

EXPLORING GOD'S WORD
LESSON 9a

Last week we discussed the power of the Holy Ghost and the gifts of the Spirit operating within the local church. The church is a supernatural organism that is empowered, held together, and defined by the working of the Spirit. Even as the Spirit of God is essential in the corporate church setting, it is also essential in the life of the individual. We are all called to walk in the Spirit and to develop the fruit of the Spirit on a personal level.

Galatians 5:16–17 (KJV 1900)

16 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

17 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.

I. WALKING IN THE SPIRIT:

When we are born again, we become a new creature (See 2 Corinthians 5:17).

2 Corinthians 5:17 (KJV 1900)

17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

We have a carnal nature called "the flesh" or the "old man" and a heavenly nature called "the spirit" or the "new man."

Being born of the Spirit is just the beginning. We must learn to walk in the Spirit.

Galatians 5:25 (KJV 1900)

25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

When we walk in the Spirit, we are empowered to overcome the old nature and the lusts of the flesh.

Ephesians 4:22–24 (KJV 1900)

22 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

How do we walk in the Spirit?

1. Our mind must be renewed.

Romans 12:1–2 (KJV 1900)

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Our minds (thought-life, attitude, responses, etc.) were shaped and formed under our old sinful nature. We must choose to walk in our new identity.

Romans 8:5–8 (KJV 1900)

5 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

6 For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

We must cultivate a mind controlled by the Spirit of God. This is done through prayer, fasting, study, and memorization of God's Word and guarding against ungodly influences on our thought life.

2. We must crucify the flesh.

Galatians 5:24–25 (KJV 1900)

24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

The flesh and the spirit are in conflict. We must refuse those things that strengthen the old nature. We must daily surrender our will to His.

II. THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT: (Read Galatians 5:22-23)

As we walk in the Spirit, the new nature begins to be revealed in our lives. We call this the fruit of the Spirit.

The Fruit of the Spirit is simply the nature and life of God, transforming our character and attitudes through His Spirit that resides in us.

The Fruit of the Spirit are the long-term evidence of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Galatians 5:22–23 (NIV)

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Contrast the fruit of the Spirit with the works of the flesh.

Galatians 5:19–21 (NIV)

19 The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery;

20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions

21 and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.