

WALKING BY THE SPIRIT, PART 1

Mid Week Instruction
Reid Temple AME Church
Pastor Washington

Galatians 5:16

- At the moment of salvation, the Holy Spirit resides in the life of the believer and becomes the resource, energy and power for the believers life.
- Galatians 5 directs our attention to the Spirit controlled life and what it produces. The production end of it is in verse 22.
- The basis of the Christian life when lived successfully to the glory of God is the energy and power of the Holy Spirit

Galatians – Law and Grace

- In Galatians we have a contrast going on between law and grace.
- Paul's argument is that you not need to circumscribe yourself as a Christian to a law or external code.
- The Holy Spirit internally produces what the law externally never could produce.
- The contrast is between legalism and living a Spirit filled life or walking by the Holy Spirit.

Before Christ Bondage

- Before Christ there was bondage to the external law, since men couldn't keep it there was a condemnation that was written into it.
- Christ came along and paid the penalty that the law required. God's law is a holy law. God says if you don't keep my law you are dead.
- The soul that sins is dead. The wages of sin is death. The law had a penalty that was execution or death spiritually.

After Christ Freedom

- Christ came alone and paid the penalty. He liberated all who come to Him in faith. He liberated them from having to keep a code of laws.
- After the death of Christ the gift of the Spirit would reside in the believer and become the restrainer of sin. What the law couldn't do.
- Galatians address legalistic non-Christians who are not really born again.

Elements of False Teaching

- Paul was not a true apostle because he had no credentials so you could not believe Paul. Chapters 1 and 2.
- You can't be saved by grace alone. You must be circumcised and maintain the law. Chapters 3 and 4.
- Once you are saved you then must obey the law this is the way to live versus the indwelling Holy Spirit which leads. Chapter 5 and 6.

Rules and Rituals

- Paul writes you don't need an external law. Nor follow the ceremonies or routine rituals.
- The Spirit of God comes inside of you and effects the holiness that the law externally was meant to force you into the old covenant.
- The old covenant was designed to scare people into obedience. You better do this or will die. The Spirit produces this without fear.

Galatians 5:1 Liberation or Legalism

- There is no sense in imposing a legalist situation on Christians. The Spirit of God will do that.
- The more legalism you apply to your life the more you choke the Holy Spirit. Legalism eliminates the ministry of the Holy Spirit.
- Allow the Spirit of God to produce the work of holiness as you walk by the Spirit.

The Restrainer – Holy Spirit

- The Holy Spirit restrains sin from the inside.
- Walking in the Spirit doesn't mean sin runs crazy, but just the opposite.
- Old Testament saints didn't have the strength of restraint. The law could not effect restraint because they were so fleshly but the Spirit of God can in a more powerful way.
- Freedom doesn't mean freedom to indulge the flesh. Galatians 5:13

Walking By The Spirit – Gal. 5:16-25

- We can have holiness in our lives without legalism. Holiness comes as we walk by the energy of the Holy Spirit. Eph. 3:16; 5:18.
- In order to live a holy life, the Christian doesn't need to set up a bunch of dos and don'ts.
- I've seen situation where Christians did not do things, but their thoughts were corrupt because they know nothing of the Holy Spirit.

New Covenant or Old Covenant

- If I had to live in the old covenant, I would not have lived long from all the sins of the past.
- I've learned in the new covenant what holiness is and holiness is not a list of outside rules.
- Holiness is walking by the energy of the indwelling Spirit who empowers me to do the things that I couldn't force myself to do no matter what the outside rules were.

The Command-Gal. 5:16

- This is a daily routine. This is not a one time deal. It requires walking continuously.
- Keep walking by the Spirit and the Spirit will produce in you things that God desires.
- Sin is not a question of information. It is a question of whether or not you are walking by his power and his energy and strength.
- The Holy Spirit controls the life and begins to exercise our liberty in a way that never violates ourselves or others.

Power Over The Flesh

- The Spirit is power over the flesh and allows us to check our lusts.
- We fulfill the law not by circumscribing ourselves to an outside code but by walking in the Spirit.
- Walking in the Spirit implies progress. It means keep on walking day by day, step by step.
- Continue on with the Spirit as the life of Christ unfolds a step at a time and we yield to the control of the Holy Spirit.

The Conflict-Gal. 5:17

- The first thing a Christian finds out is that life is a conflict and there is always the capacity to sin.
- The flesh restricts you from accomplishment. The flesh is that part of us that can't produce anything but sin and the part that Satan attacks. Rom. 4:1; Galatians 3:3. 6:12; Rom. 6:19, 7:18, 7:5
- Christians struggle with the flesh even though you are new.

Romans 7:14 The Flesh Struggle

- It is the part of us which functions apart from goodness and apart from God.
- The flesh remains even in a believer. By creating a tension in a Christian.
- The Christian has to deal with the flesh. The flesh carries on a very effective work.
- The remedy is to walk by the Spirit and you shall not fulfill the lusts of the flesh.

The Power of the Holy Spirit

- Jesus claimed that he has been given power over all flesh. John 17:2
- Paul said God has done for us what the law could not do in that it was weakened by the flesh. Romans 8:3.
- The Spirit of God is absolute power. We have the absolute power of God fighting against the impotence of the flesh.
- The Holy Spirit is all about helping our weakness. Rom. 8:26

Romans 6:12- Yield to the Spirit

- God is not saying now Holy Spirit, you do that job. He is saying look don't you let sin reign in your mortal body.
- We must first of all determine to yield to the Spirit's control.
- Did the flesh ever do anything for you? Any one like to give a testimony of how the flesh has blessed your life?
- We are not debtors to the flesh. We owe the flesh nothing.

How to kill the Flesh

- The best way to do that is to starve the flesh to death.
- Don't ever feed anything to the flesh because temptation is at its worse when you get yourself in a position to be tempted.
- Don't give anything to the flesh that appeals to it. Don't put yourself in a position to have the flesh entertained. Col. 3:5
- Involvement: Christian life is not something you watch. It is something we are absorbed in.

Galatians 5:18 Not under the Law

- The law can't stop sin, it stirs up sin. It reveals sin. The law makes sin what it is. 1 Cor. 15:56.
- You don't need to pray Holy Spirit lead me. The Spirit of God is doing that, we need to pray Holy Spirit teach me how to follow.
- God only gives His Spirit to people who have accepted Him by His grace.
- We are not under the law we are under the leading of the Spirit's power.

Where the Holy Spirit Leads us.

- He leads us to freedom. Galatians 5:1
- He leads us to holiness. Galatians 5:16
- He leads us to the word John 16:14
- He leads us into all truth
- He leads us to fruitfulness, Galatians 5:22.
- He leads us to prayer or entrance into God Ephesians 2:18. He leads us to assurance.
- He leads us to witness Acts 1:8
- He leads us to submissive joy.

See You Sunday - Communion

- 7:30 — “Wilderness Exam.” Lk 4:1-4
Pastor Washington
- 9:30 – Rev. Watley
- 10:30 – “Let’s Go Higher” Lk 9:28-37
Pastor Washington
- 6:00 – Rev. Watley
- Are you a soul winner for Christ? Why not?
- Start by following the Holy Spirits lead.
- Blessings!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!