

Becoming what you are

A sympathetic word for moms

Called to “grow up” into salvation (1 Peter 2:2)

You need to see that there is a battle.

Seeing the battle

Vs. 17 – The desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to one another.

“A true Christian is one who has not only peace of conscience, but war within. He may be known by his warfare as well as by his peace.” – J.C. Ryle

*“The old self was united in selfishness. The new self is divided between the flesh and the Spirit.”
-Tim Keller*

Two natures of the Christian

Flesh and Spirit

Old self and new self (Ephesians 4:22-24)

You need to understand the nature of the battle.

Not a battle to keep the law.

Only two outcomes, pride (vs. 19) and despair

It’s fruit.

Fruit comes naturally from a plant that is watered and rooted in healthy soil.

John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

Ephesians 4:18 They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart.

A promise and a test

Love – God gives us undeserved love, we give ourself back in love to God and neighbors

Joy – Not earthly happiness, but joy that comes from hope (Rom. 12:12 and 15:13)

Peace – This is related to wholeness: among believers, in relationship to God, in one’s mind, and shalom

Patience – God restrains his wrath, for us it means deferring our anger and refusing to retaliate

Kindness – God’s gracious attitude toward sinners; believers are to clothe themselves with kindness

Goodness – A quality of the righteous, filled with magnanimous actions which exceed justice

Faithfulness – God’s trustworthiness, this refers to the believer’s fidelity who is dependable and true

Gentleness – A humble disposition to God’s will, and peaceableness, the capability to avoid quarrels

Self-control – Most uses of this word come in the context of overcoming sexual immorality

You need to know how to fight the battle.

Three phrases to describe life in the Spirit, one phrase to describe how.

What is true

Since you live by the Spirit

What to do

Walk by the Spirit

Led by the Spirit

Keeping in step with the Spirit

Greek is “stoichein” literally means marching in line with the Spirit as the leader.

Life in the Spirit

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

The goal is not just to sin less, but it’s learning to repent more quickly.

Questions for Study and Reflection

1. What is the significance of the fruit of the Spirit being *fruit*?
2. What is the difference between life under the law and life in the Spirit?
3. Examine your life. Do the fruit of the Spirit manifest in your life, yes or no?
4. How do make sure to spend time nurturing your relationship with God? Do you repent quickly?