

Before we conclude this conference, we need to recap what we have learned so far:

I. HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is not a person, but a spirit. The activity of the Holy Spirit and His different designations (Spirit of God, Spirit of the Lord, Spirit of Truth, the Holy Spirit) are connected with the programs of Israel, the nations, and the church.

II. HOLY SPIRIT TODAY

The Holy Spirit's activity is to convict (or expose) the person's unbelief in Christ. This is done by means of the Word of God (Holy Spirit inspired words). The primary work of the Holy Spirit for the believer is that they are sealed (signifying that we are God's personal possession), and the Holy Spirit intercedes for the saints for we do not know what to pray.

III. SACTIFICATION

The vast majority of Scripture teaches us that we are sanctified. Many of the passages that are used to demonstrate resulting sanctification are actually passages that explain our activity in view of our sanctification. In the few passages that seem to refer to an admonition to act holy, it is in conjunction with our position as holy. Our "holy" activity (behavior, conduct) is connected with our behavioral witness. We cannot make ourselves holy before God. God's declaration of believers being "holies" (saints) should motivate us into behavior. You are holy, now act like it.

IV. SPIRITUAL GROWTH

The goal is unity. The means is learning and believing the basic doctrines found in Scripture. Once we all agree to the truth of these basic doctrines, we are mature (a group made up of individuals). If there is disagreement, this needs to be settled, learning and understanding through the study of the Scriptures. Unity goes beyond the basics as well. If there is a disagreement about any doctrine, this needs to be pursued and we all need to come to terms with what Scripture says.

V. SPIRITUAL

The typical understanding is that there are three categories of a person: natural, carnal, spiritual. Natural refers to the unregenerate, unsaved unbeliever. Carnal refers to the believer who is not spiritual, but an infant in Christ still living according to the flesh. Spiritual refers to the ideal believer who is living a life controlled by the Holy Spirit.

What we learned is that the believer is both spiritual and carnal at the same time. We are designated as spiritual when we believe, having been given a spirit, or having our spirit regenerated. As believers, we are also carnal, still in the flesh. There is a war occurring within myself, between my spirit and my "carnal." Paul explains this in Romans 7:14-25. In 1st Corinthians 3:1-4, Paul is not classifying them as a sub-status of believer but admonishing them as having been controlled by the carnal instead of the spirit. You are spiritual and you are carnal; we choose by which we live. The battle is in our thoughts. If we can take our thoughts captive for Jesus Christ, then we are living according to the spirit.

VI. FILLED IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

We do not get filled with the Holy Spirit; He already indwells us. The filling refers to your spirit and filling up your spirit. This is accomplished by means of the Word of God.

VII. WALK BY THE HOLY SPIRIT – GALATIANS 5:16-18

Galatians 5:16-18 – But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law.

1. Textual Analysis

Walk by the Spirit is literally “Spirit walk.” The verb is “**περιπατέω** *peripateō*” and indicates movement, walking around, or conduct. The verb is in the 2nd Person Plural Present Active Imperative: “You all walk.” The noun *Spirit* is in the dative without a preposition. In these situations, the typical understanding is means but this can also indicate location. “You all walk by means of Spirit” or “You all walk in Spirit.” The context will make this clear.

The conjunction “*de*” dictates that we should understand verses 13-15 by seeing the contrast. If we use our freedom as an opportunity for the flesh we become conceited and are working contrary to one another. This is the desire of our carnal nature; this is what the flesh wants and the end is death. But if we live our lives by means of Spirit, we will not carry out the desire of the flesh.

The second half of verse 16 is an “*οὐ μὲν*” construction. The sentence indicates that if the audience does in fact walk by the Spirit, then it is impossible to carry out the desire of the flesh. In this context, the desire of the flesh is to be selfish, not serving one another in love, biting and devouring one another.

We must be careful not to simply ascribe sin to this scenario. It does not say if you walk by the Spirit you will not sin. It says, “You will not fulfill (complete) the desires of the flesh.”

As Paul states in Romans 7:18-20, sin is always before us and we cannot fully depart from it. But we can keep from fulfilling the lusts of the flesh.

***Is this your own personal spirit or the Holy Spirit? Galatians 3:2*, 3, 5*; 4:6*, 29*; 5:5, 16, 17*, 18, 22*, 25; 6:1, 8*, 18*. This is a point that is more difficult than it seems. I have been conditioned for a long time, both by my teachers and by my own studies, that when I see a definite article, I conclude it is the Holy Spirit. If the definite article is not there, then it can be either a spirit, the spirit in a man, or the Holy Spirit.

Here is what I am becoming more convinced of: This is not speaking in terms of the Holy Spirit but your spirit which you received from God (new or regenerated). We do not feed the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit is not fighting against our carnal; we fight the internal fight.

The command here is to walk in spirit; for we always walk in flesh***

The flesh sets its desires against the spirit. Again, I have reservations about this being the Holy Spirit. If we make this about either yielding to the Holy Spirit or flesh, then we need to ascribe a mystical, subjective fight (feelings). But the war is not waged in our feelings but in our thoughts.

The purpose of the opposition to our spiritual by our carnal is to keep us from doing what our spiritual mind wants to do.

But if we are led by our spirit, then there is no law.

2. Contextual consideration

Romans 13:10-14; Ephesians 4:22-24; Colossians 3:8-17

3. Interpretation

Regardless if we take this as the Holy Spirit or the regenerated (gifted) spirit within the person, the method of walking is not altered.

The Word of God is inspired text from God through the Holy Spirit given to godly men to write. We have what we need for understanding and encouragement. If we are to follow the Holy Spirit, we have what He wrote through the apostles and prophets. This is not mystical or subjective. If we are to follow the gifted spirit within, that is fed by what the Holy Spirit wrote. The means and method does not change if the interpretation of spirit is disagreeable.

The battle is fought in our minds and thoughts (2nd Corinthians 10:3-5). The life of the believer is first thought life, then activity. Here is the biblical method for spiritually walking:

- i. Fill our minds with the Word of God (2nd Timothy 3:16-17)
- ii. Force thoughts into our minds about the Word of God (1st Timothy 4:15-16)
- iii. Evaluate life circumstances against the Word of God (1st Timothy 6:8)
- iv. Make life choices in accordance with the Word of God (Philippians 4:4-9)

4. Conclusion

Walk in spirit and you will by no means fulfill the lusts of the flesh. What do you prioritize? What do you nourish? What is your focus?

You are born of God

You are sanctified

You are holy

You are a child of God

You are an heir of God, coheir with Christ

Why are we consumed with the system and pleasures of this world when this world will be destroyed? When we focus on His Word, His truth, then we can live a life that is content, lived in the world, enjoying the things in the world, but not at the expense of His truth and His way.