

## **IT IS ONE THING TO KNOW, BUT ITS ANOTHER TO DO**

**Galatians 5:16-26**

**(Not entirely original with me)**

**Introduction:** Christians are to "walk in the Spirit" in order to live the life that God wants them to live. Conintuing to follow the old human nature habits is something the Christian is to give up, however it is one thing to know that giving up the old way of life is something that needs to be done, but how to go about it is an entirely different thing. It's not easy to give up "old habits" especially one's way of life. So how does one overcome the constant battle between the new Spirit nature and the old Sin nature?

### **I. WINNING COMES THROUGH BEING AWARE THERE'S A CONFLICT - Galatians 5:17**

1. One must know the strength of his/her enemy to win any war:
  - Jesus understood this fact - Luke 14:2`
  - One must be aware of the strength of his/her enemy - Galatians 5:17
    - The flesh is in opposition to the Spirit.
    - Neither side wants a truce/peace agreement.
    - One or the other is going to be in control
2. One must always be aware that the battle will be constanly ongoing:
  - The flesh wil always be against the Spirit.
  - As long as one lives in his/her fleshly body, there will be war UNLESS he/she totally surrenders to the flesh.

### **II. WINNING COMES THROUGH BEING AWARE OF THE ENEMY AND THE CONSEQUENCES OF DEFEAT - Galatians 5:19-21**

1. The "enemy" is the "works of the flesh - the old human nature:"
  - The works of the flesh include:
    - sins of immorality
    - sins of idolatry
    - breaking the law of love
    - sins of excess/intemperance
2. The consequences of defeat by the flesh are disasterous:
  - one can be refused the kingdom of God.
  - the flesh produces physical and spiritual corruption - Galatians 6:7-8

### **III. WINNING COMES THROUGH HAVING THE RIGHT ATTITUDE - Galatians 5:24-25**

1. No victory is won with an attitude of being defeated:
  - there is no hope
  - I am too weak
  - I cannot win
2. Christians must approach the daily battle with optimism:
  - Christians have crucified their flesh with all its passions and desires - Galatians 5:24
  - When they were crucified with Christ - Romans 6:3-8

- Having been crucified with Christ, a Christian has died to his/her old life - Romans 6:3-8
- Christians are not indebted to the flesh anymore - Romans 8:12
- The battle is not over, but the Christian can win being in Jesus Christ.
- Christians live "in the Spirit" - Galatians 5:25
- The Spirit gives Christians new life in Jesus - Titus 3:5-6; Romans 8:2, 11
- Christians live in the Spirit, therefore they can learn to walk in the Spirit.

#### IV. WINNING COMES THROUGH "WALKING IN THE SPIRIT" - Galatians 5:17

1. "Walking in the Spirit" means what to the Christian?
  - It is a manner of life style.
  - In accordance with the guidance and the help of the Holy Spirit - Romans 8:11-13
  - The Christian's entire life is to be lived "by the Spirit" under His guidance, aid, help and power and in doing so, he/she will not yield to the desires of his/her flesh.
  
2. How does one "walk in the Spirit?"
  - Is it by:
    - listening to some "still small voice?"
    - by heeding some positive influence or intuition?
    - by following one's overwhelming compulsion?
  - The Bible warns about such things - Proverbs 14:12; Jeremiah 10:23
  
3. One "walks in the Spirit" or is "led by the Spirit":
  - When one sets his/her mind on the things of the Spirit - Romans 8:4-5
    - As one sets his/her mind on fleshly things and then does them, so does the Christian set his/her mind on the things of the Spirit.
  - What are the "things of the Spirit?"
    - What the Holy Spirit was sent to reveal - John 14:25-26
    - The Word of Truth - John 16:12-13
  - When one sets his/her mind on the Word of God and seeks to obey and do:
    - one is "walking in the Spirit"
    - one is being "led by the Spirit"
  - When led by the Spirit, one is also "strengthened by the Spirit" - Romans 8:12-14
    - One uses his/her own effort and then is aided by the Spirit of God.
      - "...*work out our salvation...*" Philippians 2:12-13
      - God strengthens the Christian by His Holy Spirit - Ephesians 3:16
  - Prayer is a key element in receiving strength from the Holy Spirit:
    - Paul prayed that the Holy Spirit would strengthen the Ephesians- 3:16
    - Christians are taught to go to God's throne of grace and there find "grace to help in time of need..." Hebrews 4:16
  
4. To "walk in the Spirit" involves living one's life where he/she is under the Holy Spirit's direction and aided by His power.
  
5. One can ensure that he/she walks "in the Spirit" by:
  - firmly setting his/her mind on the "things of the Spirit" through the Word of God.
  - consistently praying for the strength God gives through His Holy Spirit as one tries to live according to God's Word as it is critical to winning the battle.

## **CONCLUSION:**

1. Do YOU want to overcome the constant battle you are in between your flesh, your old human, sinful nature and the life God wants you to live, a Spiritual life?
2. Are YOU being pulled this way and then that way by decisions, temptations, etc?
3. Christian, YOU have the Holy Spirit and God's Word to help you be the winner! Apply both to your life and become victorious over sin.