

Ranui Baptist Church
Topic - Walking by the Spirit.
July 28. 10.00am Service.

Walking By The Spirit.

Galatians 5:16 and 5:25.

V16. Walk by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh.

V25. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

1. Who is the Holy Spirit - Old Testament.

The bible gives us a wonderful picture, description of who the Holy Spirit is!

Genesis 1:1 - 2.

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while the wind from God swept over the face of the waters.

Genesis 2:7.

Then the LORD GOD formed man, from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and the man became a living being.

Here in Genesis 1 and 2 we see that the Spirit of God is present and active in both creating heaven and earth and humanity represented in the form of Adam. **Colossians 1:16** we find that Christ was also present at the creation of heaven and earth - ***for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created things visible and invisible...***

Here we find in Genesis 1,2 and Colossians 1:16ff the presence of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, often referred to as The Trinity.

So now we see that the Holy Spirit belongs to the God Head. **Matthew 28:19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...**

Just looking quickly at three other Old Testament bible passages that attest to the presence and work of the Holy Spirit; **Job 33:4 The spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life, Psalms 143:10 teach me to do your will for you are my God. Let your good spirit lead me on a level path, Ezekiel 36:26 - 27. 26, A new heart I will give you and a new spirit I will put within you...27 I will put my spirit within you...**

So, we see from these five Old Testament verses all the initiatives regarding the work and presence of the Holy Spirit are God driven, God based, and God centred. It tells of the **presence of the Holy Spirit** and the **functionality of the holy Spirit.**

- a. **Genesis 1**, The Holy Spirit is present and is swept over the face of the earth.
- b. **Genesis 2**, The Holy Spirit is present at the creation of Adam and Adam became a living being.
- c. **Job 33:4** The breath of the Almighty gives me life.
- d. **Psalms 143:10** Let your good spirit lead on a level path.
- e. **Ezekiel 36:26.** A new spirit within you. **27** a new spirit within you.

2. Who is the Holy Spirit - New Testament.

There are insurmountable, large number verses in the New Testament that high lights the Holy Spirit.

- a. **John 14:26 But the Advocate, (comforter / helper) the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you.** Here the Trinity is implied or referred - ...The Holy Spirit...whom the Father will send...in my name (Jesus).

- b. **Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth.** Here you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you. We see that the Holy Spirit is our teacher, our helper, our comforter and empowers us to do His will.
- c. **1 Corinthians 6:19...your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you...** As I have mentioned in Genesis 1 and 2 the Holy Spirit was there at the creation of heaven and earth and at the creation of Adam (humanity) it is the same Holy Spirit who now takes residence in your body, for your body is a temple.
- d. **Romans 8:26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness...** The Holy Spirit that now dwells in us comes to help us. John 14:26 - Advocate (comforter / helper).
- e. **2 Corinthians 3:17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.** Because of what Jesus did on the cross for us, we are no longer slaves to sin BUT Christ has set us free. We have freedom, we are liberated.

3. Walking By The Spirit.

Galatians 5:16 Walk by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh.
5:25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

Throughout the book of Galatians, in fact throughout the bible we see in the Old Testament the nation of Israel under constant apostasy - abandonment and or renunciation of their relationship with God and the early churches of the New Testament were certainly not exempt.

The Church in Galatia, the Galatians are a fine example. The believed when a gentile wanted to follow Jesus he or she had to live by the law and follow Jesus.

Here the apostle Paul, reminds the Galatians, now that you are believers in Jesus, you do not need to be **believers of works but believers of faith**, no longer **believers of the law of Moses** but **believers of the law of Christ**, no longer **believers of the flesh** but **believers of the Spirit**.

Galatians 3:3 Are you so foolish? Having started with the Spirit, are you now ending with the flesh.

Galatians 4:6 And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!'

One of the central tenets of a Christian life begins with the Holy Spirit. The only way to continue the Christian life is by the power of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit is not only the source of the Christian life but also the only power to sustain Christian life.

These believers in Galatians began their Christian life by receiving the Spirit (Gal 3:2-3) but they soon turned to the law / flesh to direct their lives. By turning to the law, they were denying the Spirit's sufficiency. They chose to pursue their flesh.

Verses 16 to 25 - Flesh and Spirit.

Here Galatians paints a very contrasting picture between Flesh and Spirit. The word I would use to describe the relationship between **flesh and spirit is combatant**.

It is as if the flesh and spirit are in a **boxing ring fighting against each other**. Finding which is the **better fighter FLESH OR SPIRIT**. The flesh and the spirit are in sharp opposition to each other.

The flesh stands for what we are by natural birth.

The Spirit, by what we become by new birth, the birth of the Spirit.

Cf - to the discussion between Jesus and Nicodemus in John 3.

Now lets throw Ephesians 6:12 into the mix of our lives...**verse 12. For our struggle is not against enemies of flesh and blood, BUT against the rules, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Verse 13. Therefore take up the whole armour of God.**

The battle between the flesh and the spirit is fierce and sometimes unremitting.¹

Verse 19 Now the works of the flesh are obvious;

Fornication	Impurity	Licentiousness
Idolatry	Sorcery	Enmities
Strife	Jealously	Anger
Anger	Quarrels	Dissensions
Factions	Drunkenness	Carousing. ²

Verse 24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

Rejection of the old nature.

Rejection of the old nature needs to be decisive.

Walking and living by the Spirit.

Galatians 5:16 Walk by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh.

5:25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

Acts 18:30 God calls all people everywhere to repent. (Repent / Repentance appears 75x in New Testament)

Mark 8:34 Deny themselves, take up the cross and follow Jesus.

Matt 14:30-33 keep our focus on Jesus - Peter walks on water.

John 15... requires you and I to abide in the vine.

Romans 8:13 (J B Phillips translation) Cut the nerve of your instinctive behaviour by obeying the Spirit.

1. Led by the Spirit - Metaphor; like a wind driving a ship.

2. Surrender to his leading - to be in line or in step with the Holy Spirit.

3. Read and meditate on God's word.

4. Fellowship with God's people for prayer, praise, worship.

a. John 14:26 But the Advocate, (comforter / helper) the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you.

b. Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth.

¹ Unremitting - continual, never ending

² Fornication - copulation, sex outside of God's word. Impurity - impure, unwholesome thoughts and behaviours. Licentiousness - very immoral sexual behaviour. Idolatry - idol worship. Sorcery - anything to do with the occult. Enmities - hostile thoughts and behaviours. Strife - issues of conflict. Jealousy - envy. Anger - annoyed, displeasure. Quarrels - argumentative, row. Dissensions - disagreement, difference of opinion. Factions - ambitious, self-seeking. Envy - resentful or sad of another person's good will. Drunkenness - drunk. Carousing - drink in excess.

- c. **1 Corinthians 6:19...your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you.**
- d. **Romans 8:26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness.**
- e. **2 Corinthians 3:17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.**

Fruit of the Spirit 5:22 - 25.

22.By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. There is no law against such things. 24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

The more you and I walk in the Spirit, the more the flesh becomes increasingly subdued.

Closing Prayer.

Father God, I repent for all the times I have said forgive and have run back to the behaviours of the flesh.

Father God, I repent for all the times I have uttered I love you, but I failed to read and meditate upon your word.

Father God, I repent that I have failed you more times than I can count, BUT your love, grace and mercy recounts not, because of your Son's death on the cross.

Father God, fill me anew with the power of your Holy Spirit.

Father God, thank you for you endures forever.

I pray this in Jesus name.