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# Different

## Victory Life Church

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Sunday, February 16, 2020 — Part 3, Walking in the Spirit

Introduction — Recap Summary

**Romans 12:1-2 (ESV)** *I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your **bodies** as a **living sacrifice**, holy and acceptable to God, which is your **spiritual worship**. Do not be **conformed** to this world, but be **transformed** by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

**1 John 2:15-17 (MSG)** *Don't love the world's ways. Don't love the world's goods. Love of the world squeezes out love for the Father. Practically everything that goes on in the world—**wanting your own way, wanting everything for yourself, wanting to appear important**—has nothing to do with the Father. It just isolates you from him. The world and all its wanting, wanting, wanting is on the way out—but whoever does what God wants is set for eternity.*

*The “world”: the social organization of human desire*

**2 Corinthians 7:1 (AMP)** Therefore, since we have these [great and wonderful] promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, completing holiness [**living a consecrated life—a life set apart for God's purpose**] in the fear of God.

Walking in the Spirit

**Galatians 5:16-26 (ESV)** But I say, **walk by the Spirit**, and you will not gratify the **desires of the flesh**. For the desires of the flesh are **against** the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are **against** the flesh, for these are **opposed** to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. But if you are **led by the Spirit**, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have **crucified the flesh with its passions and desires**. If we **live by the Spirit**, let us also **keep in step with the Spirit**. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

WALK by the Spirit

Be LED by the Spirit  
LIVE by the Spirit  
KEEP IN STEP with the Spirit

**Galatians 5:16-26 (MSG)** My counsel is this: Live freely, **animated** and **motivated** by God's Spirit. Then you won't **feed the compulsions of selfishness**. For there is a root of sinful **self-interest** in us that is at odds with a free spirit, just as the free spirit is **incompatible with selfishness**. These two ways of life are antithetical, so that you cannot live at times one way and at times another way according to **how you feel** on any given day. Why don't you **choose to be led by the Spirit** and so escape the erratic compulsions of a law-dominated existence?

It is obvious what kind of life develops out of trying to **get your own way** all the time: repetitive, loveless, cheap sex; a stinking accumulation of mental and emotional garbage; frenzied and joyless grabs for happiness; trinket gods; magic-show religion; paranoid loneliness; cutthroat competition; all-consuming-yet-never-satisfied wants; a brutal temper; an impotence to love or be loved; divided homes and divided lives; small-minded and lopsided pursuits; the vicious habit of depersonalizing everyone into a rival; uncontrolled and uncontrollable addictions; ugly parodies of community. I could go on. This isn't the first time I have warned you, you know. If you use your freedom this way, you will not inherit God's kingdom.

But what happens when we **live God's way**? He brings gifts into our lives, much the same way that fruit appears in an orchard—things like affection for others, exuberance about life, serenity. We develop a willingness to stick with things, a sense of compassion in the heart, and a conviction that a basic holiness permeates things and people. We find ourselves involved in loyal commitments, not needing to force our way in life, able to marshal and direct our energies wisely. **Legalism is helpless** in bringing this about; it only gets in the way. Among those who belong to Christ, everything connected with getting our own way and mindlessly responding to what everyone else calls necessities is killed off for good—crucified.

Since this is the kind of life we have chosen, the life of the Spirit, let us make sure that we do not just hold it as an idea in our heads or a sentiment in our hearts, but **work out its implications in every detail of our lives**. That means we will not compare ourselves with each other as if one of us were better and another worse. We have far more interesting things to do with our lives. Each of us is an original.

**Galatians 5:16-26 (TPT)** *As you yield freely and fully to the dynamic life and power of the Holy Spirit, you will abandon the cravings of your self-life. For your self-life craves the things that offend the Holy Spirit and hinder him from living free within you! And the Holy Spirit's intense cravings hinder your old self-life from dominating you! So then, the two incompatible and conflicting forces within you are your self-life of the flesh and the new creation life of the Spirit. But when you are brought into the full freedom of the Spirit of grace, you will no longer be living under the domination of the law, but soaring above it!*

*The cravings of the self-life are obvious: Sexual immorality, lustful thoughts, pornography, chasing after things instead of God, manipulating others, hatred of those who get in your way, senseless arguments, resentment when others are*

*avored, temper tantrums, angry quarrels, only thinking of yourself, being in love with your own opinions, being envious of the blessings of others, murder, uncontrolled addictions, wild parties, and all other similar behavior. Haven't I already warned you that those who use their "freedom" for these things will not inherit the kingdom realm of God!*

*But the fruit produced by the Holy Spirit within you is divine love in all its varied expressions: joy that overflows, peace that subdues, patience that endures, kindness in action, a life full of virtue, faith that prevails, gentleness of heart, and strength of spirit. Never set the law above these qualities, for they are meant to be limitless.*

*Keep in mind that we who belong to Jesus, the Anointed One, have already experienced crucifixion. For everything connected with our self-life was put to death on the cross and crucified with Messiah. We must live in the Holy Spirit and follow after him. So may we never be arrogant, or look down on another, for each of us is an original. We must forsake all jealousy that diminishes the value of others.*

## Conclusion

**Galatians 5:25 (MSG)** Since this is the kind of life we have chosen, the life of the Spirit, let us make sure that we do not just hold it as an idea in our heads or a sentiment in our hearts, but **work out its implications in every detail of our lives.**