

Learning to Live With the Holy Spirit

Gal 5:5-7, 16-26 (Gal 3:1-5, 4:6,7; Romans 8:5-11)

Only when we live by the energy of the Holy Spirit can we have victory, but, all can be successful who live according to the Spirit of God; sounds like an ad for a self-improvement product

1. 1st visit of Jesus with disciples after resurrection, Jh 20:22 He breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit."
 2. The necessity of the Spirit
- I. The over-all statement of the life of any successful believer: 5:5 "We, through the Spirit, by faith, are waiting for the hope of righteousness."
 - A. The particular failure of the Galatian believers v7-12 (3:2, Foolish Galatians, did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law or by hearing with faith?)
 - B. The reminding to the Galatians that they were an example of any who try another way;
 - C. The lesson for us is to learn from their failure; the truth is the same.
 - II. The promise of victory: 5:16, Walk by the Spirit and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh
 - A. An admission and identification of the animosity in the struggle of life;
 - B. The antagonists are flesh vs Spirit (or spirit); explain why Spirit;
 - C. Spirit here encompasses the Holy Spirit and the human spirit, in particular the two together, not spirits, but the spiritual part of man;
 - D. **Why so critical? The difficulty is, in this battle, we choose sides, for neutrality will guarantee we can not do the thing we wish or please to do (v17).**
 - III. Proposition: vv16: Walk by the Spirit and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh; v18: if you are led by the Spirit (if you follow the Spirit), you are not under the Law, v18. v25: If we live by the Spirit, we should also walk by the Spirit.
 - IV. Two lists of particulars. They are not exhaustive, but illustrative, as he calls them, things that are evident:
 - A. The works of the flesh: Gal 5:19-21
 1. Sins of sex: immorality, (*porneia*) impurity (actions that involve sexual sins with other violations), sensuality (a flaunting wantonness, bold, shameless)
 - U of Tenn., this week is sex week, April 6-12. Seminars, exhibits, programs promoting every variation of sex, how to prepare, how to act, and how one should accept;)
 2. Idolatry, linked with sorcery or witchcraft (*pharmakeia*, potions and drugs)
 3. Interpersonal relations: enmities (hatred and prejudice, desiring ill will for someone), strife (variance, quarrelsomeness), emulations (jealousy or envy), jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying

4. Self-indulgence: drunkenness, carousing and things like these. Paul's summation is those that do those things (present active -- keep on continually) do not inherit the kingdom of God.
- B. Fruit of the Spirit Gal 5:22-26
1. Love, joy and peace: all grounded in the grace-relationship with Christ.
 2. Patience, kindness, goodness and faithfulness, gentleness and self-control flow from the first three.
 3. These virtues are the result of the work of the Spirit, and a focus of non-earthly values.
 4. Do not think these to be weak. "Those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires." That is not passive; crucifixion is brutal, final.
- V. The key to victory Romans 8:5-11
- A. Paul has talked, from his personal experience, about the struggle of the law in Rom 7 and his failure; he now gives the key to victory.
 - B. Evil is not defeated by focusing on it; if one sets his mind on the flesh and the law, it leads to death. but those of the spirit are brought to life.
 - C. Evil is overcome by expulsion; that on which we set our focus will become the main issue in our lives.
 - D. Here is the power, Rom 8:5-11
-