

Evidences of a Powerless Life

Galatians 5:16-21

Outline

Introduction: Until we experience that inner stream of life, we remain spiritually thirsty, morally polluted and dissatisfied. When anyone believes in Jesus, their sins are forgiven, Jesus sends the Holy Spirit to indwell that person, and He brings a fresh life-giving river that flows from the inside. However, there is another river that flows inside of every person that is dark, murky and spiritually unhealthy. The Bible calls that dark river the “flesh,” “sinful nature” or the “old man.”

Christians live where two internal rivers collide. *Romans 7:18b-25, For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing.*

Struggle is a normal part of the Christian life. *Galatians 5:16-18, So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh.*

Walking in the Holy Spirit gives us power over the flesh. *vss. 16, 18, So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.*

The evidences of the toxic river of the flesh are deadly. *vss. 5:19-21, 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.*

There are three main areas where the flesh exerts its defiling influence:

1. Category One: sexual sins like immorality, impurity and sensuality
2. Category Two: religious sins like idolatry and sorcery
3. Category Three: relational sins like enmities, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, and orgies

Conclusion: *Our inner struggles produce many benefits.*