

## LED BY THE SPIRIT

Text: Galatians 5:16, 18, 25; Romans 8:14

We are either led by the Holy Spirit or we are not. Being led of the Spirit is the only way a person can live for the Lord. Our goal in our Christian experience is to live like Jesus in this present world (I John 4:17b), therefore it will require domination by Jesus to do so. The blind man of Jericho could not come to Jesus unless he was guided to Jesus (Luke 18:40). We cannot come to Jesus or successfully follow Jesus, unless the Spirit leads, guides and directs us to Him. Before He went away Jesus said that the Holy Spirit would testify of Him (John 15:26). Our Lord went on to say, in essence, that the Holy Spirit will lead us into the life of Jesus, therewith to be dominated and controlled by Divine capability. This is what Peter was referring to when he said that we "...might be partakers of the Divine nature" (II Peter 1:4b).

### I. THE WAR IS REAL

Galatians 5:17

This verse explains the problem we have in living for Jesus. We have the flesh! The word for "flesh" in Greek is "sarx." Basically this is referring to our human nature with its frailties. To deny we are in the battle against the very real presence of the nature of sarx is as realistic as saying that in this fallen world we may arrive at a place where there is no sickness or death. Hebrews 12:1b tells us that we all have "...the sin which doth so easily beset us." When the Bible speaks in this verse that "...the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh," it is not using the term "lust" as we often think of it. The word translated "lust" comes to us from the Greek word "epithumeo" which means, "to set the heart upon, i.e. long for (rightfully or otherwise), covet or desire. The nature of the new man within us, along with old man who is present, are in conflict longing and desiring to get advantage of the other. This is the conflict Paul was speaking about in Romans 7:21-23.

### II. THE WALK IS REFLECTIVE

Galatians 5:19-23

A. Where the Holy Spirit will not lead (Galatians 5:19-21)

The Spirit of God will never lead people into:

1. Adultery, which is relationship involving a married person with someone other than to whom they are married.
2. Fornication, which is all manner of unlawful sexual activity. This word is taken from the Greek word “porneia.”
3. Uncleanness, which is translated from the word “akatharsia.” Which means impure physically or morally. The prefix of this word tells us it is the opposite of our English word catharsis, which is also from the Greek word pronounced the same way, meaning cleansed, purged and purified.
4. Lasciviousness, which is from the Greek word “aselgeia.” The root of this word is “selges,” meaning continent, making “aselgeia” to mean, “incontinent” which is another way of speaking of one who has no control. And it is speaking in this usage of one who delights in no control with abandon and no remorse.
5. Idolatry, making a god of something or someone other than God.
6. Witchcraft, coming to us from the Greek word “pharmakeia.” This is where we get our word “pharmacy.” We live in a world where people are using drugs to fulfill an empty longing or escape the life they are living.
7. Hatred, the miserable antithesis of what God is all about, for the Bible tells us, “God is love” (I John 4:8,16).
8. Variance. In Greek the word is “eris,” meaning quarrelling, contention, debate and strife.
9. Emulation, defined as jealous rivalries.
10. Wrath, from Greek “thumos” which means a heated, fierce passion.
11. Strife, the bitter struggle or clash that is birthed out of variance and emulation.
12. Seditious, the divisions and disunions that come from strife.
13. Heresies, the false teachings that arise out of the wicked seditious divisions that depart from the truth.
14. Envyings, those feelings of discontent with what you have and coveting what others have.
15. Murders. This means the taking of lives with malice aforethought, characterized by deliberation, premeditation and intent.
16. Drunkenness, being under the influences of alcoholic drink when one’s physical and mental state is impaired.
17. Reveling, from a Greek word that means “letting loose.” This bears the connotation of letting loose in boisterous wild partying without restraints.

B. Where the Holy Spirit will lead (Galatians 5:22, 23)

The Spirit of God will lead people into:

1. Love, from the word “agape.” Only the love of God can give a mortal the unconditional, undying, never-faltering love of God. This is far beyond and exceeds the natural abilities of man.
2. Joy, from the Greek word “chara,” which means calm delight. It is unlike the retellings of the world that requires a loud party atmosphere to crank up good feelings. We have all we need in Jesus who gives us His joy, which is full of calm delight.
3. Peace, which piggybacks perfectly with joy because it is translated from the Greek word “eirene,” which means to be in quietness, to be at rest, (and I love this), it means to “set at one again.” God’s peace gives us oneness, first with God and then with those within the circumference of our ministry and interaction.
4. Longsuffering, meaning forbearance with fortitude and patience.
5. Gentleness, a practical and useful display of moral excellence in character and demeanor.
6. Goodness, active kindness rooted in virtue and beneficence.
7. Faith, the moral conviction of the truthfulness of God. You are owning, not merely borrowing the Truth.
8. Meekness, which is not weakness. It is the deep-seated humility that will make one brave in the face of man and obsequious, yet bold in the presence of God.
9. Temperance, the opposite of lasciviousness. It means self-control, the epitome of continence.

### III. THE WITNESS IS REASONABLE

Galatians 5:24-26

#### A. Crucifixion (Galatians 4:24)

Romans 12:1b says to “...present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.” In Colossians 3:5 Paul said to “mortify” ourselves, which means to put to death. The word “reasonable” is from the Greek word “logikos” from where we get our English word “logical, “ which means in the light of the cross of Jesus, it is only rational to take up our cross and follow Him (Luke 9:23).

#### B. Application (Galatians 4:25)

Since the Holy Spirit is now in residence within our bodies, let us walk in the Spirit. To walk in the Spirit will be a walk of faith (II Corinthians 5:7). We should walk in our gifting (I Corinthians 7:17; Ephesians 4:1). We should walk circumspectly (Ephesians 5:14) and walk in love (Ephesians 5:2).

### C. Glorification (Galatians 4:26)

We are to set aside the vainglory of man and give all the glory to God for the outworking of the inward Christ. Thomas Watson, the old Puritan said, "A counterfeit of sanctification is restraining grace. When men forebear vice"--that is, they hold back from vice-- "though they do not hate it, this may be the sinners motto. Fain I would dare I not. The dog has a mind to lust, but conscience stands as an angel with a flaming sword and affrights. They have a mind to revenge, but the fear of hell is a curb to check them. There's no change of heart. Sin is curbed, it is not cured. A lion may be in chains, but he is a lion still."

Christ, the Lion of the Tribe of Judah (Revelation 5:5) will come out against the roaring lion who seeks to devour us and will bring to naught all the plans and treacherous designs of the Evil One. The result is that Christ gets all the credit and all the glory!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Johnny Pope". The signature is written in black ink and features a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the name.