

Do You Want To Be Free?

THE BATTLE WITHIN

Galatians 5:16-26

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But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.

Galatians 5:16-17

Have you experienced the battle within?

1. The Christian life is designed for the Spirit.

A. The Spirit lives in every Christian.

People who don't have the Spirit of Christ in them don't belong to him. Romans 8:9 CEV

B. The Spirit leads every Christian.

Only those people who are led by God's Spirit are His children. Romans 8:14 CEV

C. The question is: Are you following?

If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another. Galatians 5:25-26

* Walking takes steps of faith coupled with His power.

2. The Christian life is opposed by the flesh.

For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. Romans 7:18

A. The flesh is that part of you that longs to satisfy self.

B. The flesh and the Spirit have different desires.

C. You are either following the flesh or the Spirit.

3. The flesh produces rotten, bitter fruit.

You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes, nor figs from thistles, are they? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit; but the bad tree bears bad fruit.

Matthew 7:16-17

A. The flesh likes sexual immorality.

B. The flesh likes "my way" religion.

C. The flesh can't get along with others.

D. Does the fruit of the flesh characterize your life?

*... of which I forewarn you just as I have forewarned you that those **who practice such things** shall not inherit the kingdom of God. Galatians 5:21*

4. The Spirit produces wonderful fruit.

God's Spirit makes us loving, happy, peaceful, patient, kind, good, faithful, gentle, and self-controlled. There is no law against behaving in any of these ways. Galatians 5:23 CEV

A. It is easy to tell if you are following the Spirit.

B. It is important to remember that the flesh is crucified.

Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Galatians 5:24

You don't have to obey the flesh, you can obey the Spirit!