

Power in Our Spiritual Struggle

July 26, 2020

Pastor Mark Turner

Galatians 5:1-25

Oakbrook Community Church (PCA)

An Amazing Contrast & The Believer's Struggle

- Religion: motivation for morality is fear based
- True Christianity: motivation for morality is love & faith based 5:6
- Every believer has two natures conflicting within them:
 - * the spirit
 - * the flesh

The Battle Further Defined: 17

- Flesh is set against the spirit
- each nature produces character qualities, 'desires'
- Born again given Spirit (Eph 1:13; Rm 8:9) new heart (Ezek 36:26; Heb 8:10)
- We were once dead (Eph 2:1-3)... we are now alive (Eph 2:4-6)
- Desires of flesh (old self) desires of spirit (new self) Eph 4:22-24
- desire "*epithumia*" can be translated "over-desire"
- We over-desire things that are good so they become like gods
- Power of 4 G's to remembering the Gospel:
 - God is Great - so I don't have to be in control
 - God is Glorious - so I don't have to fear others
 - God is Good - so I don't have to look elsewhere
 - God is Gracious - so I don't have to prove myself!
- Remember we have a new heart (Ezek 36:26) by the Spirit

Spirit Sufficient to Overcome the Flesh 16-17

- Before Christ, Fallen state, our desire was not for God
- Christ has given us a new life, a new desire by the spirit Rom 8:5
- Jesus' desire to obey God: John 4:34; 5:30
- Spirit's desire to guide us in truth: John 16:13-14
- We have the spirit so we can now desire God's purposes
- The Spirit helps us desire God 1 Pet 2:11; Rm 7:22-23
- A believer has both flesh desires and godly desires, we are to use that freedom to through love serve one another Gal 5:13
- The spirit is ALL we need: Gal 5:16 – it is sufficient for the battle!

Being Led By the Spirit

- Believers are no longer under the law - free from God's judgment
- Spirit gives us salvation and gives us life in Christ Gal 3:23; 4:4-5; Rm 8:9-11
- We are saved when we by faith see God's glorious provision in Christ
- We are sanctified as we by faith see God's glorious provision in Christ 2 Cor 3:16-18
- Currently we only see His glory by faith in His Word, at consummation fully 1 Jn 3:2
- So now we must increase our faith by immersing ourselves in His Word - Romans 10:17
- Paul reminded us: v6 what matters is faith working through love
- Let your faith be strengthened through the Word of Christ!
- Encourage one another with the Gospel truths: 12 through love serve one-another
- Think of ways to walk with the Spirit and grow in faith! V22-25

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