

Walking in the Authority of God's Spirit

For the Win, Week Ten

We tend to want power **over** things,
But we don't always want to submit **under** the power of things.

This is true in how a lot of us approach the Holy Spirit. We want him to do great things in, around, and through us, but not necessarily **over** us. But...

The secret to walking in the power of the Spirit is to live in submission to the authority of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

How do you know if you're really living under his authority?
You look at the **fruit** of your life!

Let me interject something here - we're talking today about examining our own lives, not the lives of others. Be a seed-sower, not a fruit inspector. Your job isn't to determine who else is living under the authority of the Spirit - it's to know that **you** are living in obedience to him.

Galatians 5:16-26 NLT

16 So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. ("Walk in the Spirit", NKJV) Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. 17 The sinful nature **wants** to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And **the Spirit gives us desires** that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are **constantly fighting each other**, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions. 18 But when you are directed by the Spirit, you are not under obligation to the law of Moses.

Your new life starts with a change of your heart!

When the Holy Spirit takes over, you get a new heart, new passions, new desires, new motivations so you can **win** the battle against your own sin nature.

19 When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, 21 envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

When you're the boss, things get broken.

By nature, we produce bad fruit.

Paul isn't saying that anyone who commits one of these sins can't go to heaven. If that were the case, we'd all be doomed without hope. He's saying that if this is the fruit your life is producing, you need to examine the root of your life. These sins aren't characteristic of a citizen of the Kingdom of God.

22 But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

When the Holy Spirit has control, you bear beautiful fruit.

It's important to understand that "fruit" in this verse is singular. It's not plural. It's not that we bear two or three out of nine of these fruits. It's that these nine traits represent what we look like when the Holy Spirit is living his life through us.

- **Love** - to receive and bless everyone, unconditionally.
- **Joy** - a settled assurance and hopefulness about life.
- **Peace** - the opposite of confusion and inner conflict.
- **Patience** - the ability to endure suffering.
- **Kindness** - yielding to others and showing undeserved mercy.
- **Goodness** - doing and being good in a world gone bad.
- **Faithfulness** - keeping our commitment to godly values.
- **Gentleness** - approaching people with a softened heart.
- **Self-control** - living under control instead of living out of control.

24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. 25 Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives. 26 Let us not become conceited, or provoke one another, or be jealous of one another.

Two big questions...

1. What sinful desires are you hanging onto?

Prayer... God, help me to leave this at the foot of the cross - to walk away and make a clean break - to repent at the heart level. God, give me new desires!

2. What part of your life have you not surrendered to the Spirit's control?

Prayer... God, I want ALL of you that I can get - the fullness of the power of your Holy Spirit! And I know that means giving to you ALL that I am and letting you have control over every part of my life.

The Bible is clear - our sin nature can be left at the foot of the cross where Jesus died to purchase our pardon. You can be free from the slavery to sin and the fruit of the flesh!