

I don't know of a song that puts it any better than the words when it says, "Jesus has proven tat God loves you." Romans 5:8 says ---
God proved his love ... and the only proof that I need that God loves me is that Jesus died for me and that He arose and that He lives in me. And He makes that love real by His indwelling presence in my life. And I think it is probably the greatesttthought that ever comes to a person's mind the fact that God loves us. And as I said before, In John ~~XX~~ 17 Jesus says that God loves me just as much as He loves Jesus and that's a tremendous thing. I don't know about you but that gives me a lot of encouragement and gives me a lot of comfort, just to think that God loves me just as much as He loves Jesus. And that He loves me just as much as He loves anybody else. And that's a great detriment to envy and jealousy. The next time somebody is put above you in position or something andyou wish you had their position, and you wish youwere on the program, or you wish that you were doing that, you just sit there, that's all right, God loves me just as muchas He loves you. And no matter how big a wheel you are, God will hear me when I come to Him, just as quickly and just as much as He'll hear you. God loves me. I wish I could love like that, equally, without discrimination, everlastingly, that's the way God lovesus. And it takes that kind of love to save us. That's what theBible means in Ephesians chapter 2 when it says that "we were dead and that's not even my sermon.

Last week , when I was at the Convention - I mentioned we met at a pre-Convention prayerRetreat, and we discussed a great many of the things that we have been discussing here in our own church the past year or so on this matter of personal revival, this matter of knowing JesusChrist is real in our lives. And one thing that was impressed upon me as it has been in other times, was the fact that as we continue in this vein and we continue to go forward in studying what the book says about this that we sometimes need to go back and recapitualte

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and review because all the time there are others of us that are coming into the church and others of us who missed it the first time, we just leave them behind. When Carey was with us here in our revival this past February, he put it in a great way as we were discussing it one evening in his motel room, he said, "it is like drawing a circle and every time you ~~make~~ make the circle the circle narrows just a little bit and some people are left behind. And the farther ~~the~~ ^{and} farther you go in the Lord you always leave some behind." And the thing that was impressed upon me as we met together and discussed these things was the verse of scripture over in Ephesians that says, we are doing these things we are learning, we are studying, until we ALL come to the unity of the faith, to fullness of the stature of Christ. ~~And~~ And I remember that a year or so ago, I made a little note in the margin of my Bible that reads like this, "no stragglers, no stragglers". Till we ALL come to the unity of the faith and the fullness of the stature of the fullness of Christ. And my heart's desire is that every member of our church understand what it means to have Jesus Lord in his life. And so last week I decided that tonight I would preach this message from Gal. chapters 5. Now, some of the things that we are going to be talking about will be familiar to you. It will be old hat to some of you. I will repeat some things that I have said before, but tonight I want to talk to you and preach to you from GAL. chapter 5 on the LIFE STYLE OF THE SPIRIT. On the LIFE STYLE OF THE SPIRIT.

I heard a fellow excuse himself for doing some things that he did by saying, "man, that's just my life style." As if that made everything all right. As if what he did didn't matter because that's his life style. And we've been hearing a lot these days about life style. What's your life style? Well, there is a life style of the Spirit. And I think that if any Christian is going to be what God wants him to be, and is going to enter into the fullness of Christ, he must understand

and live the life style of the Spirit. I want my life style to be that of the Spirit. And I want your life style to be that of the spirit. In Gal. chapter 5, we are going to begin reading with verse 16 and read through vs 25. And as I said, I'll be repeating some things I said before- maybe you missed it or have forgotten it and I hope it will be a blessing to you even if you have heard some of these things before. Beginning in vs. 16 of Ga. chapter 5 Paul says.....

v. 23 -- against such there is no law --- By that he means you don't need rules and regulations to make you do this. I know some people that make rules and regulations that they are going to start loving. And they are going to start being good, and they are going to start exercising self control. You'll never do that with rules and regulations. Paul says, against these things there is no law, you don't need a law to make you be good when your life style is that of the Spirit. Now notice in vs. 24 ... ~~IX~~ Vs. 25 --- There is a difference between living in the spirit and walking in the spirit. You can live in the spirit and be a defeated Christian. But walking in the Spirit, no defeat. I think we will understand this passage a little bit better if we change a word. Every time it reads flesh, substitute self. Let's read again - like this. You won't be doing what the big I wants to do. ~~Now~~ Now vs. 19. Flesh and self mean the same thing. Paul presents here to us two life styles, two life styles. The life style of the spirit and the life style of the self. There are two walks, the walking in the Spirit, and the walking in the flesh. There are two consequences. The works of the flesh, the works of the self, and those that continually do these things are not saved - they will not inherit the kingdom of God. Or the fruit of the Spirit, against such you don't need rules and regulations. There are two life styles, two ways to walk, two ways to live to the child of God. You can either live in the flesh as a child of God or you can live in the spirit. Now you want to know -- well how can I tell whether or not I am living in the flesh, how can I tell whether or not I am living for self? How can I tell whether or not my life style is

still selfish? How can I tell if the big "I" is still on the throne? Well, it's very obvious, down in vs. 19 -- anytime a Christian surrenders to himself, surrenders to the flesh, he will head for one of these things . He says the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these, he starts out with sins of immorality: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred -- that's a vicious disposition - an unforgiving spirit, that means to ~~XXXXXX~~ cherish ill will ~~XXXX~~ against some one. Variance - that means the inability to get along with people. Emulations - party spirit, wrath - that has to do with the outburst of temper. Strife, that means since you don't believe like I want you to believe and since you don't want to do what I want to do, then I am going to see to it that you don't get to do what you want to do. I am going to ^{inaugurate} ~~inaugurate~~ ~~inaugurate~~ a little civil war and there's strife, there's a rubbing against each other in strife and disagreement. Seditious - heresies, envyings. You know it's funny where the Lord places some of these things, isn't it? Have you ever noticed that? I read there heresies -- I don't believe there is a heretic in this place tonight. I don't ~~you~~ believe you would be here if you were a heretic. I believe everyone here is orthodox, fundamental, conservative, believes the Word. Notice what God puts right next to a heretic - a person who is envious. That sin that you and I so calmly tolerate in our lives and yet God places it right to a heretic, and, he places it on the other side to a murderer. Now it's kind of like this morning - we aren't looking at these things from man's viewpoint, we are looking at them the way God view them and God says envying keeps bad company. On the one side there is a heretic, on the other side there is a murderer and an envying person is right at ~~home~~ home in that kind of company. And when a Christian surrenders to the self - when he exalts the big I --- what I want to be, what I want to do, he will always head for one of these ~~things~~ things: envyings, murderings, drunkenness, revelings, and anything else like this that I may have forgotten, these things are the works of the flesh. Now Paul says if you live in the spirit, let's also walk in the

spirit. Every person who is saved has his life in the spirit, for is the spirit, Jesus says in John 6:63, that quickeneth, it is the spirit that gives life. This is the way salvation ~~XX~~ occurs: I hear the Word of God, the Word of God is the seed that Jesus sows in my heart, when I hear that Word of God the seed is planted in my heart and then the Holy Spirit comes along and He makes that seed to blossom into life. He gives the word that power, He opens my eyes so I understand the word, so I see Jesus and I am able to embrace Him as my Lord and my Saviour. It is the spirit that quickeneth, it is the spirit that gives life. He comes and finds a responsive heart and a responsive soul and He moves mysteriously upon that person. Just as the spirit of God, the Bible says, in Genesis chapter 1, brooded over the face of the waters. As God is creating the heavens and the earth, the spirit of God broods over the face of the waters - that is a tremendous word. It is used of a chicken, a mother hen sitting on the eggs, brooding over them, bringing out the life. It is the same word that is used in the N.T. in the gospel of Matthew when it says the HS came upon Mary - the HS literally brooded over Mary and brought forth life. That which is conceived in thee is of the HS. He is the life-giver, He is the life-giver, for where the Spirit is there is life, Romans says. When you hear the Word of God, you believe the gospel, the Spirit of God comes and He quickens you. You are born of the spirit, there is life there. So every person who is saved is living in the spirit, but not necessarily walking in the spirit, not necessarily walking in the spirit. To walk in the spirit means that my every step, that's what a walk is - it's one step at a time - it's a continual habit of life, that my everyday life is lived according to the control of the HS. It is just this simple, I come to a place in my Christian life where I say, all right, Lord, I know that I have been a colossal failure in this matter of trying to serve you and in this matter of trying to live the Christian life, and I since that it is because of my ~~XXXXX~~ flesh - my self, the big I, I have

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been doing what I wanted to do - and I am willing from this point on, I am willing from this point on, dear Lord, no longer to do what I want to do but I will do what the Spirit of God wants to do. And I will no longer let self sit on the throne of my heart, I'll let Jesus, through His ~~X~~ Spirit, sit on ~~the~~ throne of my heart. To walk in the spirit means that I practice living by the spirit every day of my life, that's why it calls it a walk.

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ You see, the Bible has very little to say about the crisis experience. Now it does speak about a crisis experience, you are not saved without a crisis experience, once you come to a place, you recognize your lostness, and then in that crisis decision you receive Jesus. But the ~~NXX~~ Bible never settles down there - it never camps there, it never pitches its tent there on the crisis experience, like some of us do. No, the word the Bible uses over and over again to describe the Christian life, is not the crisis experience, it's the walk, the walk, the continuity, the behaviour, the after math, the consequence of that crisis experience. Now, are you walking in the spirit tonight? Are you practicing living by the spirit? Is the spirit of God in control of your day by day life? Is he? Now if He is there will be three tremendous things that he will give to you and that he will do for you. There are three characteristics of the life style of the spirit that I want ~~XXXXX~~ us to observe tonight. The first one is --

I. IT IS A LIFE OF CONQUEST

It is a life conquest. We ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ just finished studying in our class the book of Revelation. And as we were studying the book of Revelation, we went through the first few chapters and we discussed there the seven churches of Asia, and you will recall that every church that Jesus speaks to He gives to them a promise. And I noticed that every promise was made to those who overcome. You read it - you go home tonight and read Revelation chapter 2 and chapter 3, and you will notice that every promise that Jesus gives

He gives to the overcomers - to him that overcomes will I give to sit with me on my throne, to him that overcomes, will I give him a new name. Jesus doesn't have anything for the overcome, for the losers, it is the overcomers. And then I turn back to I John chapter 5 ~~and~~ when he says, this is the victory that overcometh the world - even our faith, who is he that overcometh the ~~world~~ world but he that believeth that Jesus is the Christ? The one who overcomes the world is any ordinary believer in Jesus Christ. You are a believer in Jesus Christ and I want to ask you, are you overcoming the world? Are you? You are supposed to be, that's the mark of the Christian, that's the characteristic of the Christian. He doesn't say that the ~~one~~ one who overcomes the world is a super saint, or an evangelist, or a PhD in some seminary - ~~it~~ it says, who is he that ~~overcomes the world?~~ overcometh the world - he that believeth that Jesus is the Christ. I believe that, you believe that, every person in this building that is saved tonight believes that/ Well then why aren't you overcoming? Are you overcoming the world? Could you stand up tonight and say, Bro. Dunn, I want to say before God and these earthly witnesses that I have victory over the world. I was reading a song a moment ago while you were singing. I wish I had it open, "Jesus, I my cross have taken, all to leave and follow thee, destitute, despised, forsaken, thou, henceforth my all shall be. That's what it is - victory over the world. Perish every fond ambition, everything I've ever wanted or known - every fond ambition, destitute, despised, forsaken. I don't care as long as I take my cross and as long as Jesus is everything I want - can you say that? ~~XXXXXX~~ Do you have victory over the world? Are you overcoming the world? Well you are, if your life-style is that of the spirit. And this is what the Holy Spirit does. Now notice in verse 16 -- he says, and you have heard -- ~~XXXXXX~~ in the Greek --- me say it a thousand times, it's a double negative -- and ye shall not by no means fulfill the lusts of the flesh. Oh, ~~XXXX~~ that's a tremendous

promise. Do you believe that? Why it's just as much a promise as John 3:16 and there's not a person here tonight that doesn't believe that. It's just as much a promise as Romans 10:13 And everyone of us believes ~~XXX~~ that, you can't be saved if you don't believe that. And the same man that wrote Romans 10:13 wrote Gal. 5:16 ---- The desires of the self. Oh, what freedom, what liberty --- that's CONQUEST. That's conquest. You say, what are you talking about? What are all these things mentioned in vs. 19? These are the works of the flesh. I want to ask you tonight, Christian if you have trouble with immorality? I want to ask every teen-ager here tonight sitting in this choir and those who are sitting out in the congregation, do you have trouble with impurity~~XX~~, immorality, acts and thoughts. Well, the word of God says that if you walk in the spirit and if your life is lived under the control of the spirit, you will not fulfill those lusts. I want to say to you tonight that all the sex education in the school and all the drives against social~~de~~ disease and everything else, will never give a young person victory over sex sins. ~~XXXX~~ Only the spirit of God can do that. I want to say to you tonight, we don't talk to our kids about the filling of the Holy Spirit. I got convicted about this when I was talking with Miss Bertha at the Convention, ~~XXX~~ she said you know we talk to them about everything else when they are saved, we tell this young person when he comes down the aisle - we ask him if he knows what it means to be saved, and we ask him if he knows what it means to be a church member, we ask him about being baptized, she said we never instruct them about the ~~XX~~ power of the Holy Spirit in their lives. We never lead them on to claim by faith the fullness of the Holy Spirit, and I had to say, she's right, generally - there are some exceptions. But we don't talk to our young people about this - you know what, I almost came back and did something -- . I tell you I really got convicted about this. You know we will go around and we

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will ask people, "are you saved?" - are you saved, are you saved? I wanted to come back that Sunday night and I wanted to go out to every member of this congregation and ask you one question, are you filled with the spirit of God? I came within a hair of doing it. If I had felt like the Lord really wanted me to do it, I would have done it. But you know somehow or other we have neglected that, and then we wonder why it is that there is so much defeat and sin and wretchedness in the average member of the Baptist church. Well Paul says it is one thing to live in the spirit, but it is another thing to walk in the spirit, to be filled with the spirit. And I want to say to you tonight that if your life is being filled with the spirit, and walking in the spirit, you'll not fulfill the lusts of the flesh. And when these teen agers go out on dates, they will behave themselves, and when these adults go out they will behave themselves too. I remind you that Paul is writing to Christians here and he has a great deal to say about impurity and immorality to the rank and file of the average church - he is writing to Christians. But the spirit of God when He controls us gives us conquest over that. Anybody here tonight have any trouble with idolatry? You know what I mean, don't you. Just not able to let Jesus be Lord. Why no, I Cor. chapter 12, verse 3 says
~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ If you'll come tonight to let the Holy Spirit fill and control you you will be able to get rid of that sin of idolatry of ~~letting~~ letting everything else take precedence over the Lordship of Christ in your life. Do ~~you have~~ you have problems tonight with wrath? You have problems tonight with strife, do you have problems with heresy? With doubting the book? I want to say to you tonight, there is no such thing as a spirit-filled liberal. There is no such thing as a spirit filled modernist. When I say liberal I mean "way over there". No such thing as a spirit filled infidel. Do you have any trouble with envyings? Hatred? You see Paul says, if you will walk in the spirit, I make you a solemn promise under the inspiration of God Himself, I make you a promise

if you walk in the spirit ye shall not by any means fulfill the lusts of the flesh. The life style of the spirit is conquest. Victory -- yours. Belongs to you, but you will never experience it and you will never enter into ~~it~~ it until Jesus Christ is Lord in your life and until you are walking in the ~~the~~ spirit.

Now the second characteristic of the life style of the spirit is ~~CHRIST-LIKENESS~~

II. CHRIST-LIKENESS

The first one is CONQUEST, the second one is CHRIST-LIKENESS--- now, all of these follow each other. Notice what he says in verse 22..... peace.... well if he would just stop there it would be a good bargain. Lord, if you could just give me those three right there I think I would be ~~happy~~ happy. Love, joy and peace. Can you think of anything better than that? Love, joy and peace. Some of you sure have a hard time loving some people. You wouldn't have if the HS was in control. Oh, once ~~in~~ in a while I'll hear somebody pray, Lord, make me more like Jesus, well, the only way that you can become more like Jesus is if you are walking in the spirit. You know what the fruit of the spirit is in Gal. 5:22-23, all that is just a description of the character of Christ. That's all in the world it is. And I want you to notice who produces that- the H.S. produces that. And when you are walking in the spirit and when the spirit of God is filling you and controlling you there will be a Christlikeness in your life. There will be love. Did you know the average psychiatrist will tell you that the thing that is wrong with a lot of their patients is hate. Someone that they can't forgive, someone in their family, some friend they cannot forgive, they cannot love - did you know that? The H.S. will give you love. You can't love anybody. Of your ownself you can't love anybody. You can't make yourself love anybody. But when the spirit of God produces this Christ like spirit there is love, there's joy

there's peace, long suffering - now long suffering has to do with bearing up under adverse circumstances. I had a member of this church call me on the phone this afternoon and say, 'Man, boy you have really been having a lot of bad luck lately.' She said, 'I hope the Lord doesn't let happen to me all that has happened to you in the last few days.' I was talking to someone out here this morning and we were going over everything that has happened -- I have to keep a record of everything that has happened ~~X~~ lately -- my mind fails me, so much has happened. And I paraphrased the book of Job, I said, 'Well I think what happened is the devil came to God one day and said, ' dear Lord have you considered thy servant Ron who thinks ^{he's} ~~XXXX~~ perfect?' Oh, I want to tell you, I can't get away from a sermon I preached once - One reason I can't get a way from it is my wife won't let me, you know how they keep bringing this up, saying, we'll not remember what you said? Well I made a statement
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Physically

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