

Evidences of an Empowered Life of the Spirit

Galatians 5:16-18; 22-26

Outline

Introduction: The old saying, “It’s what’s on the inside that counts.” has great application to the life Jesus promised. In John 7:37-39 Jesus promised those who believe in Him would experience an internal river of living water flowing within...He was speaking of the Holy Spirit.

Summary of what we have learned:

1. Two rivers flow within every believer.
2. Christians live where two internal rivers collide. ***Romans 7:18b-25***
3. Struggle is a normal part of the Christian Life. ***Galatians 5:17***
4. The evidences of the toxic river of the flesh are deadly. ***Galatians 5:19-21***
5. Walking in the Holy Spirit gives us power over the flesh. ***Galatians 5:16, 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 law.***

Two common misunderstandings of what it means to walk in the Spirit:

1. Passive surrender – “Let go and let God.”
2. Perfectionism – “I’m sinless.”

What are the evidences that we are walking in the Spirit? *Galatians 5:22-24, But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.*

- One fruit, many flavors (“fruit,” not “fruits”)!
- The beautiful variety of the fruit of the Holy Spirit has many manifestations:
 1. Love – a choice to sacrificially serve someone who does not deserve it or cannot earn it
 2. Joy – the inner contentment of knowing that circumstances do not rule your life...Jesus rules your life!
 3. Peace – the tranquility of mind that knows that God “has it all together”
 4. Patience – a long fuse with people
 5. Kindness – sensitivity about the needs of others
 6. Goodness – moral excellence and integrity of character

7. Faithfulness – loyalty to one’s word and trustworthiness to one’s promises
8. Gentleness - strength under control and power kept in reserve
9. Self-Control – restraint of first impulses and reactions that hurt themselves and others

Conclusion: *The Spirit-filled believer is the most beautiful person in the world.*