

THE SPIRIT-CONTROLLED LIFE

Living the Christian life is not hard, it's impossible. This means that if we are going to know God and make Him known to others we must live moment by moment under the control of the Holy Spirit.

- I. Purpose – To reflect Christ moment by moment. “He must increase, but I must decrease.” John 3:30
 - A. Growing in the Christian life is Christ's control on your life growing
 - B. This growth process takes place as you do your part, and God does His part in growth. This will be discussed in the skills section of this study.
 - C. Anything that is done of Spiritual value is done because God does it. As we learn to walk in the power of his Spirit we will see tremendous growth in our own spiritual lives as well as in the lives of others

II. Knowledge

A. The Ministry of the Holy Spirit

1. Who is the Holy Spirit?
The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity; Father, son and Holy Spirit.
2. What is the purpose of the Holy Spirit?
The Holy Spirit came to be a witness to the Lord Jesus Christ and to glorify Him in and through believers. (John 16: 13-14)
3. What is the result of the Spirit-filled life?
 - a. Christ is glorified (John 16:13-14)
 - b. Fruit of the Spirit in your life (Gal. 5:22-23)
 - c. Supernatural power to minister to others (Acts 1:8)
 - d. Supernatural power to live a victorious life (Gal. 5:16)
4. Scriptural Basis
 - a. Eph. 1:13-14
 - b. John 7:37-39
 - c. John 14:16-17,26

- d. John 16: 7-15
- e. Rom. 8: 1-16
- f. Gal. 5:17
- g. Eph. 5: 15-21
- h. Acts 1:8
- i. Gal. 2:20

B. The Necessity of walking in the Spirit

1. The Spirit-filled is the Christ controlled life where Christ has the freedom to have His way in your life. The Spirit-filled Christian is one who daily dies to himself and lives for Christ to be exalted and glorified. (Gal. 2:20)
2. The potential power, the life of Jesus Christ in every believer, is released by faith as the Christian surrenders the control of his life to the Holy Spirit. Since it is the ministry of the Holy Spirit to glorify Christ, Jesus Christ then has the unhindered opportunity to work in and through the believers life to perform His will.
3. God has called us to a supernatural lifestyle.
The only way to live this lifestyle is for Him to live His life through us as we submit to His control of His Spirit.
 - a. God expect us to be full of love, joy, peace, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. This is done as we walk in His Spirit.
 - b. God expect us to make disciples of all the nations by evangelizing those who do not know Christ, then establishing them in their walk with Christ, and equipping them to do the same. This is done as we walk in the Spirit.
 - c. God expect us to deal with the sin in our lives that hinders us from knowing Him and making Him known. This is done as we walk in the Spirit.

C. Balance

1. Do not confuse your relationship with God which is sealed once for eternity (Eph. 1:13-14) with your fellowship with god which is a moment by moment walk (Gal. 5:25)

2. The Holy Spirit came to point people to Christ, do to point to the Holy Spirit. Anytime the Holy Spirit is given more attention or is more important than the Person of Jesus Christ an unhealthy understanding of the Scriptures exists.
3. To be filled with the Holy Spirit does not mean that we receive more of the Holy Spirit but that we give Him more of ourselves. As we yield our lives to the work of the Holy Spirit, He has greater freedom to work in and through our lives to control us in order to glorify Jesus Christ.
4. Every Christian at the point of conversion is baptized with the Spirit and therefore has the ability to walk under the control and power of the Spirit. (Gal. 3:27, Romans 6:3-4, 1Cor. 12-13, Col. 2:9-14).
5. The power of the Spirit and fruit of the Spirit are guaranteed to all Christians. (John 7:37-39, 1Cor. 3:16). Gifts of the Spirit are given to each Christian and are revealed progressively by the Spirit as you walk in the power of the Spirit. Not all the gifts are given to every Christian and therefore every Christian doesn't necessarily have the same gifts. (1Cor. 1:12)
6. The gifts of the Spirit are not toys but tools and are not given for our enjoyment but our employment.
7. Do not allow confusion over gifts of the Spirit to keep you from receiving victory, peace and power of walking in the Spirit. Walk in the Spirit and allow God reveal to you in His timing the gifts He has for you. A person who walks in the Spirit cannot help but exercise His gifts properly and according to God's will.

III. Character

The world says the goal is control. God says submit. The world says exalt yourself. God says humble yourself. The world says you must get to receive. God says you must give to receive. God's way is opposite of the world's way, and God's way is submission.

- A. Submission means to assign yourself under another in an orderly manner. To determine or decide to give control of decisions, use of time, plans to another.
- B. The world's attitude toward submission is one of hostility and rebellion. (Luke 19:14) They associate submission with weakness, inferiority, tyranny, or cultural curse for women.
- C. We should be submissive because it is God's way. Otherwise our lives will be out of balance because God create us with a central focus is our

lives, and that focus must be on Him as center in our lives we must submit to His control.

- D. We should submit to his control because:
1. He loves us and has our best interests at heart. (Luke 11:10-13)
 2. He created us and knows us best. We belong to Him. (1Cor. 6:19-20)
 3. He bought us with the price of His Son's death so that we could experience and fulfill our purpose. (2Cor. 5:14-17)
 4. He desires to direct us, protect us, and perfect us, but that is only available to us as we submit to Him. (Phil. 1:6)
 - a. People do not submit to His control because:
 - i. They fear that He will ask them to do something that they do not want to do.
 - ii. They are not convinced that God has their best interest at heart.
 - iii. They think they know what is best for themselves.
 - b. We should submit ourselves to:
 - i. God (2Cor. 8:5)
 - ii. Our Spiritual leaders (2Cor. 8:5)
 - iii. Governing authorities and structure we are under. (Rom. 13:1-8)
 - A. Parents
 - B. Church
 - C. Schools
 - D. Governments
 - E. Employers
 - iv. To each other (Eph. 5:21)

The real issue is trust and it is trust in God. Do you believe that God wants what's best for you and that He will work through every authority to bring about that in your life?

IV. Skills

How to walk in the Spirit? How to deal with sin?

There are two elements of living the Spirit Controlled life, God's part and our part. God's Spirit is the power source for living the Christian life and our part is to respond properly to Him.

A. God's Part

1. God's part to produce fruit in your life. There are two kinds of fruit He will produce through Christians:

- a. Fruit of the Spirit – Gal.5: 22-23
 - b. Fruit of ministry or reproduction – John 15: 5-8
 - 2. It is God's job to point out sin in your life. As you grow closer to Christ it will seem that you are more aware of your sin than before. This is because the closer you get to Christ the more sin is revealed in you. (Isaiah 6:1-7)
 - 3. God points out sin in your lives to move us closer to Christ and prepare us to minister to others. Conviction of sin is not negative, but positive because it deals with the barrier between closer walk and us with God.
- B. Our part
- 1. Abandon – leave yourself and leave your sin by:
 - a. Repenting – Which means surrendering or yielding
 - b. Confessing - agreeing with God that we sinned and claiming His forgiveness and cleansing.
 - 2. Appropriate – apply by faith that God's Spirit is controlling you.
 - a. It is God's will for you to be filled with the Spirit. (Eph. 5: 18)
 - b. God has promised to give us whatever we ask according to His will. (1 John 5:14-15)
 - i. This should be done everyday as you begin your day so that you will be under the control of His Spirit. (Luke 9:23)
 - ii. Trust Him to produce the fruit through you and abide in Him.
 - 3. Abide – Col. 3: 16/ Eph 5:18 Living constantly in union with Him by:
 - a. Being filled with God's Word.
 - b. Obeying God's Word – wisdom in doing what you know is God's will.
 - c. Worship – taking time to focus on God.

Note: As you abide in Christ He gains more control of your life. It is as if you move one step closer to the Light (Christ). This will result in revealing more sin as more light is brought on your life. To maintain God's control of your life, you must abandon the sin, appropriate by faith His control and continue to abide in Him. This is growing as a Christian, not getting more of the Holy Spirit, but the Holy Spirit getting more of you.

Projects

1. Study the desires of the flesh and the fruit of the Spirit. (Gal. 5: 16-22) Determine how you can know when you are walking in the flesh or walking in the Spirit.
2. Study “how to be Filled with the Spirit” and be able to communicate clearly and effectively using Scripture the Spirit – Filled life to another person.
3. Make a list of reasons why people do not walk in the Spirit. Then see if any of them are true in your own life.
4. Pray for Christians you know are living a defeated life in the flesh. Take the time to share with him or her, the Spirit - Filled Life.

I. Tell Them Why

- A. Eph. 1:13,14
- B. John 7:37-39
- C. John 14:16,17,26
- D. John 6:7-15
- E. Romans 8:1-16
- F. Gal. 5:17
- G. Eph. 5:15-21
- H. Acts 1:8
- I. Gal. 2:20

II. Tell Them How

- A. Abandon – leave yourself and your sin by:
 1. Confessing your sin
 2. Repenting of your sin
 3. Claiming His forgiveness
- B. Appropriate – Claim by faith that God’s Spirit is controlling you
 1. It is God’s will for you to be controlled by the Spirit
 2. God has promised to give us what we ask according to His will (1 John 5:14,15)
 3. This should be done on a daily basis so that you might walk each day under the control of His Spirit (Luke 9: 23)
- C. Abide – Col. 3:16/ Eph. 5:18 living constantly in union with Him by:

1. Being filled with God's Word
2. Obeying God's Word
3. Cultivating a lifestyle environment that is comfortable to the Holy Spirit
4. Worship – Taking time to focus on God

III. Get Them Started

- A. Study the desires of the flesh and the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:16-22). Determine how you can know when you are walking in the flesh or walking in the Spirit.
- B. Study “ How to be Filled with the Spirit” and be able to communicate clearly and effectively using Scripture the Spirit-Filled life to another person.
- C. Make a list of reasons why people do not walk in the Spirit. Then see if any of them are true in your own life.
- D. Pray for Christians you know are living a defeated life in the flesh. *Take time to share with him or her the Spirit-Filled life.