

The Life-Style of the Spirit

Lesson #2

THE LIFE-STYLE OF THE SPIRIT - Part I - CONQUEST

Scripture: Gal. 5:16-25

Introduction: There are only two life-styles open to the Christian - the life-style of Self or life-style of the Spirit. The life-style of the Self is described in vv 19-21. Whenever a Christian surrenders to Self, he heads for one of these.

It's the Christian's choice -he can allow himself to be dominated either by self or the Spirit.

The life-style of the Spirit is one of Conquest, Christ-likeness and Crucifixion. In this lesson we will study "The Conquest of the Spirit."

I. Look first at the ENEMY

1. There are three enemies to the Christian life:

(1) The World - the temptation.

Definition: "Those forces operative in human society around us that stand opposed to the will of God."

(2) The Devil - the tempter.

Definition: "That evil personality who attacks from without and utilizes the weakness found within man.

(3) The Flesh - the tempted.

Definition: "That sinful nature or disposition of man which resists the dominion of the Spirit."

2. Note the relation of these three to each other:

The world and the devil are on the outside, the flesh is on the inside. Were it not for the flesh there would be nothing for the world and Satan to appeal to. Satan and the world must appeal to the flesh - the flesh must yield and open the door. Therefore, every sin is an inside job. The only access the world and the devil have to our lives is the flesh. If we can reinforce that harbor so the devil can't land, we have victory. So our primary problem is with the flesh.

II. Look at the VICTORY - vs. 16 - "shall not by no means fulfil the lust of the flesh."

1. A double negative in Greek. Bad grammar but great theology.
2. To walk in the Spirit means to have the Spirit controlling our daily activity; to submit to His Sovereign sawy. It is another way of saying we're "filled with the Spirit."

III. Look at the Victor - vs. 17

1. Not us, but the Spirit. The Spirit, not the Christian fights the flesh and overcomes it.
2. Victory comes, not by obedience to rules and regulations, but by submission to a Person.
3. Basic Precept - "my total inability to do anything for myself in the spiritual realm."
4. How to make this practical:
 - (1) Decrease your awareness of the flesh
 - (2) Increase your awareness of the Spirit.