

The Gospel in Galatians

Lesson #12 Living by the Spirit

“But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh” (Galatians 5:16, ESV).

Gal 5:16–25; Deut 13:4, 5; Rom. 7:14–24; Jer 7:9; Hos 4:2; Matt. 22:35–40

Walking in the Spirit

Genesis 5:22–24 *And Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters:*
²³ *And all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty and five years:*
²⁴ *And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.*
***Genesis 6:9–10** *These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God. And Noah begat three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth.*
***1 John 2:5–6** *But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. ⁶ He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.*

Do Not Love the World

Galatians 5:16-25 *This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. (17) For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. (18) But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. (19) Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, (20) Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, (21) Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. (22) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, (23) Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. (24) And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. (25) If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.*

Galatians 5:16–26 contains five key verbs that describe the type of life in which the Spirit reigns. “walk” in the Spirit (vs. 16). The Greek means “to walk around or to follow.” Paul is not talking about an occasional walk but rather a continuous daily experience. The second verb is “to be led” (vs. 18). This suggests that we also need to allow the Spirit to lead us where we should go. It is not our job to lead but to follow. The next verb is “to live” (ζαο in Greek). By “live,” Paul is referring to the new-birth experience daily that must mark the life of every believer. “to walk” by the Spirit. The word translated “march” is different from the one in verse 16. Here the word is stoicheo. It is a military term that literally means “to draw up in a line,” “to keep in step,” or “to conform.” The verb Paul uses in verse 24 is “to crucify.” This is a little shocking. If we are to follow the Spirit, we must make a firm decision to put to death the desires of the flesh.

1 John 2:15–17 (NKJV) *Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. ¹⁷ And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.*

Romans 12:1–2 (NKJV) *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

The simple faith of our fathers has been eroded by a burgeoning hedonistic society?

***James 4:4 (NKJV)** *Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.*

If you are in a great river in one of a hundred life rafts you might not know that you are moving 3 mph downstream until the fog lifts and you see the shore. The reference of something immovable makes you realize you are drifting.

The Christian’s Conflict

It is not a sin to be tempted. Jesus was.

Ravens show up when the fruit is ripe. The most spiritual people are the most likely to face the most severe temptations. They have something that Satan would like to spoil or destroy.

Romans 7:14–24 (NKJV) *For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin.¹⁵ For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do.¹⁶ If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that it is good.¹⁷ But now, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.¹⁸ For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find.¹⁹ For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice.²⁰ Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.²¹ I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good.²² For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man.²³ But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.²⁴ O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?*

Do Not Flirt with Temptation.

A little boy was standing in a country store with his hand in the apple barrel, caressing the attractive fruit. Finally, the storekeeper approached the lad and asked, “Sonny, are you trying to steal my apples?” Quickly the boy answered, “No, sir. I’m trying not to.”

2 Peter 2:9 *The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations.*

***1 Corinthians 10:13** *There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.*

Sin starts in the mind. “The flesh” is also in the brain.

It is only when the mind responds to the desire by receiving it and holding it that the temptation turns into sin.

Mark 7:21–23 (NKJV) *For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders,²² thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness.²³ All these evil things come from within and defile a man.”*

James 1:14–15 *But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.¹⁵ Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.*

Too many do not repel that first thought of sin. They continue to look and feed the illicit desire until they believe their happiness depends on it.

Just Say “NO”

Titus 2:11–14 (NKJV) *For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men,¹² teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age,¹³ looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,¹⁴ who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.*

Luke 9:23** *And he said to them all, **If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.

Moses refused

Joseph refused

Romans 12:21 (NKJV) *Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*

Matthew 22:35-40 *Then one of them, which was a lawyer, asked him a question, tempting him, and saying, (36) Master, which is the great commandment in the law? (37) Jesus said unto him, **Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.** (38) **This is the first and great commandment.** (39) **And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.** (40) **On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.***

The Works of the Flesh

Galatians 5:19–21 (NKJV) *Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness,²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies,²¹ envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.*

Hosea 4:2 *By swearing, and lying, and killing, and stealing, and committing adultery, they break out, and blood toucheth blood.*

***1 Timothy 3:2–3 (NKJV)** *A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach;³ not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous;*

Jeremiah 7:9 *Will ye steal, murder, and commit adultery, and swear falsely, and burn incense unto Baal, and walk after other gods whom ye know not;*

The Fruit of the Spirit

Galatians 5:22–24 (NKJV) *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,²³ gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.²⁴ And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Matthew 7:15–20* (NKJV)

Matt 12:33 *"Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or else make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for a tree is known by its fruit.*

Luke 6:43–45 *"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.¹⁶ You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles?¹⁷ Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit.¹⁸ A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit.¹⁹ Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.²⁰ Therefore by their fruits you will know them.*

The Way to Victory

Doctrine of the NICOLAITANS

Acts 6:5 *And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and **Nicolas**, a proselyte from Antioch, ...*

Heretical group in the early church who taught immorality and idolatry. They are condemned in Rev. 2:6, 15 for their practices in Ephesus and Pergamum. Thyatira apparently had resisted the false prophecy they preached (Rev. 2:20–25). The Nicolaitans have been linked to the type of heresy taught by Balaam (Num. 25:1–2; 2 Pet. 2:15), especially the pagan feasts and orgies that they apparently propagated in the first-century church.

The doctrine of the Nicolaitans appears to have been a form of antinomianism. A belief that is based makes the fatal mistake that man can freely partake in sin because the Law of God is no longer binding. It held the truth on the gratuitous reckoning of righteousness; but supposed that a mere intellectual "belief" in this truth had a saving power. The Apostle James refuted this error in **James 2:19** with the admonition, "The devils also believe, and tremble"; reminding us that true faith is an active principle which works by love and it goes beyond a profession of belief. "But wilt

thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?" (**James 2:20**) The Bible teaches us that salvation is a free gift, based upon God's grace alone (**Ephesians 2:8-9**) However, the very next verse tells us that "we are created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." (**Ephesians 2:10**) True faith produce action, as well as a desire for holiness and obedience. (**1 John 3:18, Titus 2:11-15, 1 Peter 1:15-16, Revelation 14:12**)

Believing the freedom of the flesh and sin, and teaching that the deeds of the flesh had no effect upon the health of the soul and consequently no relation to salvation. On the other hand, the Bible teaches that Christians are supposed to "die" to sin and the deeds of our "flesh": "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?" (**Romans 6:1-2**) "Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God." (Romans 6:11-13)

Today, the doctrine is now largely taught that the gospel of Christ has made God's law of no effect: that by "believing" we are released from the necessity of being doers of the Word. But this is the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which Christ so unsparingly condemned in the book of Revelation. "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." (**James 1:22**)

Tomatoes - In 1820 a crowd of curious, people gathered around the county courthouse in Salem, New Jersey. The county fair was in progress, and they jostled one another in eager anticipation, for they were about to witness a daring feat.

Soon a man appeared on the steps, holding in one hand the a piece of poisonous fruit that had been part of the fair's decorations. As he held it up for them to see, members of the crowd whispered excitedly to one another. "Is he really going to eat it?" some asked, in disbelief.

The man was Colonel Robert Gibbon Johnson; and the fruit was a tomato, called in those days a "love apple" and considered deadly poison. Returning Spanish conquistadors brought the first tomato seeds from Peru to Italy. Upon arrival the Italians believed the heart-shaped tomato was an aphrodisiac, thus tomato in Italian, poma amoris, means "love apple." Love apples were tokens of courtship or lawn decorations. Young men gave them to their girlfriends, who would afterward wear the seeds in sachets around their necks. The fruit was admired for its beauty, but because of its relation to deadly nightshade the tomato was regarded as poison by Americans and, no one-repeat, no one-would dream of eating it.

The crowd gasped in horror as the colonel Johnson deliberately placed the tomato in his mouth, and ate it with apparent relish. They waited breathlessly, expecting soon to see him collapse writhing in dying agony, on the courthouse steps.

But nothing happened. Instead- Praising the color and texture, he ate a second tomato, explaining, that tomatoes were delicious either cooked or raw. He then he invited the onlookers to join him in his meal, and a few of the braver ones went forward. Soon they too were relishing the tomato's flavor.

The news rapidly spread, and eventually tomatoes became a widely accepted article of diet providing a primary source of minerals and vitamins A and C. Today United States grows about 9 million metric tonnes of tomatoes yearly and there are more varieties of tomatoes sold than of any other fruit. The Bible teaches that the devil is a master of deception in convincing people to fear what is good and eat what is bad.