

FOUNDATIONS: WHAT CHRISTIANS BELIEVE AND WHY IT MATTERS

The Holy Spirit: Power for Everyday Living

Galatians 5:16–26

Introduction: Church family, today we come to the close of our series Foundations: What Christians believe and why it matters. Today, we look at what we believe about the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit empowers relational transformation. Paul unfolds this truth in four movements.

I. The Spirit's command: vv. 16–18

A. The call (v. 16)

- Walk by the Spirit.
- Spiritual victory is not found in one emotional moment. *Spiritual victory is found in a continual dependence upon the Holy Spirit.*
- When Paul calls us to walk in the Spirit – *He is literally saying "keep on walking."*

B. The conflict (v. 17)

- “*flesh*” is not merely the body.
- It is fallen human nature apart from God.
- The battle is deeper than hormones.
(Rom. 7:22–25; 8:5–6, 13)

C. The control (v. 18)

- *Some Christians are trying to win a spiritual battle with fleshly weapons.*
- But Paul says the way forward is not merely stricter self-management. *It is surrender to the Spirit.* (Rom 8:14; 2 Cor 3:17)

Victory over the flesh begins with yielded dependence on the Holy Spirit.

II. The flesh's corruption: (vv. 19–21)

Paul warns... sin may start in secret, but it seldom stays silent. Sooner or later, it comes out.

A. The deeds of the flesh – (vv. 19–21a)

These are the outward deeds that reveal an inward heart.

B. The damage of the flesh – (v. 15)

- The flesh never builds relationships—it always breaks them.
 - The flesh promises freedom but leaves behind in its wake - *broken homes, broken friendships, and broken churches.* (Js 3:14–18; Col 3:5–9)

C. The danger of the flesh – (v. 21b)

- *Paul closes with a sober warning...*
- Paul is not teaching sinless perfection.

- He is warning against settled, ongoing, unrepentant practice.
(1 Cor 6:9–11; Eph 5:5–8)

The flesh always damages relationships and reveals our need for grace.

III. The Spirit's cultivation: (vv. 22–23)

A. The singular fruit (v.22)

- He says the fruit. *Fruit grows from life.* (Jn 15:4–5)
- You do not staple apples to a dead tree and call it an orchard.

B. The Sweet Qualities

- Love, joy, peace
- Patience, kindness, goodness
- Faithfulness, gentleness, self-control
- Colossians 3:12–14
- 1 Corinthians 13:4–7

C. The Superior Freedom (v.23)

Romans 14:17

The Holy Spirit produces in believers what rules alone can never create.

IV. The believer's crucifixion: (vv. 24–26)

A. The crossed flesh (v. 24)

- *In union with Christ, the believer has made a break with the old regime.* (Gal 2:20; Rom 6:6, 11–14)

B. The consistent step (v. 25)

- *The Spirit-filled life is not random inspiration.*
- *It is daily obedience.*
(Eph 4:1–3; Rom 8:4)

C. The Churchly Test (v. 26)

- *There it is. The Spirit-filled life is tested in the realm of relationships.*
(Phil 2:3–4; Gal 6:1–2)

Spirit-filled living is revealed by humility, gentleness, and love in relationships.

Doctrine to Remember

The Holy Spirit indwells every believer, leading us away from the flesh and producing Christlike fruit that transforms our relationships.