

“How Does The Holy Spirit Influence Christian Living?”

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Text: Galatians 5:16-26.

Theme: To emphasize the role of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Christian.

Introduction:

1. As a Christian, it is expected that my life should be different from when I was not a Christian.
 - a. Romans 12:1,2 - “transformed,”
 - b. II Corinthians 5:17 - *new creature in Christ.*
2. My Christian walk maintains my relationship - I John 1:7.
3. Questions:
 - a. Why is my walk different than that of an alien?
 - b. Or even a denominational person for that matter?
 - c. How do God and Christ figure in this?
 - d. How does the Holy Spirit participate in this change?

Discussion:

- I. Some common errors:
 - A. In the general denominational world, it is complete spiritism.
 1. This is understandable.
 2. Because of their doctrine of total depravity -

- a. Man has to sin because of a depraved nature.
- b. It takes a miraculous regeneration by the Holy Spirit; they get this from an erroneous view of from Romans 7.
 - 1. The Christian cannot sin - 1 John 3:9. (Explain the error of how they use the word *cannot* in this passage – cf. **1 John 3:7-2:2**).
 - 2. If the Christian does sin it must mean he was never saved in the first place.
- c. Of course, Pentecostals base everything on supernatural encounters, experiences and manifestations.

- B. Often, brethren have some difficulty here.
 - 1. There is sometimes such an emphasis on the Holy Spirit that God and Christ are placed in the background.
 - 2. Some may forget that the church is married to Christ.
 - 3. A teacher at a school of preaching wrote a book in which he illustrates the matter by saying it is like the Holy Spirit is walking beside me holding my hand lest I fall.
 - 4. There is a fear of blaspheming the Holy Spirit.

II. Some pertinent passages regarding the brethren.

- A. Acts 2:38.
- B. Acts 5:32.
- C. Romans 8.
- D. **1 Corinthians 6:18-20**.
 - 1. Question - can a Christian commit fornication even though the Holy Spirit indwells in him?
 - 2. Surely, yes.
- E. Ephesians 1.

III. The overall correct perspective.

- A. Christ left the world and sent the Holy Spirit to reprove the world of sin, righteousness and judgment.
- B. Done through the preaching of the word .
 - 1. Mark 16:15-20 - with supernatural confirmation.
 - 2. This is the leading of the Holy Spirit.
 - 3. The teachings of the various teachers was of the Holy Spirit.

- C. I Corinthians 12:31 - the more excellent way.
 - 1. I Corinthians 13 - faith, hope, and love.
 - a. This is not the absence of the Spirit.
 - b. This is not a contrast between those who do or do not have the Spirit.
 - c. This is a comparison of the benefits to the Christian of supernatural manifestations and the fruit of the Spirit - Christian.
- D. Paul makes a call to spiritual living.
 - 1. - Live in the Spirit - their miraculously confirmed position in the kingdom of God - walk in the Spirit - show forth the fruit that will result in their salvation as well as the salvation of others.
 - 2. A contrast to those who are under the law (v. 6) or seeking to bind the law on those Gentiles (vv 1,12).
 - 3. To follow the law would be falling from grace (Galatians 5:4,5) cf. Galatians 3:1-5.

Conclusion:

- 1. Emphasize
 - a. Fruit.
 - b. Through the word.
- 2. Not a direct operation of the Holy Spirit.

Invitation: