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“The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest” (Luke 10:2)

August 2020

No. 416

WALK IN THE SPIRIT

You and I are physical people living in a physical world and yet we are called to walk in the Spirit.

This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. 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. (Gal. 5:16-17)

There is a battle between your spiritual side and your fleshly side. As a born again believer, you love God and want to please Him in all things. But sometimes the fleshly side of you

THE HARVESTER
141 County Road 474
Woodland, AL 36280
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may be strong and you do not do the things that you wish. Jesus, your High Priest, understands what you are going through.

For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. (Heb. 4:15-16)

When the desires of the flesh are strong, the writer of Hebrews encourages you to boldly come to God in prayer through Jesus Christ to obtain mercy and find grace to help you in your time of need.

What does it mean to “walk in the Spirit”?

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. (Rom. 8:5)

To walk in the Spirit means to have your mind set on the things of the Spirit. Since the Spirit desires the things of God, to walk in the Spirit would then be to set your mind on the things of God and do what pleases Him. That should be your goal in life. Here are some of the things that the Bible tells you are the things of God.

Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour. (Eph. 5:1-2)

For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. (1 Tim. 2:3-4)

He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God? (Mic. 6:8)

But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for

the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. (John 4:23-24)

From the few preceding passages, to walk in the Spirit would be to walk in love, to do what you can to lead the lost to salvation, to do justly or walk righteously, to love mercy, to walk humbly before God, and to worship Him in spirit and truth. This is not a complete list. To walk in the Spirit would be to have your mind set on finding and following the things of God.

To walk according to the flesh means to have your mind set on the things of the flesh. It is a selfish walk. You do what you desire.

For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. (Rom. 8:6-8)

To set your mind on the things of the flesh would be to continually think about the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, your desires of the flesh, your desires of the eye, and things you take pride in. The results are the works of the flesh.

Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. (Gal. 5:19-21)

The admonishment is to walk in the Spirit and not to walk according to the flesh. This is easy to say, but not always easy to accomplish. Maybe you see the failures in your life as a Christian when you walked according to the flesh and you become discouraged. Seek help and leading from the Holy Spirit.

For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through

the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. (Rom. 8:13-14)

Seek mercy, grace and help from God. We previously read Hebrews 4:16: “*Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*” If you try to defeat the flesh with your own strength, you will fail. You need the help from God to walk in the Spirit.

The evidence that you are walking in the Spirit is that you bear the fruit of the Spirit.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. (Gal. 5:22-25)

My encouragement to you is to crucify the flesh with its passions and desires and instead walk in the Spirit.

ED ANDERSON
(Sierra Vista, AZ)

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. Who is the first mother mentioned in the Bible?
2. For how many days and nights did it rain in the story of the flood?
3. Which book of the Bible records many of the hymns David wrote?
4. Where did Jesus meet the woman of Samaria?
5. On what day did the apostles receive the Holy Spirit?

ANSWERS NEXT MONTH...

And remember last month's questions?

1. Why did Jephthah flee to the land of Tob?
HE WAS ILLEGITIMATE AND HIS BROTHERS DROVE HIM OUT (Jdg. 11:1-3)

2. On which day of the creation did God create trees and plants? THIRD (Gen. 1:11-13)
 3. In the New Jerusalem described in Revelation, what are the twelve gates made from? PEARLS (Rev. 21:21)
 4. What did James and John want to do to the unwelcoming Samaritan village?
CALL DOWN FIRE FROM HEAVEN (Luke 9:54)
 5. After seeing the destruction of Jericho and Ai, the inhabitants of which city pretended to be travelers from a far off land to make a covenant of peace with the Israelites?
GIBEON (Josh. 9:3-6)
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“BE NICE”

I once worked with a young man with severe learning disabilities who would always tell anyone he encountered to “be nice”. Even if what was said was nice, he made sure to remind people how important it was to be kind and to treat people right. He was teaching people a core value of Christianity without realizing it.

Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. (Eph. 4:31-32)

It is easy to get mad or upset. It is easy to go on social media and express our feelings or share what someone is doing wrong, especially politically. But wouldn't a lot of that be considered bitterness or evil speaking? Even if what is said or shared is 100% fact, does that make it right to share it in a public forum? Remember that we are not supposed to retaliate just because something wrong has been done to us.

See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men. (1 The. 5:15)

We are not supposed to render evil for evil. The other issue is that what is said typically does not do any good. A lot of times,

people's opinion on our beliefs is based on how they see us act. This includes how they see us act in public forums. How many times have people's minds been changed about an issue based on something an individual posted online? Wouldn't it be better to change minds through our actions and relationships to show what being a Christian really is about?

With that being said, there is absolutely a time if someone does something wrong to say something about it. Jesus was not always "nice"; he told the Pharisees exactly what he thought of them.

Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are as graves which appear not, and the men that walk over them are not aware of them. (Luke 11:44)

Two important facts can be brought from this. 1) Jesus had the direct knowledge and the authority to say such things. 2) He also said these things directly to them, not like he was spreading gossip. Remember something else that Jesus said; he told us exactly what to do when someone does something that hurts us.

Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. (Mat. 18:15-16)

Tell him his fault first privately and then if that does not work, with the support of others. It is important to note that even with this, we should be kind. If we want someone to listen and

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The Harvester

141 County Road 474 * Woodland, AL 36280

Phone: (256) 449-9221* Email: theharvesteronline@gmail.com

Web Page: www.churches-of-christ.org

to hear their faults, do we really think that the best way to get them to pay attention is to attack them? No, we do so in a way that shows that we care.

What is the greatest commandment? To love one another. Not just to tolerate, not to overlook, but to love.

Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets. (Mat. 22:36-40)

Love thy neighbor as thyself. Does that mean that we always like what people do or decisions that they make? Absolutely not. There are many things in this world that are not acceptable in the eyes of God, but we should still love everyone and show them where they are going wrong. We should do so in a kind way. Why? Because love is patient is first, but do you remember what is second? Love is kind.

Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. (1 Cor. 13:4-8)

Being kind and nice to people is so important. Not only because it is what God wants, but because it could help us influence others in the right way. It could help us turn others to Christ. Is it going to be easy? No, because we are human. We have thoughts and feelings and emotions that sometimes contradict the part of us that knows that we should be kind. It is not always easy to do the right thing, especially with someone who is treating us in the wrong way.

GOSPEL MEETINGS

DATES	PLACE	SPEAKER
August 20 - 23	Goochtown Eubank, KY	Timothy Lewis, Thad Eubank, Scott Cald-

Meetings dates may be subject to change. Please check the website calendar for the latest updates.

But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil. (Luke 6:35)

Think about the last part of this verse, “*kind unto the unthankful and to the evil.*” Can you truly say that you are kind to everyone? I know that at times personalities clash or people are in bad moods, but people should still know that you care. Even if you have a bad day or you say the wrong thing.

Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled; (Heb. 12:14-15)

We should try to have peace with everyone and not be bitter. It says in that excerpt from Hebrews that bitterness not only troubles you but that many are defiled. We influence many that we come into contact with. Are we influencing them in a good way or a bad way? Our thoughts and actions, whether they are kind or are unkind, can change the course of life for many people: our children, our grandchildren, our friends, etc.

So, as we continue in this world, think about these things. Are you making decisions and talking to people in ways that are kind? Before you share something or say something on social media, think about it as well. Are you doing so with malice? Like I said earlier, this is not easy, but it is vital if we want to please God.

A. D.