

“How Do I Manage My Life God’s Way?”

Does your life seem mismanaged and chaotic? Are you struggling with habits and hang-ups you cannot defeat? Are you wanting to enjoy the faithful and consistent management of every area of your life? In this biblical and practical examination of Galatians 5:16-18 and Ephesians 5:15-18 we will be reminded that life skill transformation begins with learning what it means to walk daily under the control of the indwelling Holy Spirit of God.

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Introduction

- “...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. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law” (Gal. 5:16-18)
- “Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men, but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil. So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit...” (Eph. 5:15-18)

What are the areas of our lives that seem out of control? What is the lasting solution?

Stewardship = Life Management — 1 Cor. 4:1-2 “Let a man regard us in this manner, as servants of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. In this case, moreover, it is required of stewards (i.e. managers) that one be found trustworthy.”

“Walk by the Spirit and be filled with the Spirit”

- Life-management is NOT a life regulated by an EXTERNAL CODE (i.e. man-made rules) It is a life governed by an INWARD PERSON (i.e. the indwelling Holy Spirit of God.)

I. THE COMMAND...TO KEEP WALKING BY THE SPIRIT

Gal. 5:16 “But I say, walk by the Spirit...”

- “The Holy Spirit is not a perpetual motion machine which operates automatically in the life of the believer” (Kenneth Wuest)
- Walking by the Spirit is drawing upon His strength daily to manage my life from the inside out.
- As I turn the control over to the Holy Spirit, He produces the desired results in me (i.e. “The Fruit of the Spirit - Galatians 5:22-23)

II. THE CONSEQUENCE...OF WALKING BY THE SPIRIT

Gal. 5:16 “But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.”

- When I am drawing daily upon the Holy Spirit’s strength to manage my life from the inside out, the result is that I will not carry out the desires of the flesh.
- ”Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, 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 5:19-21)
- The key to victory in the Christian life is NOT accomplished by trying in our own power NOT to sin!
- cf. Ephesians 5:15-18 Drunk with wine vs. Filled with the Spirit
 - Being drunk with wine = under the control of wine
 - The result = dissipation (Greek: asotia) = a life consumed by excessive waste
 - Being filled with the Spirit = under the control of the Spirit
 - The result = a life that is fully supplied (Greek: pleroo)

III. THE CONFLICT...IN WALKING BY THE SPIRIT

Gal. 5:17 “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.”

Opponent #1 The Flesh

The flesh is our inward bent to oppose God and do what we please.

- “For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so; and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.” (Rom. 8:5-8)
- Romans 7:18 “In my flesh dwells no good thing.”

Opponent #2 The Indwelling Holy Spirit of God

The Holy Spirit calls us to do what pleases God!

- Rom. 8:9 “However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.”
- 2 Cor. 3:18 “But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.”
- Rom. 7:24 “Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death? (i.e. this rotting and putrid carcass of sin.)
- Rom. 7:25 “Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind am serving the law of God, but on the other, with my flesh the law of sin.”
- Rom. 8:1-3 “There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own

Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.”

IV. THE CONFIDENCE...WHEN WE ARE WALKING BY THE SPIRIT

Gal. 5:18 “But if (and I know you are) led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law.”

- The God of Order lives inside us combating and winning over Satan: the Author of Confusion
- Rom. 8:14 “For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.”
- 2 Cor. 13:5 “Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you-- unless indeed you fail the test?”

Concluding Challenge:

Life Management 101

Principle #1. Make it a habit to daily walk by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Principle #2. Face the reality that the conflict between the flesh and the Spirit will always be within us.

Principle #3. Place our confidence in the truth that we are inwardly led by the Holy Spirit

Psalm 32:8 “I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you.”

“Lord, teach me to follow.”

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