

Fruit-Filled Living (Pt.12)

“A Fruit Basket for Everyone”

(Galatians 5:22 -25)

“...let us...walk in the Spirit.” (v. 25b)

Introduction: As we have seen throughout this series, being filled with the Spirit or walking by the Spirit is basic to the Christian life. The Christian cannot walk independent of the Holy Spirit, generating his own energy and his own power. *Success in the Christian life is directly related to walking by the Spirit.*

There are 3 things every believer must do in order for them to walk by the Spirit successfully.

I. We must crucify the flesh: (v24)

A. We must Face the cost - Paul has been addressing Christian liberty in terms of the freedom to bear the fruit of the Spirit. *And here once more he reminds us freedom comes with a cost – (v.24)*

The first thing we know about this verse (and others like it), is that it does not mean you have to physically die or crucify yourself. (see 2:19-20) speaking of his own experience, and he will mention it again (6:14).

B. We must focus on the crucifixion - of the flesh with “its” passions and desires. *(Paul calls this "reckoning" in Rom 6; you have the same truth presented in Col 3:5 ff). But...*

1. We must identify these wrong passions – “Flesh” – *is referring to all that is sinful in our human nature. (Rom 7:5)*
 - a. The word Flesh here is not a reference to our bodies – but rather to our spiritual state before we were in Christ Jesus.
 - b. Prior to our conversion we were ruled by sinful passions (Gal. 5:19-21)
- We must not make "Provision for the flesh" (Rom 13:14)
- Paul warned us ... *In the flesh dwells no good thing (Rom 7:18),*
- We should put no confidence in the flesh (Phil 3:3).
- The flesh is not subject to God's Law (Rom 8:7) and it cannot please God (Rom 8:8). Only through the Holy Spirit can we "*put to death" the deeds that the flesh would do through our body (Rom 8:13).*

So, the Holy Spirit who lives in us is not only the Spirit of life (Rom 8:2; Gal 5:25), but He is also the Spirit of death

2. We must initiate the right pruning – (Gal.5:16) *Jesus said His Father was the great vine dresser in Jn. 15 –*
 - a. According to (Jn.15:2) God helps us remove anything that hinders our usefulness.
 - b. Jesus in this same passage (Jn.15:4) begins the theme of “Abiding in Him,”
 - c. *(Jesus is our vine, and we are His branches) – we are tied into Him...*
 - d. Gal. 2:20 Paul identified with Jesus’ theme the first time he mentions crucifying the flesh in this letter (Gal 2:20)

However, abstaining from form of evil is only the negative side of crucifying the flesh...

C. We must focus on the conversion – “...those who are Christ's...” (5:24a) *at the point of our conversion, there 2 things happened...*

1. **Your old flesh was crucified** - (2 Cor.5:17; Rom. 6:4)

2. **Your old flesh came under the control of the love of Christ** – (Gal. 2:20) *And we do this not out of obligation, but obedience because... (2 Cor. 3:18; Rom.12:1-2; 1 Jn.2:6)*

And according to (2 Cor 3:18) ...soon the sinful works of the flesh die of starvation. (Rom 8:4) A second step...

II. We must cooperate with the spirit: (v.25)

In short, we must live in a conscious awareness of the presence and directing of the Spirit to walk with Him daily.

A. The key to Christian living – *is to be filled with “controlled by” and be in step with the Spirit.*

(All the key leaders of the N.T. are characterized as people filled with the spirit – Jesus - (Lk.4:1; Jn.3:34) John the Baptist – (Lk.1:15, 41,67) The Apostles - (Acts 2) Peter – (Acts 4:8) The officials selected for the early church – (Acts 6:5) Stephen – (Acts 6:5; 7:55) Paul – (Acts 9:17; 13:9) Barnabas – (Acts 11:24)

Yielding to the power of the Holy Spirit released such divine power in these men that it was said of them, “they have turned the world upside down.”

B. The concept is spirit leading – *is to be driven by the Spirit, to be moved by the Spirit, to be permeated by the Spirit, and to be controlled by the Spirit. (This is the emphasis Paul is stating in Gal.5:18. (Eph. 5:18; Col. 3:16)*

(Our best example is Jesus and so the final step is...)

III. We must conduct ourselves as Christ: (Phil. 2:5)

To walk in the Spirit is to live one’s whole life in accordance with the mind of Christ. (Phil. 2:5)

Jesus Himself and His earthly example (Heb.4:15) tells us He is a complete model.

A. Jesus inward life – (Jn17: 23-24; Jn.16:24;(Jn.14:27) *we also see...*

B. Jesus outward life – *the earthly life of Jesus was one display after another of patience, kindness, goodness. As He dealt with sinful man. And finally we see...*

C. Jesus upward life – in His faithfulness, gentleness or meekness and self control.

Think about it, when the holy Spirit produces His fruit in us, He is really reproducing Christ in us. We are not Christ, but He is in us, and we are in Him. We just need to let the Holy Spirit rule our lives so we can conduct ourselves like Christ!