

## **The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Galatians**

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### **Chapter Twelve -**

#### **VICTORY OVER SIN COMES THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT**

Verses 16 and 17: "**This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.**"

Someone may be asking, "What is the lust of the flesh?" The answer is, The lust of the flesh is any kind of selfish, fleshly desire. The great problem in the life of most Christians is how to avoid selfish living . . . how to be victorious over selfish desires. The answer is clearly stated here: "**Walk in the Spirit.**" If we walk by the HOLY SPIRIT, if we are led by the HOLY SPIRIT, if we yield ourselves to the HOLY SPIRIT, if we present our bodies a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto GOD in the HOLY SPIRIT and give the HOLY SPIRIT right of way in our lives, He will give us victory over our selfish, lustful desires.

There is much ignorance among GOD's people concerning our relationship, as believers, to the HOLY SPIRIT.

I think it would be to our advantage to stop here and point out a few things concerning this relationship:

First of all, every saved person - every person who is a recipient of GOD's Grace - is born of the HOLY GHOST, and through the power of the HOLY GHOST becomes a child of God. Study John's Gospel 3:3-8, James 1:18, I Peter 1:22, 23.

In the second place, the moment a person is born again, that child of GOD is baptized in the HOLY GHOST into the body of CHRIST, and through the baptism of the HOLY GHOST becomes a member of the body of CHRIST - of His flesh and of His bones. Study carefully I Corinthians 12:12-15, Ephesians 4:4, Ephesians 5:30. The baptism of the Spirit described in I Corinthians 12:13 is the only baptism of the HOLY GHOST known to Scripture. The Lord JESUS CHRIST is the One who is the baptizer. Read Matthew 3:11; Acts 1:5.

In the third place, the moment the new birth is experienced, that child of GOD receives the HOLY GHOST in his heart (Romans 8:9, 14). The HOLY SPIRIT is the unction, the anointing, the teacher. He guards the believer from the danger of apostasy. Study carefully I John 2:18-27.

In the fourth place, every born again child of GOD is sealed by (or in) the HOLY GHOST the moment he receives the new birth . . . and is thus made GOD's son, sealed until the day of

redemption when our Lord returns. Study carefully 2 Corinthians 1:21-22; Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30.

In the fifth place, every born again child of God receives the HOLY GHOST as the indwelling presence of Almighty GOD the moment that person is born again. The HOLY GHOST - the Third Person of the Trinity - abides continually every second of every minute, every hour of every day, in the heart of the born again one (I Corinthians 3:16; 6:19-20).

In the sixth place, every born again child of GOD should be - and CAN be - filled with the HOLY SPIRIT.

When the born again one is filled with the HOLY SPIRIT he will walk by the Spirit, and he will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh. Study Ephesians 5:18-21; Romans 8:8-11; 12:1-2.

Last, but by no means least, the HOLY GHOST helps every believer in his prayer life: **"Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And He (the HOLY SPIRIT) that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because He maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God"** (Romans 8:26-27). Thank GOD for the HOLY SPIRIT!

Verses 17-21: **"For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the Law. Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God."**

Verse 17 tells us that the flesh **"lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh."** The SPIRIT and the flesh do not agree, these are contrary one to the other, so that we cannot do the things we would. That is, we cannot follow the desire of the flesh, we cannot do the things the flesh suggests.

It will be a happy, victorious day in the lives of many Christians when they recognize the two natures of a believer. When we are unbelievers there is only one nature - the sinful nature; but when the HOLY GHOST moves into our heart, then there is a new life in the heart. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. When GOD Almighty saves a sinner, GOD saves the spirit, the heart, the inner man; the flesh is destined to return to the dust. And regardless of how holy, sanctified and dedicated you may be, you will never cease to live on this earth in a body of flesh. You had better recognize that fact. Paul warns, **"Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall"** (I Corinthians 10:12). Yes, the Spirit and the flesh do not agree, they are contrary the one to the other.

**"But if ye be led of the Spirit ye are not under the Law."** That is, if you are led of the Spirit, you cannot be led by the Law! If you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law, because the Spirit is in the world to glorify JESUS, to speak of JESUS - and JESUS is the Author of

Grace. Therefore, you cannot be led of the Spirit and be under Law at the same time!

Beginning with verse 19, Paul gives a sordid list of the works of the flesh. I do not feel it necessary to use time and space to enlarge upon what the HOLY GHOST tells us through the pen of the Apostle to the Gentiles. He clearly states the works of the flesh - and there is no way to misunderstand: "**Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like**" ". . . and such like" . . . that is, anything else like these just named. Paul says, "I have told you before, I am repeating, they which do such things shall not in any case, under any circumstances, enter the kingdom of God!"

I have often made the statement in my meetings that if some folks did get to Heaven, Heaven would become hell five minutes after they arrived! You weigh that statement before you criticize it, and I believe you will agree with me. You need not worry about the adulterers, adulteresses, the idolators, witchcraft workers, those who hate, who murder, those who envy and those who get drunk.

They will not be in that number when the saints go marching in. They will be screaming in the pit, in the lake of fire. Paul here is not referring to backslidden believers. He is referring to people who have never been born again. He gives the same warning to the believers in the church at Corinth:

**"Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God" (I Corinthians 6:9-11).**

All born again believers are washed in the Blood, sanctified by the Blood, justified by the Blood. Of course, the catalog of sins named in our present Scripture as the works of the flesh are not characteristic in the lives of born again, Blood washed, redeemed Christians. Read I Corinthians 1:29-30.

### **THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT**

In the next two verses Paul gives to us a catalog of the fruit of the Spirit. He has just named the works of the flesh, and now he gives to us the bright picture . . . the HOLY SPIRIT's fruit-basket:

Verses 22 and 23: "**But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.**"

Please note: "**BUT THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS . . .**" Please observe, pay attention: These good things are referred to as "**fruit**," not works! Not one of the Spirit-fruit named here can be bought, earned, secured through human effort. No matter how much we try to do good, be good, live good, we will fail to bear the fruit of the Spirit.

We cannot love as we ought to love, by trying to love. It is easy to love the lovely, those who are always doing and saying kind things about us; but Christian love loves the unlovely.

Joy cannot be brought to the human heart by doing; money cannot buy joy; peace cannot be purchased. JESUS said, "**Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you**" (John 14:27). JESUS said, "**Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest**" (Matthew 11:28). Peace and rest are GOD's gifts.

Longsuffering is a grace produced only by the HOLY SPIRIT. To be gentle and good, to have faith, to be meek, temperate . . . these things come through the Spirit. Before leaving these two verses, let me point out that the word is singular: FRUIT... (not "fruits" . . . plural).

So - every born again child of GOD who is led by the Spirit should love, be filled with joy and peace; every true believer should be longsuffering, gentle, good. Every believer should have faith, every believer should be meek and temperate . . . and of course, against such living there is no law. I wonder if I bear the fruit of the Spirit?

You might ask yourself the same question . . . and if we are not bearing fruit, then GOD help us to do something about it!

Verse 24: "**And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.**" If you are having trouble with the flesh, I wish you would order my 32-page booklet on THE TWO NATURES. This booklet has helped thousands of believers in the last ten years. A moment ago I said - and I repeat - it will be a happy day in the lives of some Christians when they recognize that a believer has two natures - the flesh and the Spirit. We can, by the grace of GOD and by His power, crucify the flesh; but the flesh must be crucified daily. Again - "**Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall!**"

But - "**There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but GOD is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it**" (I Corinthians 10:13). If you do not already know that verse of Scripture from memory, memorize it now, before you read another paragraph!

Born again believers, they who are CHRIST's, have crucified the flesh with its passions and lusts.

Believers have accepted the Cross of the Lord JESUS. It is CHRIST whom the believer has put on by faith - therefore, with Paul we say, "**I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me**" (Galatians 2:20).

Verse 25: "**If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.**" That is, if we are born again, if we are born of the Spirit, if the HOLY SPIRIT abides in our bosom, if GOD has honored us with the presence of the Third Person of the Trinity within us, then let us yield ourselves to Him - and let us give Him the right-of-way in our lives . . . in every minute detail of our living.

Verse 26: **"Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another."**

The believers in the assembly at Galatia were in grave danger of quarreling among themselves, disputing among themselves concerning the Law, instead of worshipping the CHRIST who bought them with His Blood.

They needed this exhortation from the Apostle Paul. Of course, that danger did not cease with the Galatians . . . it still remains among Christians today! I am sure the Lord GOD looks down from Heaven many times with a sad heart, when churches spend their time arguing - splitting hairs over denominational questions - when they should be singing the Praises of God and worshipping the CHRIST who redeemed them at the tremendous price of His Blood on Calvary's Cross. GOD help us as believers to walk in the Spirit, to be led by the Spirit - and if we are led by the Spirit and walk in the Spirit we will not desire vain glory. We will not be envious of our fellow-believers. We will not provoke each other to sin.

And when we assemble ourselves together, our one motive for assembling should be to worship in spirit and in truth the GOD who so loved us that He gave His only begotten Son, that WE might have life and have it abundantly - by Grace, through faith in His finished work - plus nothing! **"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved!"** Receive the Lord JESUS CHRIST and He will give to you the power to become a son of the living GOD!

In chapter 5, Paul gave to the Galatian believers a general view of the practical application of the doctrine of the marvelous grace of GOD. He pointed out the evidence and proof of our justification by faith, without the works of the Law . . . salvation by Grace through faith plus nothing. He pointed out the difference between the legalist and the true born again believer. The legalizer measures a man by the Law - and naturally finds much to point out in his life that is wrong and brings condemnation; but the man who is saved by Grace and is living by Grace is gracious, and bears fruit described in the last part of chapter five.

~ end of chapter 12 ~

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