

Hello, friends! I wanted to share a devotion with you that I typed up today that I believe God put in my Spirit as I was reading Galatians. I trust it will minister to you on some level.

In Galatians Ch. 5, Paul lays out how to **NOT** fall victim to our fleshly desires and how **TO** obey God's law of the Spirit. Very simply, he says: ***“Walk in the Spirit, and you will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh.”***

But that's the trick, isn't it? **How do we walk in the Spirit?** How do we stay side by side with Jesus, intimately connected with Him? And of course the key there is simple as well. It's just that most of us aren't very good at doing what it takes to “walk in the Spirit.”

There are several things, I believe, that facilitate this walking in the Spirit. Part of it is a sensitivity to the Spirit's voice, a discipline of “listening” to His whisper. Part is having a repentant, yielded heart and a soft conscience that we allow God to shape and mold. Part is a deep-seated belief that God actually wants to commune with us throughout the day, and that we can sense His presence and embrace continually.

We are told to put on the mind of Christ. We are told to take every thought, and bring it into captivity and submission to Christ. We are to put to death the works of the flesh. Deny ourselves. Pray without ceasing. Do good works. Be in fellowship with the believers. Share our faith. Be transformed by the renewing of our minds. Be washed with the water of the Word. Flee the very appearance of evil.

In short, **there are some things GOD will do in us, but there are things WE must do that ALLOW Him to do that transforming work.** Are you faithful to your Bible? How frequently do you find a private place, and spend time in prayer, serious pour-out-your-heart prayer? How important is the fellowship of the believers to you? Who are you reaching for Christ THIS week? How have you denied your flesh and taken up your cross to follow the Master?

These are questions all of us must ask ourselves regularly. None of us is above growing cold or letting small sins and laziness creep in. It's a daily battle against the flesh, and a daily surrender to the Lordship and Leadership of Almighty God, as revealed in His holy Word.

Church, as your pastor, I encourage you to stop and pray, and ask God how you're doing on this front of your life. Spend some time today doing some soul-searching, and LISTEN to God's voice. We all can walk in the Spirit, we all can walk in victory, if we just do what the Word tells us to do!

May God's hand of peace and joy be with you today. I love you, and am honored to be your pastor.

In Christ,

Daniel