

Series: “Galatians – No Other Gospel”

“Living In The Spirit”

Pastor George Wasson

Galatians 5:16-26

04.15.18

The Apostle Paul’s Central Message

GALATIANS 2:16 – “Yet we know that a person is made right with God by faith in Jesus Christ, not by obeying the law.”

ROMANS 3:23 – “We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are.”

Galatians 5:1-15 = “For freedom Christ has set us free!”

GALATIANS 5:1 – “So Christ has truly set us free. Now make sure that you stay free, and don’t get tied up again in slavery to the law.”

Christian freedom means we live by **FAITH**, through the **SPIRIT**, in **HOPE** with **LOVE**

Galatians 5:16-26 = “Living In The Spirit”

GALATIANS 5:16 – “So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won’t do what your sinful nature craves.”

For Paul, the Holy Spirit is more than

- (a) The manifestation of a supernatural power
- (b) The giver of dramatic gifts
- (c) An explosive force erupting in the believer

For Paul, the Holy Spirit is

- (a) The daily sustaining, inspiring, guiding power of God in the Christian’s life
- (b) The domain of power which replaces the flesh as the energy force of our lives

The Battle →

FLESH versus **SPIRIT**

- Two personages with wills, desires and purposes of their own, each being in conflict with the other (being “pulled in two directions”)
- Both inhabit the believer, making him/her both at the same time

The Question → What will we allow to **DOMINATE**?

Paul’s point: If our lives are not directed and transformed by the Spirit, the **FLESH** will win the war!

“Living life in the Spirit does not prevent one from having fleshly desires, but it does give on the power to avoid acting on these desires and so bringing them to completion.”

Ben Witherington

Vv. 19-21 = The **EFFECTS** of the flesh

- Paul’s list is **REPRESENTATIVE** not exhaustive
- Following our sinful nature always leads to **CONFLICT**
- The **COST** of following the “desires of your sinful nature” are high

Vv. 22-23 = The **FRUIT** of the Holy Spirit

- Represents the **EFFECTS** of a life of surrender and obedience
- Living in the Spirit, we **ESCAPE** the flesh
- Living in the Spirit, we **FULFILL** the law

Vv. 24-26 = The **FREEDOM** of life in the Spirit results in

- **WHOLE-LIFE** consistent living
- **PEACE** with one another
- **GLORY** to God