

## Live By the Spirit

*“So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law. The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity, and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft, hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions of envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the Kingdom of God.” (Galatians 5:16-21)*

Grace be to you from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. While we are living in the last days and, *“While we wait for the blessed hope – the glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for Himself a people that are His very own, eager to do what is good” (Titus 2:13-14)*, we will not fail to give you continually the Word of God that is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

The word of God in this message leads us to live our lives and to walk according to the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of God. As we believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and His death on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins, and as we acknowledge Him as the personal Lord and Saviour in our lives, from that moment the Spirit of God, the Holy Spirit lives inside us and we become the temple of God as the Bible says: *“Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temple, and that God’s Spirit lives in you?” (1 Corinthians 3:16)*

The Spirit of God that lives in us is changing us to be a new creation. *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come.” (2 Corinthians 5:17)* The Spirit of God living in us is working in us to show clearly God’s characters and features; love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Yet when the Spirit of God starts to work in us we face resistance from our flesh, the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit. The sinful nature of the man is what he is brought up with – his habit and the customs and traditions that he practices. It represents the false beliefs and superstitions; habit that man and his family used to live while in the sinful nature, It represents the life of a man away from God’s will and God’s perfect plan for mankind.

The Spirit of God that is now present in the life of a new man faces opposition and resistance from the flesh. The resistance varies from person to person, but the Spirit of God works continually to control the desire of the sinful nature until gradually the old self of the man disappears.

The acts of the sinful nature are obvious:

- 1) **Sexual immorality, impurity and orgies:** All extramarital sexual relationships, homosexuality, pornography and alike is sin. In addition we read as the Lord Jesus had said: *“You have heard that it was said, ‘Do not commit adultery’ but I tell you that anyone who looks to a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell. It has been said, that anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce. But I tell*

*you anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, causes her to become adulteress, and anyone who marries the divorce woman commits adultery.” (Matthew 5:27-32)*

- 2) **Idolatry:** The Lord God said: *You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below.” (Deuteronomy 5:7-8)* Man has been trying to reach God and imagine who He is. But only we can reach and know God through only one way. The word of God says, *“For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all man – the testimony given in its proper time.” (1 Timothy 2:5-6)* Without Jesus we cannot see the Kingdom of God. We cannot reach God through any name other than Jesus Christ.
- 3) **Witchcraft:** To believe in superstitions and certain tradition or false beliefs is the same as witchcraft. To have trust and faith on certain object, number, color, days. or seasons is also witchcraft. Anyone involve in witchcraft will not enter the kingdom of God as the Bible declares: *But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexuality immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and liars – their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.” (Rev. 21:8)*
- 4) **Hatred fits, of rage, factions:** These are all product of anger that gives negative effect to the person himself and to the people around him, and results in fights and quarrels. The Lord Jesus said, *“You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’ But I tell you, anyone who is angry with his brother, will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says, to his brother, ‘Raca’, is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell.” (Matthew 5:21-22)*
- 5) **Envy, jealousy and selfish ambitions:** This is when we compare ourselves with other people and compete with each other in order to become better than them and to achieve our own selfish ambitions. We are all created by God in a wonderful way, all equal in front of God but different from each other. So we should then be satisfied and thankful with what God has given us.
- 6) **Discord and Dissensions:** This is the tendency when working with different parties that have different and even opposite goals and tasks. Discord and dissension is the result if someone works for certain personal motives, not for the common interest of the group and not to glorify God.
- 7) **Drunkenness and Debauchery:** The word of God tells us, *“Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead be filled with the Spirit.” (Ephesians 5:18)* Debauchery is the extravagant behavior in using resources. Many times we buy things we don’t need. We buy or get more than we need, or we buy expensive things instead of buying less expensive ones but with good quality. We have to be wise in spending our money, our time and our talents.

**My dear and beloved:** *“I warn you as I did before that those who live like this will not inherit the Kingdom of God.”* The Lord God wants us to live by the Spirit and not to gratify the desire of the sinful nature. Therefore we have to put to death whatever belongs to our earthly nature – sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed; to rid ourselves from all such things as anger, rage, malice, slander and filthy language. But instead, *“Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.” (Ephesians 5:19-20)*

**Prayer:** *“Heavenly Father, I come before You in the name of Jesus who died for me on the cross to give me eternal life. Lord, fill me with your Holy Spirit according to your will so that I can live a life away from the sinful nature. Take my hand and guide me, and teach me to follow You all the days of my life and to live with you forever. Thank You, Lord. This is my prayer in Jesus’ name, Amen.”*