

Maintaining Your Freedom — Walking in the Spirit

Steve Berger July 9, 2017

Last week

- freedom from sin's power and penalty is God's will — therefore, Jesus promised freedom...
- **John 8:31-32,36**
Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free...therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed."
 - Believe Him, Abide Word, Know Truth, Truth Frees, Indeed

Sinful, fleshy life

1. What sinful, fleshy life looks like... seems we're confused about what sin is...

- **Galatians 5:19-21**

Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 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.

2. What the flesh does...

- **Galatians 5:17**

For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish...

- A Battle Rages! A Winnable Battle!

3. What the flesh produces... Serious Warning!

- **Galatians 6:8** — corruption, decay (physically and spiritually); **Romans 8:7** — enmity, hostile relationship with God; **Romans 8:13** — spiritual death; *to name a few*

BIG QUESTION — *How do we appropriate the freedom from the flesh, that is ours in Christ?*

ANSWER — Walk in the Spirit

- **Galatians 5:16**

I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

- "shall not fulfill"

Strong double negative — in Greek, aorist active subjunctive... "you **shall not never** fulfill"... very strong language... very definitive.

Application — *Walk in the spirit and you **shall not never** fulfill the lusts of the flesh.*

BIG QUESTION — *How do I walk in the Spirit?*

ANSWER — *It is something to **do**. Too much talk about freedom from sin comes from what I must “**stop**” doing, this is important, if you want freedom, there is something you must “**start**” doing and that’s **walking in the Spirit**... How?*

Holy Spirit Empowered

- **Acts 1:8**

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me...

- power to be a witness for Christ, power to live a life that says, “look what Jesus can do in you — you too can be transformed and set free from defeated flesh-living”

**Holy Spirit power overcomes the power of the flesh —
otherwise, what is the point in God sending Him to us**

- child of God — God wants you free. He has sent Power for you to walk in, so you don’t fulfill the lusts of the flesh! Power to be a witness for Christ, by living the victorious life He has called us to

Holy Spirit Minded

- **Romans 8:5-6**

For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, (set their minds on) the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

- you must recognize the importance of the spiritual realm, and the role it plays in your life

**The spiritual world is the real world —
and it controls the natural world we live in**

- you must set your mind on the Spirit to walk in the Spirit and experience spiritual freedom, life and peace
- trying to do Christianity with a natural mind and human reason will only frustrate you and leave you defeated — you must start being spiritually minded

QUESTIONS for self — *what is God’s will in this situation/temptation; what does God’s Word say about this situation; what is the Spirit doing, wanting?*

**You start getting Holy Spirit-minded —
you are on your way to freedom from the flesh!**

Holy Spirit Guided

- **John 16:13**

However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.

• **John 14:26**

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

**The Holy Spirit will guide you, speak to you,
tell you what's coming your way,
teach you, remind you what He taught you.
You start letting the Holy Spirit guide you,
you will walk in the Spirit —
and stop fulfilling the lusts of the flesh!**

IMPORTANT** — being guided by your brokenness, feelings, and flesh is contrary to the guiding of the Holy Spirit. He takes you to the solid truth of the Word, not the **fleeting feelings of your flesh.

Holy Spirit Submitted

- **so important** — it doesn't matter how spiritually minded you are, how much the Holy Spirit is talking to you, **or how much power you have received...**

...if you won't submit to His will, you will stay in the flesh

- **Matthew 26:36-45**

Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to the disciples, "Sit here while I go and pray over there." And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed. Then He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me." He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will." Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "What! Could you not watch with Me one hour? Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Again, a second time, He went away and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done." And He came and found them asleep again, for their eyes were heavy. So He left them, went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words. Then He came to His disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners."

- **Jesus** is **praying** without ceasing, **submitting** to God's will and **overcoming** the desire to do what the flesh wants.
- **disciples** are **prayerless**, resting, **sleeping**, **unsubmitted** to God's will in the situation and fulfilling the flesh... what a contrast!

Walking in the Spirit is being...

- **Holy Spirit empowered**
- **Holy Spirit minded**
- **Holy Spirit guided**
- **Holy Spirit submitted**

If you walk in the spirit — you won't fulfill the lusts of the flesh.

Discussion Questions

1. If someone says they are a Christian, have been baptized, but continually live like Galatians 5:19-21, will they inherit the kingdom of God?
 2. Can you walk in the Spirit, and still fulfill the lust of the flesh... sometimes? (not an occasional moral failure, but a “small” *conscious* choice) What do you struggle with?
 3. React to this statement, “Holy Spirit power overcomes the power of the flesh, otherwise, what is the point in God sending Him to us.”
 4. IF the statement in Question #3 is TRUE, how should that affect your personal daily life?
 5. How can you become Holy Spirit MINDED? Does this alter your understanding of the spiritual world?
 6. Is there anything in your flesh that you are holding on to — that you have not submitted to the Holy Spirit?
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