

PREPARE FOR THE SPIRIT OF VICTORY

Text: Galatians 5:16-25

Key Word: Victory

Key Thought: Victory In The Spirit

“So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ 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. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

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.

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. ²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.”

Galatians 5:16-25

In Matthew Jesus spoke of there being 2 possible pathways through this life.

In Matthew 7:13-14, He said that there is one pathway that leads unto life and another that leads unto death. Jesus makes it crystal clear that when we enter the narrow way, we are saved by grace and are headed to Heaven, while all those who remain in the broad path are headed to Hell. Now, as Christians, we can never enter into death, John 5:24, but we can find ourselves walking on the wrong pathway. If you believe that becoming a Christian means that you cease to sin, then you have a rude awakening ahead, 1 John 1:8-10. While we have literally passed from death unto life as the Bible says, a dead, ineffective and fruitless spiritual life will always be the result of walking the wrong pathway. On the other hand, to walk in the right pathway is to live a life that is pleasing to the Lord. It is to be fruitful and effective in all that we do for His glory. It is to experience that abundant life of which Jesus spoke, John 10:10. We need to know about the difference between the two pathways we can choose to walk in life. Now, I don't know a lot about you guys , but I am confident that no one here wants to be a spiritual failure.

Therefore, let's look together at these verses this morning and see the lessons that can be learned as we think about Walking in the spirit of Victory.

I. The Pathway of Spiritual Loss & Slavery

II. The Pathway to Spiritual Victory/Freedom

I. THE PATHWAY OF SPIRITUAL LOSS AND SLAVERY

(Also known as The Flesh Life)

THE FLESH IS OPPOSED TO THE SPIRIT

There is a warfare going on in your life - Romans 7:15-25 The flesh seeks to hinder prayer, study, witness, faithfulness, and obedience. The Christian life is not a playground, it is a battlefield!

"Dear friends, I warn you as 'temporary residents and foreigners to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls."

1 Peter 2:11

THE FLESH IS OPEN TO ANY SIN

Man is capable of anything that can be imagined and much that cannot! Never say, "It will never happen to me!"

"Therefore, let the one who thinks he stands watch out that he does not fall."

1 Corinthians 10:12

"The flesh is capable of anything - without exception!"

2 Samuel 11:1-15

"For I know that good does not dwell in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not."

Romans 7:18

THE FLESH IS ORDAINED TO JUDGEMENT

1. The Lost Sinner will Face Hell –

¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. ¹³ And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. ¹⁴ Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. ¹⁵ And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Revelation 20:11-15

2. **The Lowdown Saint will Face the Judgement Seat of Christ**

¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

2 Corinthians 5:10

¹² So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God. And, the Lord's chastisement or reward .

Romans 14:12

⁶ because the Lord disciplines the one He loves, and He chastens everyone He accepts as His son. ”^[a]

⁷ Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as His children. For what children are not disciplined by their father? ⁸ If you are not disciplined—and everyone undergoes discipline—then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all.

Hebrews 12:6-8

¹⁹ Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent.

Revelation 3:19

To prevent you from getting the wrong idea, God is not saying that a slip in any of these areas will prevent you from getting into Heaven. The verb "do" in this verse indicates an ongoing lifestyle. In other words, if your life is given to these activities, then you are hell bound. If you have slipped, or happen to slip here from time to time, it isn't alright, but it should be repented of and if it is, it will be forgiven by God.

⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:9

II. THE PATHWAY OF SPIRITUAL VICTORY & FREEDOM

(Also known as The Spirit Life)

THE SPIRIT GIVES US VICTORY OVER OUR LUSTS

(John 16:13; Ephesians 5:18; Romans 6:16; James 1:14; Galatians 5:16)

To walk in, means to surrender to

¹³ But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.”

John 16:13

We will be led by either our flesh, or the Holy Spirit. Which one wins depends upon which one we yield to. Therefore, either my flesh will win, or the Spirit will win.

The Spirit will defeat the flesh if we allow Him to. We still have a say in what we allow in our lives! We need to avoid places, people, things, images, music, anything that brings temptation to us! If we mess around with it, we will give in to it! Proverbs 6:27 puts it this way

“Can a man scoop fire into his lap without being burned?”

Proverbs 6:27

THE SPIRIT GIVES US VICTORY OVER THE LAW

“But thanks be to God who gives us victory through our Lord Jesus Christ”

1 Corinthians 15:57

This verse declares the truth! That we have Victory over the Law, and the Law was made for those who walk after the flesh. When we are yielded to and walking in the Spirit, the Law serves no purpose in our lives. Because, we automatically have a desire to fulfill the Law of God as it is written in our heart.

“Therefore, for the Saint, the Law of God is not a condition to be met for salvation. Rather, obedience to it is an indicator of our love for Jesus Christ.”

1 Timothy 1:9

“If you love me, keep my commands. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹ Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. ²¹ Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.

John 14:15; 21

Regardless of what you say about Jesus, your life shows whether you love Him or not! The threat of judgment is removed when we live a Spirit filled life.

(Colossians 2:13-14; Ephesians 2:14-16; Romans 8:1)

THE SPIRIT GIVES US VICTORY OVER THIS LIFE

(Proverbs 13:15; John 15:1-5; Matthew 7:20)

Notice, the flesh produces "works" - A life of labor. The Spirit produces fruit - A life of leisure. Fruit is a natural result of abiding in the vine. The branches never struggle to produce its fruit. As it abides in the vine and allows the life of the vine to flow through it, the fruit is automatically produced on the branch. In the life of the believer, the Spirit always produces fruit. By the way, these are characteristics which are to be present in the life of every believer, without exception! Just like evil works characterize the lives of the lost, the fruit of the Spirit is proof of one's salvation.

What are some of the fruits of the spirit that show us Victory?

1. Love (Matthew 22:37-39; 1 Corinthians 13:1-3)

God and man. In English, we conjugate our verbs as follows: 1st Person: I am; 2nd Person: You are; 3rd Person: He is. Most other languages like French, Italian, Latin, and German all conjugate their verbs the same way. Therefore, we would say, "I love, you love, he loves."

Hebrew, however, has a different approach. In fact, it is totally the opposite. Their verbs are conjugated this way; 1st Person: He is; 2nd Person: You are; 3rd Person: I am. This is the way Jesus taught us to love, isn't it? He is to be first; my neighbor is to be second; and myself is to be last.

2. Joy - Constant delight in God - Rejoice always (Thessalonians 5:16)

A Hindu trader in India once asked a missionary, "What do you put on your face to make it shine?" With surprise the man of God answered, "I don't put anything on it!"

The man began to lose patience and said, "Yes, you do!"

All of you who believe in Jesus seem to have it. I've seen it many times."

Suddenly the Christian understood, and his face glowed even more as he said, "Now I know what you mean, and I will tell you the secret. It's not something we put on from the outside but something that comes from within. It's the reflection of the light of God."

3. Peace - When the Spirit rules in our lives, we will experience peace in three areas of life: with God, with others and with ourselves (Philippians 4:7; John 14:27)

4. Longsuffering - Willing to accept and bear injury – (Matthew 18:21-35; Luke 17:3-5; Ephesians 4:32)

5. Gentleness - A sweetness of attitude - Easy to get along with and easy to please. That is, not always griping and complaining, but ever kind and sweet. Gentleness is merely the attitude of kindness.

6. Goodness - A willingness to do good and help others (Matthew 7:12)
Literally, nothing but Christian love in action (1 John 3:18; James 2:15-16)

7. Faithfulness - Ability to trust in God and to be trusted by God and man (Mark 11:22; Hebrews 11:6; Romans 14:23; 1 Corinthians 4:2)

We also see meekness and self-control as a Christians fruit. Such of these things the Bible tells us there is no Law!! Our lives should reflect this kind of Spirit.

When Louis Lawes became warden of Sing Sing Prison in 1920,
the inmates existed in wretched conditions.

This led him to introduce humanitarian reforms.

He gave much of the credit to his wife Kathryn, however,
who always treated the prisoners as human beings.

She would often take her three children and sit with the gangsters, the murderers, and the racketeers while they played basketball and baseball.

Then in 1937, Kathryn was killed in a car accident. The next day her body lay in a casket in a house about a quarter of a mile from the institution. When the acting warden found hundreds of prisoners crowded around the main entrance, he knew what they wanted.

Opening the gate, he said, "Men, I'm going to trust you. You can go to the house." No count was taken; no guards were posted. Yet not one man was missing that night.

Love for the one who had loved them made them dependable.

Christ has revealed the Father's grace to us "while we were yet sinners" (Romans 5:8). Because of what He did on Calvary, we have been freed from sin's bondage and the condemnation of the law. Unlike those prisoners, we don't have to return to confinement. Yet the same motive that kept them from running away should also account for our faithful service for Christ. May our love for Him, more than fear, shame, or even duty, be the reason we want to do what's right.

Today is your day to walk in the spirit of Victory!!!

In Closing, I want you to judge your life by the results it is bringing to pass. Are you bearing fruit to the glory of the Lord? Are you producing the works of the flesh? Regardless of your answer, you can begin, right now, being the Christian God wants you to be.

All you must do is "abide in Him". The ease with which the branch abides. We make it harder than it is. Surrender and the battle will be finished! Now, having all that I have said on the table, on which Pathway do you find yourself?

Date: Jan 30/22

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Am

Song: See A Victory

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I. The Pathway of Spiritual Loss & Slavery

The Flesh is Opposed to the Spirit
(*Romans 7:15-25; 1 Peter 2:11*)

The Flesh is Open to Any Sin
(*1 Corinthians 10:12; 2 Samuel 11:1-15; Romans 7:18*)

The Flesh is Ordained to Judgement
(*Revelation 20:11-15; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Romans 14:12; Hebrews 12:6-8; Revelation 3:19; 1 John 1:9*)

II. The Pathway to Spiritual Victory/Freedom

The Spirit Gives Victory Over Our Lusts
(*John 16:13; Ephesians 5:18; Romans 6:16; James 1:14; Galatians 5:16*)

The Spirit Gives Victory Over the Law
(*1 Corinthians 15:57; 1 Timothy 1:9; John 14:15; 21; Colossians 2:13-14; Ephesians 2:14-16; Romans 8:1*)

The Spirit Gives Victory Over Our Lives
(*Proverbs 13:15; John 15:1-5; Matthew 7:20*)