March Bible Study Series:

Walking With God

Lesson Eleven

Walking In The Spirit

Galatians 5:25, If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit**.**

Ephesians 5:15-20, Be very careful … how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is. Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery.

Instead, be filled with the Spirit. Speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Two Ways a Christian can Walk:

In the Spirit or in the Flesh.

Galatians 5:17-18, For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

Walking in the Flesh

Three Areas of Living in the Flesh:

- **Carnal Mind** - the thoughts/motives of the flesh
- **Appetites** - the cravings/acts of the flesh
- **Self-effort** - the method of the flesh

Romans 8:5,7, Those who live according to the [flesh] have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires...the [flesh] is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.

The Spiritual Mind

Appetites of the Flesh

Galatians 5:19-21, Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

The Arm of Flesh

Two Basic Problems with Fleshly Self-effort:

Flesh Cannot Please God

Hebrews 11:6, But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Flesh Is Weak

Romans 8:3-4, For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

Our New Life in the Spirit

Romans 7:5-6, For when we were controlled by the sinful nature, the sinful passions aroused by the law were at work in our bodies, so that we bore fruit for death. But now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code.

Romans 8:1-2, There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

Romans 8:9, But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

Galatians 5:24, And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

Romans 13:11-14, And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now, our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore, let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.

Born of the Spirit

John 3:6, Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.

Galatians 3:1-3, O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified? This only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?

Walking in the Spirit

Galatians 5:16, So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the [flesh].

II Corinthians 3:17-18, Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord *is*, there *is* liberty. But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Walking In the Spirit Involves Three Steps:

- Recognizing the Spirit’s Voice - John 10:27
- Obey the Promptings of the Spirit - Acts 13:2-3
- Receive the Enabling of the Spirit - Jude 24

Romans 8:5-9, 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. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

Benefits of Walking in the Spirit

Galatians 5:22-23, But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Bible Study Follow Up Chat Questions:

1. What was your greatest takeaway from today’s lesson?
2. Name the two basic problems with fleshly self-effort mentioned in the lesson.
3. When our appetites rule us, we're in trouble. How so?
4. What is the result of being carnal or fleshly minded?
5. Through what part of the body does the flesh or the Spirit control us? How?
6. To walk in the Spirit is to:
7. What happens to your lifestyle when you walk in the Spirit?
8. Why is Christian living so important in witnessing the gospel?