

The Work of the Holy Spirit

Walking by the Spirit

We are in a battle of influences.

Romans 8 v 12 - 14

So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

Galatians 5 v 1

It was for freedom Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.

Christ set us free to remain free.

Galatians 4 v 31

So then, brethren, we are not children of a bondwoman, but of the free woman.

We are of the free woman.

Romans 8 v 2

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.

Do not be subject again to a yoke of bondage.

From what are we Free?

Galatians 5 v 5

For we through the Spirit, by faith, are waiting for the hope of righteousness.

This is our hope, by faith we receive the Holy Spirit and by faith we walk by the Holy Spirit.

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Romans 14 v 23

But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and whatever is not from faith is sin.

That which is not of faith is sin.

Galatians 5 v 7 - 8

You were running well; who hindered you from obeying the truth? This persuasion did not come from Him who calls you.

Galatians 5 v 16

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.

This is our deterrent.

Galatians 5 v 17

For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.

Galatians 5 v 25

If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

If we believe in the Spirit let us practice what we believe!

Fruits

Ephesians 4 v 23 - 24

...and that you be renewed in the Spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

Romans 12 v 1 - 2

I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

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An Abundant Life Style

Romans 6 v 1 - 4

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace might increase? May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptised into Christ Jesus have been baptised into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

Believers are dead to sin and alive to God.

Romans 8 v 14

For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

This is a life in the Spirit.

John 10 v 10

The thief comes only to steal, and kill, and destroy; I came that they might have life, and might have it abundantly.

An abundant life however is a battle of influences or persuasions. Let's look at the Apostle Paul's confession.

Romans 7 v 21 - 25

I find then the principal that evil is present in me, the one who wishes to do good. For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man. But I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind, and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind am serving the law of God, but on the other, with my flesh the law of sin.

Christ has set us free. We chose either life or death. Understanding one thing but doing another, we have a mind subject to either the Spirit or the flesh. Satan has access to our minds! We are in a battle, a battle of influences.

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- God gave to mankind the right to make choices, which is a free gift. He chose us, which is the new covenant.
- Man was made to be influenced. He makes choices from different influences, in pressure, out of pressure.
- God influences us by making known to us His revelation, His ways, and His word. He makes suggestions to us knowing that we will respond *yes or no, I'll do this or that*.
- Satan influences us by making known to us his revelation, his ways, and his influences. He makes suggestions to us knowing that God has given us a free choice. Satan wants us to do his dirty work; he feeds our flesh, our carnal mind.

We choose either God's way or satan's way. Both choices carry with that obedience wages or fruit.

Romans 6 v 23

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The wages of sin are death; the wages of righteousness are eternal life. There is no redundancy in spiritual warfare. We serve either God or satan. Satan has access to our minds, our history and uses all his knowledge to try to influence us into his wicked plans. He lies, accuses, steals and generally connives to deceive us into giving up our faith and joining his prisoners of fear.

1 Timothy 6 v 12

Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you are called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

Satan cannot choose for you any more than God does. God has sealed the choice gift with His own authority; only with our permission can we serve satan or serve God.

Romans 6 v 16

Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?

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We live our lives according to who we hear and obey, all out of our own choice. Satan has a computer storage system and has knowledge of our weaknesses, failings, ambitions, frustrations and strengths. He feeds our minds with whatever will cause our disobedience to God. He doesn't give up trying; he is intelligent, cunning attractive to the flesh and is out to get you to sign up! Follow Jesus only.

What does it Mean to Follow Him?

Matthew 27 v 50

And Jesus cried out again with loud voice, and yielded up His Spirit.

Luke 14 v 25-26

Now great multitudes were going along with Him; and He turned and said to them, " If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple."

- Hear and obey His call - the Word
- Know what He expects of us, listen to learn and learn to listen more.
- Be willing to respond, to act.

Look to see what Jesus did! Read; devour ***Matthew 3 and 4***, this is a key. Here are some of the things that He did, that we can and should follow:

- He was baptised in water after his birth; He became a baby and was born again
- He received the Holy Spirit, see ***Matthew 4***
- He overcame the devil.

1 John 2 v 12-14

I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake. I am writing to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I have written to you, children, because you know the Father. I have written to you fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

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- His ministry began, He chose men
- He taught others, they were teachable
- He trained others, they were apprenticed
- He corrected them, they were correctable

Matthew 3 v 17

And behold, a voice out of the heavens, saying, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well - pleased."

Jesus received His Father's approval. The Trinity of the Godhead, 3 in 1 was in perfect harmony.

1 Thessalonians 5 v 23

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Each person of the Trinity influenced the other - each part of our spirit, body, soul influences our decisions, choices and lives.

Matthew 5 v 48

Therefore you are to be perfect, as your Heavenly Father is perfect.

How are we to become perfect? How can I recognise when I am walking in the flesh in my daily life? God's Word gives us the answer!

Galatians 5 v 16-21

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law. Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you just as I have forewarned you that those who practice such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

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If we are led by the flesh, this will be the fruit.

Galatians 5 v 22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

If we are led by the Holy Spirit this will be the fruit that we produce. Things are not always as they seem, until the fruit appears you may not be sure. Stay in the Word, in Christ.

The Holy Spirit led Jesus, even into the wilderness.

Matthew 4 v 1.

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

We often oppose the will of the Spirit. Jesus knew and used His whole armour. We often forget or don't bother, for example, praying in the Spirit at all times, but more so in difficult times.

To Walk in the Spirit is to be Free from Sin.

What sins do we mean? Of course we mean all sins, but there are less obvious sins which will prevent us from walking in the Spirit if they are not dealt with.

The Sin of Not Loving

Loving God - the first and foremost command.

Matthew 22 v 37

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.

This is basic and fundamental to our walk.

Amos 3 v 3

Do two men walk together unless they have made an appointment?

Born of God: We cannot walk by the Spirit of God unless we know the love of God and love Him totally in return. It is a sin not to love Him.

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John 14 v 15.

If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.

Loving Your Neighbour

Luke 10 v 29-37.

...and who is my neighbour? Jesus replied and said, "A certain man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho; and he fell among robbers, and they stripped him and beat him, and went off leaving him half dead. And by chance a certain priest was going down on that road, and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. And likewise, a Levite also, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, who was on a journey, came upon him; and when he saw him, he felt compassion, and came to him, and bandaged up his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them; and he put him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And on the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper and said, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I return, I will repay you.' Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbour to the man who fell into the robbers hands?" And he said, "The one who showed mercy toward him." And Jesus said to him, "Go and do the same."

If we do not love one another we will not walk by the Spirit of God and receive our Fathers approval. We have to deal with this sin before we can make real progress. We have to see where the root of this comes from, certainly not from God.

What Kind (Manner) of Love are we talking About?

1 John 3 v 1.

See how great a love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called children of God; and such we are.

Consume the whole of **1 John 3** and let your conscience be your guide in this whole matter of our walk with the Spirit of God. It is agape love, sacrificial love, laying down of life love.

1 John 3 v 16.

We know love by this that He (Jesus) laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

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Romans 5 v 8.

But God demonstrates His own love towards us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

To walk in the Spirit is to love God and one another with His agape love, not some conditional love.

Agapao	verb	sacrificial
Agape	noun	sacrificial
Phileo		tender affection
Philanthropic		generous in the natural sense

1 Corinthians 13 describes love; this is clearly a goal for us to attain to.

The Sin of Withholding

Proverbs 3 v 27.

Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it. Do not say to your neighbour (remembering who your neighbour is!) "Go and come back, and tomorrow, I will give it," when you have it with you.

To whom do all things belong?

1 Corinthians 3 v 21 - 23.

So then, let no one boast in men. For all things belong to you, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or things present or things to come; all things belong to you, and you belong to Christ; and Christ belongs to God.

We cannot claim that we own anything unless we see that all that we own belongs to Christ. That is to say me, my life, wife, children, family, home, all my possessions, all my gifts and abilities, they all belong to Jesus.

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Ephesians 4 v 1.

I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, entreat you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called.

We are prisoners of Christ.

Romans 12 v 1.

I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God which is your spiritual service of worship.

This spiritual service of worship is what Jesus referred to in **John 4 v 23**.

But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshippers.

God is Spirit and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth. To walk in the Spirit is to present yourself to Him in adoration, love and reverence. If you withhold anything in any one area you are out of step.

Here are some other examples:

1 Corinthians 12 v 7.

But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

1 Corinthians 14 v 12. *So also you, since you are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek to abound for the edification of the church.*

We re to present our gifts to the body, both ourselves and our gifts and abilities.

1 Corinthians 7 v 3 - 5.

Let the husband fulfil his duty to his wife, and likewise also the wife to her husband. The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does; and likewise also the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does.

Husbands and Wives do not withhold yourself from your partner. You can chose otherwise but it is not right unless you agree together. Satan will and does get in; intercourse is a picture of marriage, a union that leads to communion, a giving of one another to each other.

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Malachi 3 v 8 -11.

Will a man rob God? (some translations say defraud God) yet you are robbing me! But you say, "How have we robbed Thee?" In tithes and offerings. You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing Me, the whole nation of you! Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this, "says the Lord of hosts.

Do not withhold your money from God, this is stealing. You are likely to go to prison for stealing, or you can receive God's blessing like the church in Macedonia did.

2 Corinthians 8 v 1-5

Now, brethren, we wish to make known to you the grace of God which has been given in the churches of Macedonia, that in a great ordeal of affliction their abundance of joy and their deep poverty overflowed in the wealth of their liberality. For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability they gave of their own accord, begging us with much entreaty for the favour of participation in the support of the saints, and this, not as we had expected, but they first gave themselves to the Lord and to us by the will of God.

The expression of love by these people was proven by their actions. Ministry was able to continue. Sow sparingly and that is how you will receive. God wants us to enjoy His provision, give cheerfully! You can choose the cost of giving or the cost of living.

Luke 6 v 27-38 is called "The Beatitudes." Read them, they are Jesus words of instruction. We are to become a people of the Spirit, not merely debaters or arguers of truth. We can admit the truth of the Gospel and yet never be embarrassed by or challenged by its implications. *As someone once said after all is said and done, there's plenty said, but little done.* Sounds like politics to me!

God seeks a people who will give their all. Saul built for himself a monument to his successes, he believed that this was his obedience, but he lost his crown because he did not give all to God. He died for his disobedience; we will die spiritually if we do not press on to the goal of perfection.

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