

FATHER'S HEART MINISTRIES

WALKING IN THE SPIRIT BY SHAUN BLIGNAUT

GAL..5:16-26

INTRODUCTION

Whenever we try to:

- Please God in our own strength;
- Strive within ourselves to do good;
- Work to please God, then find another law at work within us:

Rom.7:18-23

Please read these verses!

NOTE

We are unable to do and achieve any good in our own strength!

Why?

Rom.8:7-8

"...The sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God"

The *flesh* is the earthly, carnal nature:- the nature with which we were born into the earth!

It is the old self - it is the Adamic nature:- fallen and incurably rebellious.

Jer.17:9

"The heart is above all things exceedingly wicked"

What then must we do?

Eph.4:22-24

“You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires, to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness”

Read Eph.4:23-32

All these things we are commanded to do - we can however, not do it in our own strength!

Rom.8:9

“You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you...”

Realise that the Holy Spirit came to indwell your spirit, to empower you ‘will’ in accordance with the Word of God.

So, there is a command to “put off” the old self and to “put on” the new self!

Between the desire to put off the old self and putting on the new self, there is a constant struggle:- *We have the flesh (old self) and we have the new self and the desire to honour God.*

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Between these two opposing principles there is a constant antagonism (war), a fight and a battle for supremacy!

Gal.5:17

“For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want.”

There are two natures in you - both desiring contrary to one another!

What is the result of this deep inward fight?

We try to restrain ourselves from doing wrong, but find ourselves powerless to overcome.

If we allow the flesh the upper-hand, it will resist the things of the Spirit, and visa versa!

Gal.5:19-23, list for us the works of the flesh.

We see abuse and perversion of bodily functions and subtle sins of the mind.

We see: adultery; fornication; uncleanness (moral); lasciviousness (loose conduct and undue familiarity with the opposite sex); idolatry (worship of anything but God - self); witchcraft (wrong thoughts and prayers toward others); hatred (entertaining wrong feelings toward others).

We see variance (long, wordy disputes about petty things);

Emulations (jealousies, and envious desires for another's goods, or material things and positions);

Wrath (loosing your temper);

Strife (ambition, self-seeking, rivalry);

Seditions (standing apart, dissensions and divisions);

Heresies (the formation of schools of opinion and part politics)

We see envy, murders and drunkenness.

These are all works of the flesh.

Works of the flesh are connected to the “old self”

Gal.5:22-23, list for us the character of the Spirit.

This is the will of God for us.

Our problem is that we desire these things in ourselves, and then seek to perform them in our own strength.

Some believers seek to get the fruit of the Spirit out of the flesh. The result is failure and frustration.

The flesh cannot love - love is self-denying service of others.

The flesh is essentially selfish, its service is for own glory!

As long as we keep on trying to produce these fruits by the flesh, God will let you keep on failing!

WHAT IS THE SOLUTION?

- Be convinced that there is no good thing inside of you;
- Come to final despair of yourself! Only then will God reveal to you that the secret lies in the indwelling Spirit of God.

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Gal.5:22-23, represent the essential character of the Holy Spirit Himself!

We must have NO confidence in the flesh!

HOW DO WE WALK IN THE SPIRIT?

1. Choice

There will be no manifestation of the Spirit in our lives unless that fruit be the object of our *definite choice*. The Spirit can never operate independently of your *will*.

Phil.2:13 - this is God's part:

"...For it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purposes"

God only works as you yield and allow Him to.

Phil.2:12 - this is our part:

"...Continue to work out your own salvation with fear and trembling"

We choose first, then the Spirit '*wills*' on our behalf!

Be determined to deny your own wish and pleasure in sacrifice for and service of others.

Make a choice to be longsuffering, allowing God's grace to work in you.

2. Committal

Although I choose the fruit of the Spirit, I realise that it is not to be found in me! I am helpless and hopeless where true and essential goodness is concerned, so I must turn myself over completely to the One in whom that goodness is to be found, and from whom alone it proceeds.

So, I commit my entire will and life by faith to the Lord Jesus Christ as the Lord of my life.

See 1 Sam.7:3 + Ps.37:5 + 1 Pet.4:19

3. Confidence

Confidence involves reliance upon Him to do the work. Confidence is a firm expectation that God will do what He has promised to do.

Phil.3:3

“For it is we who worship by the Spirit of God, who glory in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh!

Confidence is the Greek word Peitho which means:

- *To persuade*
- *To have an internal certainty*
- *All operations hinges on a deep conviction and certainty that the outcome will favour me.*

Our internal certainty comes from having faith in God’s ability, while denying our own decaying fleshly desires.