

FLESH VS SPIRIT

Theme Verse - **Galatians 5:25** - *If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.*

3 types of people

1 Corinthians 2:12-16 - 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. 13 These things we also speak, **not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.** 14 **But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.**

1. The natural person - v.14

This is the unspiritual person. The person who has not given their life to Jesus yet. So the things of the Spirit are considered foolishness to this kind of person.

- giving, baptisms, serving at church, going to church - none of this makes sense

2. The spiritual person - v.15-16

15 **But he who is spiritual** judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one. 16 For "who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?" **But we have the mind of Christ**

The person who is spiritually minded and allows the Holy Spirit to judge all things for him. **paraklētos** - one who comes alongside to help us make judgement calls.

3. The carnal person (or worldly) - chapter 3:1-3

1 Corinthians 3:1-3 - And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to **spiritual** people **but as to carnal**, as to babes in Christ. 2 I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able; 3 **for you are still carnal.**

Carnal Christians are living to satisfy desires of the flesh vs the desires of the Spirit.

We want the good things of God but also want the things that are bad for us. We want to be the spiritual person we just talked about...but why then do we become the carnal person?

Galatians 5:16 - *But I say, **walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.***

What does that mean? Walking by the Spirit means that we do not live, but it is the Spirit of God who lives through us. - It's like a train pulling rail cars. The cars are led by the train.

Galatians 5:17 - **For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.**

It's not us striving in the flesh, but walking in step with the Holy Spirit allowing Him to lead us.

WALKING IN THE SPIRIT

1. Realize you don't have to obey the flesh

- Romans 8:12 NASB - So then, brethren, **we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh**
- You need the power that comes with being filled with the Holy Spirit to live a victorious life

2. Renew your mind

- Romans 12:2 - **Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.** Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.
- Romans 8:5 - For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.
- A part of renewing your mind is changing the way you think about the things of this world.
- 1 John 2:15-16 - **Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. 16 For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions.** These are not from the Father, but are from this world.
- You have to watch what you allow in.

3. Strengthen your spirit

- Whatever you give attention to grows
- Ephesians 3:14-16 - For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, 16 **that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being,**

1. Spend time in prayer

- Matthew 26:41 - "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. **The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.**"
- Jude 1:17-21 - 17 But you, beloved, ought to remember the words that were spoken beforehand by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ, 18 that they were saying to you, "In the last time there will be mockers, following after their own ungodly lusts." 19 **These are the ones who cause divisions, worldly-minded, devoid of the Spirit.** 20 But you, beloved, **building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,** 21 keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life.

2. Spend time in God's word

- *John 6:63 - **It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.***
- ***His words are life to you..His Spirit gets into us through His word***
- *2 Timothy 3:16 - **All Scripture is breathed out by God** and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.*
- *The breath of God is scripture. - The Holy Spirit through the word teaches us, corrects us and trains us in righteousness.*
- *Rest in and know the promises of God to build and strengthen your spirit. Confess His word over your life.*
- *I am more than a conqueror in Christ Jesus. - Romans 8:37*
- *I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength. - Philippians 4;13*
- *I'm an overcomer by the blood of the lamb and words of my testimony. - Revelation 12:11*
- *When I'm weak, he's strong. - 2 Corinthians 12:10*
- *But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ - 1 Corinthians 15:57*

When we strengthen the spirit...we learn to follow the desires of the Spirit and not gratify the desires of the flesh.

One of our core values is Spiritual Reality - Everyone needs regular inspiration, and that Christian life is meant to be empowered by the Holy Spirit.