

Spc152 - **Holy Spirit, Guide My Life - Gal 5:16-17**

(Adapted from Spirit or Flesh msg & booklet)

If you are a “**Christ-Follower**” Today
you may **KNOW** – We are **Called** to

“Walk in the Spirit”

“Be Led By The Spirit”

“Allow the Holy Spirit to GUIDE your life”

The **Problem** is

Allowing the Holy Spirit to GUIDE your Life - IS HARD!

In fact – It is actually A WAR!

It is a **CONSTANT BATTLE** - to **CONSISTENTLY ALLOW**
The Holy Spirit to GUIDE your Life

The **REWARDS** are **more** than we can **IMAGINE** – **BUT OFTEN**
the **BATTLE** can be **more** than we **EXPECTED**

WHY IS THAT?

WHY is it **SUCH** a **BATTLE**

To **“Allow the Holy Spirit to GUIDE our lives”**

The Answer is - - Because of **OUR FLESH!**

OUR FLESH – is a term the **Bible** uses

To **describe** our **SIN NATURE**

& **MORE** than anything **else** in This Life - **As Christians**

Our **#1 BATTLE** - **Will ALWAYS BE**

The **Battle** between **the Holy Spirit - & Our Flesh** (Sin Nature)

This is a **Battle** - that occurs
in **Every Single Christian** - **Every Single Day**

Today we're going to **TALK About** – The **BATTLE**
between The Spirit & The Flesh - In **OUR OWN** Lives

Let's Pray

Before we can **even start** talking about
the **Battle** between **the Spirit & the Flesh**

We **must** be **100%** - **Crystal Clear** – **Absolutely,**
Positively SURE - About – **THIS ONE THING**

If **YOU** have **MADE Jesus** Christ your **Personal Savior & Lord**

Then – **Jesus Christ** has **already WON** (on your behalf)

The **Absolute & Ultimate Victory**
OVER Your **Sin Nature** (*your flesh*)

On the **Cross** – **Jesus Christ**
CONQUERED Your **Sin** Nature - **POSITIONALLY**

Rom 6 Spells this out **very clearly**

& we're going to LOOK at our "Positional Victory" next week
as we begin a Short Series Called

Our POSITION, PROBLEM, & POWER

So – "Positionally" – IN CHRIST – The Victory in this Battle
Is already WON - & is Already OURS

But – "Practically" (in a 'practical sense')

You & I STILL MUST LEARN

HOW to *Allow the Holy Spirit to GUIDE our lives*

So that we will NOT Do

What our Sin Nature – 'Naturally' Does

Let's turn over to Gal Ch 5 to get started

Galatians 5:16(A) (NLT)

16 So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives . . .

WHAT does that LOOK Like?

to let the Holy Spirit GUIDE our Lives

WHAT does it LOOK Like? - - & HOW do we get there?

The Literal Translations say here

"Walk by the Spirit" - or - "Walk In The Spirit"

It means to allow the Holy Spirit to Set the DIRECTION of our life

It means to allow the Holy Spirit to Order Our STEPS

It means to allow the Holy Spirit to Make Our DECISIONS

& THAT is a BATTLE !!

& Honestly – it's a Battle that is Routinely LOST
IN THE CHURCH

& WHEN that Battle is Lost – Inside The Church
There is Generally – a Win for the Enemy - Not far behind it

So - HOW do we get to this place
of actually “Allowing the Holy Spirit to GUIDE our Lives” ?

Well - the First Step (as always) is

We've GOT to have - a Genuine – Always Increasing,
Experiential Relationship with Jesus Christ

& - when I say “Experiential Relationship”

I mean a Relationship with Jesus
where you EXPERIENCE His PRESENCE in Your Life

You SENSE him WITH you

You HEAR him SPEAK to you - in His Word

You become SENSITIVE to His LEADING

& THAT – SENSING Jesus with you

& **HEARING** Him **Speak** to you **in His Word**

& becoming **SENSITIVE** to His **Leading**

ALL of that is Accomplished

THRU the PERSON & the WORK of the Holy Spirit

We **just finished** a **9-Part mini-series** on the Holy Spirit

WITHIN our v-by-v study **of 1 Corinthians**

Not Long ago

We did a **4-Part series** on **Growing in the Holy Spirit**

We did a **3-Part mini-series** called **“Under His Influence”**

within the **Romans** series

& **Many years** ago we did a **12 part series** called **“The Holy Spirit”**

If you are NOT already using the Word-By-Mail Phone App

- Let me **encourage** you

DOWNLOAD the Word-By-Mail Phone App

Go to the **Topical Tab**

& **you’ll** see a **SUB-Tab** called **Holy Spirit**

Under that tab is **36 MSGS** on the Holy Spirit !

We **have Got** to get a **SOLID GRASP**

on the **PERSON** & the **ROLE** of The **Holy Spirit**

Because Without The Holy Spirit

You are only Following Jesus – In your FLESH

Without the Holy Spirit – you are actually being Directed

by your SIN NATURE - Even in your efforts to Follow Jesus

& THAT'S is a REALLY BIG Problem !!

Again – Let's read - Galatians 5:16 (NLT)

16 So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then (& only then) you won't be doing what your sinful nature (your flesh) craves.

Every Day – Every Decision

We are either ALLOWING the Holy Spirit to Guide our Lives – OR

We are DOING what our Sin Nature Craves

& - It is Only WHEN - The Holy Spirit IS guiding your Life – That

You Will Not Be Doing what your FLESH (Sin Nature) CRAVES

WHEN the Holy Spirit is GUIDING your life

Your SIN NATURE will NOT be DESTROYING your life

It's really no more complicated than that

The PROBLEM is - WE have A CHOICE

Moment by Moment – We have a CHOICE

to Either Be LED by the Holy Spirit - OR NOT !!

& If you've TRIED it – Maybe you've asked the Question

WHY is this SUCH a BATTLE ??

& The ANSWER IS . . . In the Next Vs
(the Answer is ALWAYS in the next vs)

Galatians 5:17 (NLT)

17 The sinful nature (flesh) wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions.

**These two forces (The Spirit & the Flesh)
are constantly fighting each other**

**As Believers - Our FLESH (our Sin Nature) – is AT WAR
With The HOLY SPIRIT Living Inside of Us**

Our Own FLESH (our Sin Nature) – is Actually our #1 Enemy

The Holy Spirit is the CONDUIT – of our New Life in Christ

He is Our COMFORTER – Our GUIDE - & Our POWER
to be Transformed into the Image of Jesus Christ

**& Our Own FLESH – is AT WAR
with that New Life - Living in of us**

Agn - v.17 says **These two forces are constantly fighting each other**

Meaning – Our Old Nature is Fighting Our New Nature

& so then – The Question has to be
HOW does ONE Nature WIN – OVER the OTHER Nature

& I'll tell you (very simply) HOW . . .

Billy Graham – in His Book on the HOLY SPIRIT – tells the story

Of an Eskimo fisherman who came to town every Saturday afternoon. & He always brought his two dogs with him. One was white and the other was black.

He had taught them to fight on command. & every Saturday afternoon in the town square the people would gather - and these two dogs would fight - and the fisherman would take bets.

& sometimes the black dog would win - & sometimes the white dog would win - but the fisherman always won on the bets!

Finally, a friend asked him how he always knew which dog would win. & he said, ***"It's simple, I starve one and feed the other. & The one I feed always wins."***

& it is The **SAME** – in **YOUR Battle** of **Spirit Vs. Flesh**

The **WINNER** – Either **Spirit** or **Flesh**
Will **ALWAYS BE** – **The ONE you FEED**

You **FEED The Holy Spirit** – The **Holy Spirit WINS**
You **FEED The Flesh** - & the **Flesh WINS**

<u>& in that statement</u> is the <u>Secret to Victory</u> in this Battle

**WHEN *Either One* of Your “Two Natures” is Alive & Strong & Well
the Other Nature will be Dormant & Quiet**

& So – **HOW** do we **keep THE SPIRIT** (our *New Nature*)
Alive & Strong . . .

So that – **OUR FLESH** (our *Old Nature*)
will remain **Dormant & Quiet?**

& HERE is My - SUMMARY ANSWER

- #1) Be Being FILLED**
- #2) Be Being HONEST**
- #3) Be Being OBEDIENT**

We **could easily** do a **Full-Msg** on **each** of these **three steps**
but for **today** – we **can** only **SUMMARIZE**

#1) Be Being FILLED

Turn over to Ephesians 5:18 (NLT)

18 Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit,

The **context** here - is ***“Living By The Spirit's Power”***
That's **what** the **section heading** says in the **NLT**

& **Why** would the **Bible** use **Being Drunk** with wine
as a **CONTRAST** to **Being Filled** with the **Holy Spirit?**

The word "filled" here means to be Influenced or Controlled by

If I were to FILL YOU UP with Alcohol right now, what Percentage of your life would be Influenced or Controlled by that Alcohol?

100% of Your Life - - your Thoughts, Perception, Understanding, your Responses, Words, Actions Reactions

THEY WOULD ALL be influenced or Controlled by the Alcohol

& So - Eph 5:18 is saying

in the SAME MANNER that Being Filled with Alcohol would Influence or Control your life – to DESTRUCTION

so being CONSTANTLY filled with the Holy Spirit will Influence or Control your life for GOOD

We are Called to be SO Continually FILLED with the Holy Spirit that His Presence in us - Influences every area of our life

Every Thought, every Word, and every Action is being directly influenced - by the continual filling of the Holy Spirit

& the REASON I keep saying CONTINUALLY - BE Being Filled

IS because - IN the Original Language this statement is written as a CONTINUAL COMMAND

It is a COMMAND – that we Continually "BE BEING FILLED" with the Holy Spirit

**So that Every Thought - Every Perception
Every Word – Every Response – Every Reaction
they are ALL to be Influenced - By The Holy Spirit**

We MUST Continually Be Being Filled with the Holy Spirit

**Because THE MOMENT – we are NOT being Influenced
by The Holy Spirit**

We will (Automatically) Be Being Influenced - By The Flesh

Step # 1 is - BE BEING FILLED

Step # 2 is BE BEING HONEST

I've found, by far – THIS is the hardest step for a Christian

We have GOT to call the flesh the flesh

We've got to be honest . . .

BUT – It is DIFFICULT - - because of our PRIDE

The last thing a Christian wants to do is ADMIT
that he's being influenced or controlled by THE FLESH

Because at the VERY CORE of our Sin Nature – IS PRIDE

**BUT - we have GOT to Learn - be "Brutally Honest" – to look at our
Feelings & Actions - & say, "Wow, that is totally the flesh"**

& the **BEST WAY** - to be **Brutally Honest** with **yourself**
is to **HAVE A LIST** – **Straight** From **God’s Word**

& then **actually APPLY** that list – **Brutally** –
to our **OWN Feelings** and **Actions**

Fortunately - in **Galatians 5** is **ONE** of the **lists**
God has **put** in the **Bible** - for us to **APPLY to our actions**

Just 1 Vs away from **where** we **started**, **back in Gal 5**

Galatians 5:19(A) (NLT)

19 When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear . . .

When we are **Allowing** our **Sin Nature** (our *Flesh*)
to **control our lives** – the **RESULTS** are **Really Very Clear**

The 1st list starts here - Galatians 5:19-20(A) (NLT)

19 When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, 20 idolatry, sorcery, . . .

These **First FIVE results** of **Following** the **Flesh**
I **think** are all “**Relatively Clear**”

But **then** this **list** gets **harder**

in **Galatians 5:20(B)–21(A) (NLT)** → → →

Galatians 5:20(B)–21(A) (NLT)

20 (cont'g the same list). . . hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, 21 envy . . .

Are we WILLING – to be “**Brutally Honest ENOUGH**”

to **Apply THAT list** – to our **OWN** - **feelings and actions** ?

& **then** say – ***THAT is the Flesh, & I have GOT to Crucify that***

Ephesians 4:31 ADDS to the List (NLT)

31 ***Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander . . .***

Colossians 3:8–9 repeats **some** of the **previous lists** - & **ADDS**
malicious behavior, obscene language, & lying

WHY do we have **SUCH** a **HARD TIME**

Honestly APPLYING these **lists** to our **OWN Actions??**

The **answer** is – **Because**

at the **very CORE** of our **Sin Nature** – **IS PRIDE**

& Our **PRIDE** – is **AT WAR** – with the **Holy Spirit** inside us
& **Far Too Often** – **Our PRIDE WINS**

NOW – in those **SAME 3 Ch's** – **Gal 5, Eph 4, Col 3**

Are **ALSO LISTS** or what it **LOOKS LIKE**

When **THE HOLY SPIRIT** is **Controlling** our **Feelings & Actions**

Galatians 5:22–23 (NLT)

22-23 But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control . . .

& Ephesians 4:29-31 ADDS

. . . helpful, encouraging, tenderhearted, and forgiving

& Colossians 3:12-14 ADDS

. . . mercy, humility, harmony, and thankfulness

We **have** the **LISTS** – We **have** the **LITMUS TEST**

But **FAR Too Often** – **Our PRIDE** – **PREVENTS Us**

From ever **actually USING** these **lists** - to **Determine**

if we are **being Controlled** - **By the Spirit** - or – **By the Flesh**

So – Once we are

#1) Being Continually FILLED with the **Holy Spirit** - &

#2) Being Brutally HONEST about our **Feelings and Actions**

Then – the **only thing left** to do **is**

#3) Be Being OBEDIENT

In every **Thought**, every **Decision**, every **Action** –

there is a **BATTLE** going on - **FOR YOUR CHOICE !!**

The Battle is between **The Holy Spirit** - and **Your Flesh**

& **Which One WINS**

is **Determined** - by **Which CHOICE You Make**

The **Good News** is - We've **been given** the **Power "In Christ"**

to **ENABLE** Us To **CHOOSE** - **The Spirit** over **The Flesh**

But we **STILL** – Must **Make the CHOICE**

2 Corinthians 10:4–5 (NLT)

4 We use God's mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments.

5 We destroy every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God. We capture their rebellious thoughts and teach them to obey Christ.

The **Weapons of Our Warfare** – Are **Mighty in God**

for the **Pulling Down** of **Strongholds** – **IN our OWN MINDS**

The POWER of God – Living Inside Us

Will **KNOCK DOWN** our **OWN Human Reasoning**

Will **DESTROY** our **False Arguments** & our **Proud Obstacles**

that **Keep us** from **knowing God** - & **Being Led** by **The Spirit**

BUT – We **have** to **make** the **HARD Choice**

to **say NO** to the **Flesh** - & **YES** to the **Spirit**

1 Corinthians 10:13 (NLT)

13 . . . God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation (you face) to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure.

The **Holy Spirit** will **Give** you the **WAY OUT**
& **He will** be your **POWER** to Walk in the Spirit

But **You & I** Must **Still make** the **Hard Choice** – **of OBEDIENCE**

Finally – we **need to understand**

That **our LIFE** is made up of a **MILLION** of these **choices**

& with **EVERY Choice** – we are **either**

Sowing to the FLESH – or – **Sowing to the SPIRIT**

Galatians 6:7–8 (ESV) – (Because ESV uses ‘sowing’)

7 Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.

8 For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.

Learning – to Allow the **Holy Spirit** to **GUIDE** our **Lives**

AND Transform us into who God made us to be

BEGINS WITH - (#1)

Learning to Continually - *Be Being FILLED with the Holy Spirit*

I'd Recommend for this Step – The Two Short Series

“Growing in the Holy Spirit”

“Alone With God”

THEN (#2)

We've **Got** to be **Committed** - to **Continually**

Be Being HONEST – about our own Feelings and Actions

Make an Actual List of

The **Works** of ***the FLESH*** - &

The **Fruit** of ***the SPIRIT***

& **then, Actually** – **CHECK IT**

Really LOOK at that List - & **Really be HONEST**

about **which side** your **feelings** and **actions** - **FIT ON**

& FINALLY (#3)

Be Being OBEDIENT

HEAR what the **Holy Spirit** is **SAYING**

SEE the way out the **Holy Spirit** is **GIVING you**

& then – TAKE IT

CRUCIFY your PRIDE

& your SELF-INTEREST

& Your FLESH

& BE OBEDIENT – To **Allow** the **Holy Spirit**
to **Control** Your **Thoughts & Your Actions**

BE Being FILLED

BE Being HONEST

BE Being OBEDIENT

& You will Allow the Holy Spirit

To **GUIDE**

To **CONTROL**

To **TRANSFORM** – Your Life

Let's Pray