

Growing Fruit of the Spirit

August 2, 2020

Pastor Mark Turner

Galatians 5:1-25

Oakbrook Community Church (PCA)

A Believer overcomes Spiritual Struggle by Life in the Spirit

- Spirit gives believers new life & makes us alive 1 Cor 3:16; Rom 8:9
- Believers now free to choose the best and that is God's will Gal 5:16-17
- Formerly we were slaves to sin & idolatry Gal 4:8
- Our Struggle: we disappoint flesh or spirit – that is a conflict for believers
- WSC Q35 Sanctification is the work of God's free grace, whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God, and are enabled more and more to die unto sin, and live unto righteousness.

What to do to become more like Jesus

- There are things we can do to grow in holiness but it is the Spirit's work
- Believers should know God's Spirit is working in their life
- We were dead, but now Spirit has made us alive Eph 2:1-5 in saving us
- In our sanctification, it is the Spirit, but we have a role to play with the Spirit. We are to walk 16, be led 18, keep in step 25 with the Spirit
- Paul showed us WHO we are by His grace: Gal 4:4-7: no longer slaves but SONS!

God's Love is the key... key to our change

- The more remember the Gospel (who we are) the more we love Him.
- Faith & Love are the key to sanctification: Gal 5:6; 5:13
- God's love is the catalyst of change in the Spirit 16, 18, 25
- Life in the Spirit illustrated:
 - Kayaking in a river – easy to go with river, hard to go against
 - Sheep trusting Shepherd to provide the best rather than make own decision
 - RESULT: follow the Spirit and not go on our own path : Psa 23

So How do we Follow the Spirit?

- Contrast Flesh 19-21 with Spirit 22-23
- Not difficult, pretty simple!

Live By Dying to the Flesh Each Day

- Paul tells us the "how to" in v24-25
- We must crucify the flesh. Jesus likewise said: Mk 9:44-47
- Reformers called this "mortification"
- Luther's 95 Theses
 - 1) When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, "Repent" (Mt 4:17), he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance.
 - 2) This word cannot be understood as referring to the sacrament of penance, that is, confession and satisfaction, as administered by the clergy.
 - 3) Yet it does not mean solely inner repentance; such inner repentance is worthless unless it produces various outward mortification of the flesh.
- Galatians: we continue as believers the same way we start: by faith & repentance!
- A Life of mortifying the flesh means:
 - saying "NO" to the temptations of the flesh Titus 2:11-13
 - Repenting when we do sin 1 Jn 1:9
- Remember to Apply the GOSPEL day-by-day and moment-by-moment!

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