict with the spirit

Gal 5:16-17 *This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. 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 do the things that ye would.*

The Flesh does not grasp spiritual teachings

Joh 6:63 *It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.*

The flesh is not willing to depend on anyone or anything outside its own power or control

Php 3:4-9 *Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more: 5 Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; 6 Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. 7 But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. 8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, 9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:*

The Flesh hates to be told what to do

Rom 7:5 *For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death.*

Flesh is as flesh does

Rom 8:5-6 *For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. 6 For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.*

The Flesh is intrinsically hostile to God

Rom 8:7-8 *Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. 8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.*

Rom 7:18 *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.*

The Flesh abuses freedom

Gal 5:13 *For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.*

The Flesh Demands to be fed

Gal 5:16-17 *This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. 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 do the things that ye would.*

The Flesh fuels sin

Gal 5:19-21 *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.*

To live in the Spirit is to:

Walk in the Spirit

The Spirit filled life

The fullness of the Spirit

The Christ life

The apostle Paul discusses “**holy living**” in Romans six, seven and eight.

- In chapter six he addresses the believer’s *relationship to sin*; though he is no longer a slave to sin because of the work of Christ’s on the cross, neither is he free to just go on sinning as he pleases.
- In chapter 7 he states that living a holy life does not come by *keeping the law*; because the law does not provide the power that is necessary to overcome the believer’s sin disposition.
- In chapter 8 Paul stresses the importance of the indwelling presence of the *Holy Spirit* in the life of the believer; it is only by the power of the Holy Spirit whereby the believer can overcome his sin disposition and live a life of holiness.

Paul describes seven key ministries of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer —

- **Walk according to the Spirit (8:2-4).**
- **Set your mind on the things of the Spirit (8:5-8).**
- **Put to death the deeds of the body by the Spirit (8:13).**
- **Be led by the Spirit (8:14).**
- **Know the Fatherhood of God by the Spirit (8:15-17).**
- **Hope in the Spirit (8:23-25).**
- **Pray in the Spirit (8:26-27). In other passages Paul mentions —**
- **Be filled with the Spirit (Eph 5:18).**
- **Serve in the Spirit (Rom 7:6; 15:16).**
- **Love by the Spirit (Rom 15:30; Gal 5:22-23; Col 1:8).**

The victorious Christian life is dependent upon three primary things:

1. Crucify the flesh

Gal 2:20 *I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*

Rom 8:13 *For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.*

2. Live in the Spirit

Gal 5:16-17 *This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.*

2. Renew your mind (Replacement)

Eph 4:22-24 *That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; 23 And **be renewed** in the spirit of your mind; 24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.*

Rom 12:2 *And be not conformed to this world: but **be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind**, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

Rom 6:11 *Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

CONCL –

Rom 6:18-22 *Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness. 19 I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.*