

HOLY SMOKE, PART 1 WALKING IN THE SPIRIT

The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit

So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do (or can no longer do) whatever you want. **Galatians 5:16-17 (NIV)**

I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power **through his Spirit** in your inner being. **Ephesians 3:16 (NIV)**

It seems to be a fact of life that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong. I love to do God's will so far as my new nature is concerned; but there is something else deep within me, in my lower nature (*the flesh*), that is at war with my mind and wins the fight and makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me.

In my mind I want to be God's willing servant, but instead I find myself still enslaved to sin. So you see how it is: my new life tells me to do right, but the old nature that is still inside me loves to sin. Oh, what a terrible predicament I'm in! Who will free me from my slavery to this deadly lower nature? Thank God! It has been done by Jesus Christ our Lord. He has set me free. **Romans 7:21-25 (TLB)**

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed... work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. **Phil. 2:12-16 (ESV)**

I have been crucified with Christ: and I myself no longer live, but Christ lives in me. And the real life I now have within this body is a result of my trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. **Gal. 2:20 (TLB)**

PUTTING ON THE SPIRIT AND TAKING OFF THE “FLESH”

But when the Holy Spirit controls our lives he will produce this kind of fruit in us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control... Those who belong to Christ have nailed their natural evil desires to his cross and crucified them there. If we are living now by the Holy Spirit's power, let us follow the Holy Spirit's leading in every part of our lives. **Gal. 5:22-25 (TLB)**

Now you are united with the one who was raised from the dead. As a result, we can produce a harvest of good deeds for God. When we were controlled by our old nature, sinful desires were at work within us, and the law aroused these evil desires that produced a harvest of sinful deeds, resulting in death. But now we have been released from the law, for we died to it and are no longer captive to its power. Now we can serve God... in the new way of living in the Spirit. **Rom. 7:4-6 (NLT)**

Put off your old nature which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful lusts, and **be renewed** in the spirit of your minds, and **put on the new nature**, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness... And **do not grieve the Holy Spirit** of God, in whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. **Eph. 4:22-24, 30 (RSV)**

Walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. **Gal. 5:16-17 (NIV)**

The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality... debauchery... hatred, discord, jealousy... rage, selfish ambition, dissensions... envy; drunkenness... and the like. Those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. **Gal. 5:19-21 (NIV)**

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control... Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. **Gal. 5:22-25 (NIV)**