

Walk By the Spirit

A brief study in Galatians chapter 5

Galatians 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. NAS

The context of Galatians 5

The book of Galatians was written to the Christians living in the region of Galatia. Here was a group of Jew and Gentile Christians who were heavily influenced by the “Judiazers.” This was a group of Jewish false teachers who were teaching the Christians that in order to be saved they must obey the “Law of Moses.” The Judiazers’ doctrine of works was a clear denial of justification by Faith. Paul refutes this heresy in this book. When he gets to *chapter 5 he begins a discussion on freedom from the law, spiritual warfare and the product of Christian obedience*. He speaks of the war between the Spirit and the flesh, shining a great light on these matters and how we ought to conduct ourselves in daily Christian life. Not only this, but the true and marvelous benefits of walking in obedience to Christ are described in some detail. Here the essence of the Christian faith is made very clear for us to see and understand.

Justification By Faith

Here Paul clearly summarizes again that seeking to be justified by the “good works” of the law, forfeits the value of Christ’s sacrificial death on the cross. He clearly states that trying to be justified by the law alienates one from Christ, who alone is the way of salvation.

Galatians 5:1 - It is **for freedom that Christ has set us free**. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. **2** Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that **if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all**. **3** Again I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law. **4** You who are **trying to be justified by law have been alienated from Christ**; you have fallen away from grace.

It is by His merit that we are justified (declared righteous) before God, *not on* the basis of our own good works. It is on the basis of His perfect life and sacrificial death that we are justified. He fully met the requirements of the law and made a full payment (propitiation) for the penalties of sin. (**Phil 3:9, Rom 5:1-2, Eph 2:8-9, Titus 3:5-6, Heb 10:14**)

Rom 3:20-24 - **20** Therefore **no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law**; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin. **21** But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. **22** This **righteousness from God comes**

through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and **are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.** NIV

Faith works through love

Here the very substance of the Christian gospel is explained in simple terms. We having not yet been made perfect are hoping for Christ's return at which time we will be made perfect. But while we wait, what is important is the true substance of Christ, which is love. ***It is not any religious deed or sacrament that is important, but the rather the free expression of love.*** The natural man seeks to justify himself before God with the "fig leaf" of religious good works, which really is idolatry. Religion is man's attempt to reach out to God, but the gospel reveals ***God's free grace***, which reaches down to man and pays a debt for him, which he could never pay. Grace is unmerited favor. This grace is the expression of God's loving character, which is the very essence of the Christian faith. This is truly the vital and essential element of the Gospel, love toward God and man.

Galatians 5:5 - 5 But by faith we eagerly await through the Spirit the righteousness for which we hope. 6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. **The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.**

1 Corinthians 13:1-3 - 13:1 If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, **but have not love**, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, **but have not love, I am nothing.** 3 If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, **but have not love, I gain nothing.** NIV

Beware of religion and the false teachers who teach it

Paul had warned of a false gospel from the first chapter. He was concerned that the Galatians had in fact deserted God by embracing a different gospel.

Galatians 1:6-8 - 6 I am astonished that you are so quickly **deserting the one who called you** by the grace of Christ and are **turning to a different gospel**- 7 which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to **pervert the gospel of Christ.** 8 But even if we **or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you**, let him be eternally condemned! NIV

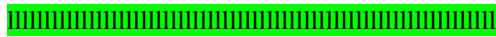
Here again Paul points out the false teachers and speaks of God's righteous judgment against them, as he did in chapter 1. False teachers appeal to the sinful human nature, which is always looking for a way to justify itself. ***Men develop elaborate systems of laws, sacraments, and rituals to replace the simple gospel and to appease the human conscience*** (2 Peter 2:18-19, Col 2:20-23). First century Judaism was no exception. But the gospel is an offense to man and his sinful heart, and calls man to the repentance of true faith, here referred to as "the offense of the cross."

Galatians 5:7-12 - 12 You were running a good race. **Who cut in on you and kept you from obeying the truth?** 8 That kind of persuasion does not come from the one who calls you. 9 "A little yeast works through the whole batch of dough." 10 I am confident in the Lord that you will take no other view. **The one who is throwing you into confusion will pay the penalty, whoever he may be.** 11 Brothers, if I am still preaching circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In **that case the offense of the cross has been abolished.** 12 As for those agitators, I wish they would go the whole way and emasculate themselves!

Freedom and Love

Sin's power has been broken. It can no longer master us, rather we have been freed from its destructive power, by Christ's work (**1 John 3:8**). The debt for sins has been paid in full and no longer looms over our heads. However, we are not free to sin. God forbid! *Instead, now because Christ has set us free we are to continually repent of our sins and devote ourselves to Him from a heart of gratefulness.* We prove this repentance by our obedience to His commandments, namely to love one another (**Acts 26:20, 1 John 5:2-3**). Here Paul also states the great importance of serving one another in love, in which he says the entire law is summed up. This is the law, which the Judaizers were imposing upon them with its sacrament and ritual. Paul points to the reality of true faith, which expresses itself through love, then speaks to the destructive nature of religious systems.

Galatians 5:13 - 13 You, my brothers, were called to be free. But **do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love.** 14 The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." 15 If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.



The warfare of daily Christian life

Here Paul shines light on the spiritual warfare of Christian life. He draws a contrast between the "Spirit" and the "sinful nature," or the flesh. He states that they are in conflict with each other. So it is within us, the war between the Spirit and the flesh. Having been born again, the Spirit of God resides within us. The sinful nature opposes the work of the Spirit, leading us to sin. So the conflict rages on inside of us, that is which one we will obey, the Spirit or the flesh. *If we live under the direction of the Spirit he says, we will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.* A recognition of this vital truth is paramount to spiritual growth and maturity.

Galatians 5:16 - 16 So I say, **live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.** 17 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. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law.

Romans 8:5-10 - 5 Those who live according to the sinful nature **have their minds set on what that nature desires;** but those who live in accordance with the Spirit **have their minds set on**

what the Spirit desires. 6 The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; 7 the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.

8 Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God. 9 **You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you.** And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. NIV

The Law is the strength of sin – The purpose of the law was to show us our utter inability to please and obey God so that we might find our only hope in the perfect Christ (Gal 3:23-25). It is through the law that we become conscious of sin (Rom 3:20) and also the law, which stands opposed to us condemning us to death (Col 2:13-15, Rom 7:9-11). *It is only through the sacrifice of Christ that we can be released from the strength and penalty of the law.* And what great good news this is, the law has been fulfilled by Christ Jesus, and we stand in Him complete and made holy through His sacrifice!

Colossians 2:13-14 - 13 When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, 14 **having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away,** nailing it to the cross. NIV

All that we need - Indeed because every believer has the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit, we have the all-sufficient power of God resident within us to overcome sin and please God. Of course our ability to please God is related to our knowledge of Him and His will for our lives.

2 Peter 1:3-4 - 3 His divine power has **given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him** who called us by his own glory and goodness. 4 Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that **through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption** in the world caused by evil desires. NIV

Once we have the knowledge of righteousness there is nothing left to do but submit to His divine will. The struggle is then within our will. *But we were saved in the recognition of His Lordship, how then can we go on living in rebellion to it!* For the Christian death is an option, but to compromise His Lordship is not. May we look to God daily for the strength needed to obey His will and overcome the sinful nature.

The Mind is the battlefield - The spiritual war fought by the Christian is waged in the mind. It is in the mind that we consider truth and righteousness, sin and temptation. This is why it is of paramount importance that we continue to renew our minds in the Word of God. *Our minds need a continual cleansing from the corruption of the world around us, and the sin, which lives in us.* We are constantly tempted to compromise our faith as we are presented with the temptations of the eyes, the flesh, and the pride of life. Only as

we have the Word ready on our minds can we be aware of God's will, that we might walk in it.

2 Cor 10:3-5 - 3 For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. 4 The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. 5 **We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.** NIV

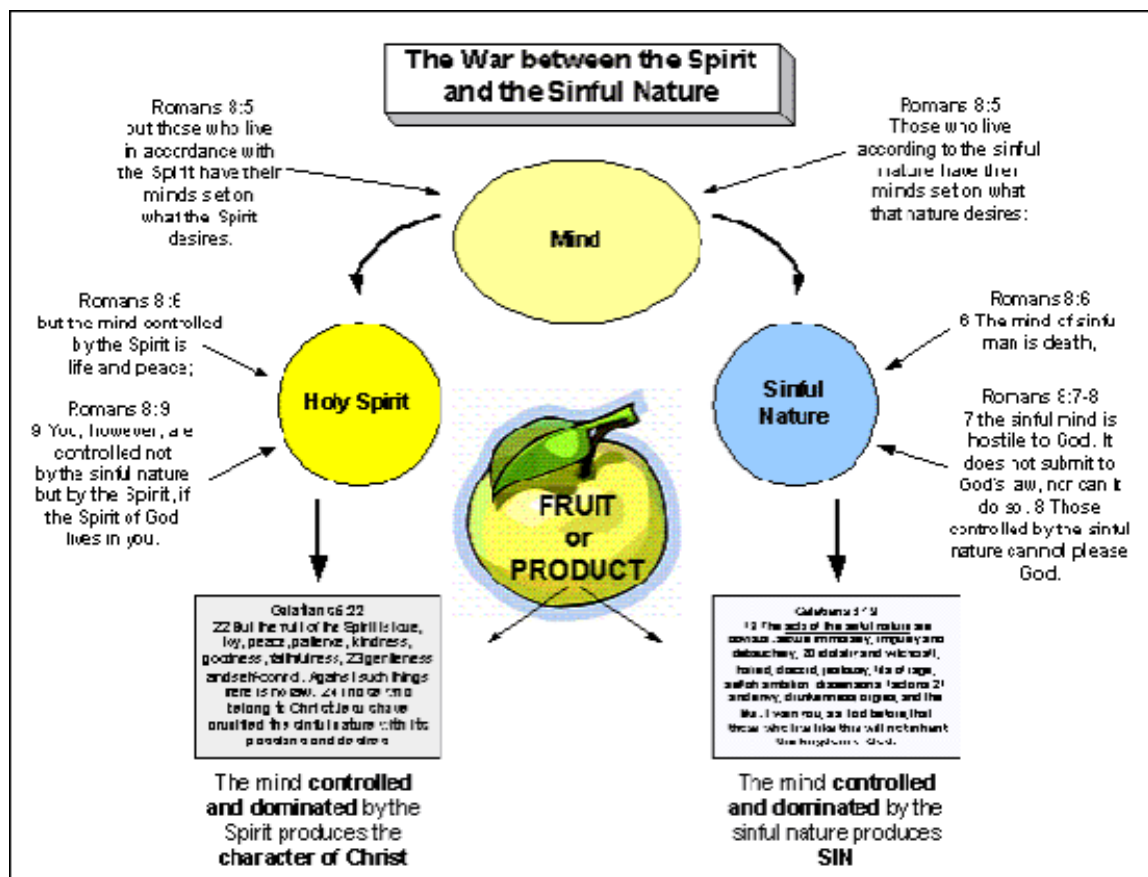
Rom 12:2 - 2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, **but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is**-his good, pleasing and perfect will. NIV

Col 3:1-2 - 3:1 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. 2 **Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.** NIV

Phil 4:8-9 - 8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable-if anything is excellent or praiseworthy-**think about such things.** NIV

Heb 4:12 - 12 For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; **it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.** NIV

Psalms 119:11 - I have **hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.** NIV



The product of the sinful nature

Here is the familiar passage describing the sins of the flesh. Notice that these sins characterize all mankind in his unregenerate state. If one walks according to the flesh, the product of his life is sin. *If someone is unsaved and therefore unregenerate, having not the indwelling Holy Spirit, he/she can only walk after that which is in them and produce the fruit thereof.* Paul clarifies the fact that Christians do not live lifestyles such as these. It is these very things that we have repented of and now despise. Not that we do not sin, but now being conscious of sins, we do not continually practice them (1 John 3:9-10). Here is a test for the Galatian Christians and all Christians therefore, what is the fruit of your life? Is it the works of the flesh or the fruit of the Spirit? You cannot live with sin as your master and inherit the kingdom of God!

(Rom 2:8-9, 1 Cor 6:9-10, Eph 5:5-7, Rev 21:27, 22:15, Matt 7:21, Luke 13:24-25)

Galatians 5:19 - 19 The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; 20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions 21 and 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.**

The fruit of the Spirit

When one walks in the Spirit, he/she is led to the obedience of faith, which produces in us the character of Christ. It is for this purpose that we were saved. One who sets their mind on the Spirit, lives in wonderful benefit of God's kingdom. Under His Lordship is all the glory and blessing of His person. Is this not our great desire, to live continually bearing these marvelous fruits of pure lives! *When we live with our hearts and minds under the domination and control of the Holy Spirit, the marvelous product of the Spirit is Christ's character which becomes manifest in and through us!* We become a demonstration of Christ, who is in us, for all to see and glorify God. Further, there is no law against the free expression of God's loving character, only the sinful character of the sinful nature.

Galatians 5:22 - 22 But the **fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control.** Against such things there is no law.

Philippians 1:9-11 - 9 And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, 10 so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, 11 **filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ**-to the glory and praise of God. NIV

Ephesians 5:8-10 - 8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light 9(for the **fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth**) 10 and find out what pleases the Lord. NIV

Colossians 1:10-12 - 10 And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may **please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work**, growing in the knowledge of God, 11 being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully 12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. NIV

For the Christian who desires to grow and mature, here is a goal worth pursuing and clear insight into what God's character is like. These "fruits of the Spirit" are that which come from God the Holy Spirit and are pure and lovely things on which to dwell (Phil 4:9). Here are heavenly things on which to think (Col 3:2).

Take up your cross

How important it is then to therefore live in manner worthy of Christ. Bearing this fruit of His Spirit and pleasing Him in every way is our greatest desire. We must therefore allow the Holy Spirit to dominate and control our hearts and minds, rather than the sinful nature. The sinful nature is to be crucified or put to death! It is the passions and desires of the sinful nature which need to die, the cravings for sin which live in each of us. Here again it is clear to see that our minds or "thought life" is that which needs to be renewed and cleansed in order for proper behavior to follow.

Galatians 5:24 - 24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus **have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires**. 25 Since we live by the Spirit, **let us keep in step with the Spirit**. 26 Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other. NIV

Bearing the fruit of the Spirit

"A good tree" said Jesus, "bears good fruit." It is by this bearing of good fruit that we may know that we have been born again. *Indeed it is Christ's purpose that others will see Him in us as His character is born in our life through our willing obedience.* When others around us see our kindness and love, our gentleness and respect, our submission and peace, they will see Christ in us. This, Jesus says, glorifies God.

John 15:8 - 8 This is **to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves** to be my disciples. NIV

Matthew 5:16 - 16 "Let your light shine before men in such a way that **they may see your good works, and glorify your Father** who is in heaven. NAS

John 15:5 - 5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. **If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit;** apart from me you can do nothing. NIV

Galatians 5:22-23 - 22 But **the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control.** Against such things there is no law. NIV

John the Baptist preached, “bear fruit in keeping with repentance.” We are to live and act in such a way that this fruit of God’s Spirit is produced in our life. This happens as we willingly surrender to His guidance and lordship moment by moment in our daily life.

Spiritual Warfare

Much has been said about the topic of spiritual warfare, some good, some not so good. Actually it is something that we as Christians face every day. ***We are daily caught in a struggle against sin and temptation – righteousness and truth.*** Indeed when Jesus called us He said, “If anyone would come after me, He must ***take up His cross daily***, and follow me.” It is this daily dying to self that presents such a struggle. We are called to put the “old man” or “old self” to death and let Christ live and reign in us. This is spiritual warfare. One is victorious when ***by faith in Christ and by His power***, we daily put to death the sinful nature and live in the righteousness, peace and joy granted by the indwelling Holy Spirit. The struggle is for the throne of our hearts, who will rule there? Or did you know that Christ Jesus is both Savior and King! As Christians we are called to live in this victory so that Christ may be glorified in and through our lives.

1 John 5:3-4 - 3 **This is love for God: to obey his commands.** And his commands are not burdensome, 4 for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith NIV

Eph 6:10-11 - 10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 **Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand** against the devil's schemes. NIV

Rom 14:17-18 - 17 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, **but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit**, 18 because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and approved by men. NIV

Walk By the Spirit

Questions

1. What was the main teaching of the Judiazers!

Galatians 5:1 - It is **for freedom that Christ has set us free**. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. 2 Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that **if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all**. 3 Again I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law. 4 You who are **trying to be justified by law have been alienated from Christ**; you have fallen away from grace.

2. For what purpose did Christ set us free?

3. What is it that we were set free from?

4. Give a brief biblical definition of the word “justified.”

5. Seeking righteousness on the basis of our own good works _____ us from Christ and causes us to fall away from _____.

Rom 3:20-24 - 20 Therefore **no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law**; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin. 21 But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. 22 This **righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe**. There is no difference, 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and **are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus**. NIV

6. We cannot be declared _____ through obedience to the law, rather, through the law we become conscious of _____.

7. What is the origin of righteousness and how does it come?

8. We are justified _____ by his _____ through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

Galatians 5:5 - 5 But by faith we eagerly await through the Spirit the righteousness for which we hope. 6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. **The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love**.

9. What is it that we are eagerly awaiting?

10. What was the original purpose of circumcision?

11. How does faith express itself?

Galatians 1:6-8 - 6 I am astonished that you are so quickly **deserting the one who called you** by the grace of Christ and are **turning to a different gospel**- 7 which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to **pervert the gospel of Christ**. 8 But even if we **or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you**, let him be eternally condemned! NIV

12. In this context, how does one desert God?

13. What is the righteous judgment of God for those who pervert the gospel?

14. What was the perversion of the gospel in the Galatian churches?

15. What essential truth did it compromise?

Galatians 5:7-12 - 12 You were running a good race. **Who cut in on you and kept you from obeying the truth?** 8 That kind of persuasion does not come from the one who calls you. 9 "A little yeast works through the whole batch of dough." 10 I am confident in the Lord that you will take no other view. **The one who is throwing you into confusion will pay the penalty, whoever he may be.** 11 Brothers, if I am still preaching circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In **that case the offense of the cross has been abolished.** 12 As for those agitators, I wish they would go the whole way and emasculate themselves!

16. What principle is being taught when Paul says, "A little yeast works through the whole batch of dough." ?

17. Why is the cross an offense?

Galatians 5:13 - 13 You, my brothers, were called to be free. But **do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love.** 14 The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." 15 If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

18. A Christian should never use his/her freedom to _____ the _____ nature, rather we should _____ one another in _____.

19. The entire law is _____ up in a single command, _____ your neighbor as yourself.

20. What is meant by “biting and devouring” each other?

Galatians 5:16-18 - 16 So I say, **live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.** 17 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. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law.

21. To live by the Spirit means to be _____ and _____ by the Spirit.

22. When you are controlled and dominated by the Spirit, you will not _____ the desires of the _____ nature.

23. The sinful nature desires what is _____ to the Spirit. They are in _____ with one another.

24. What is meant by “you do not do what you want”?

25. If you are _____ by the Spirit, you are not _____ law.

26. What does it mean to be led by the Spirit?

Romans 8:5-10 - 5 Those who live according to the sinful nature **have their minds set on what that nature desires**; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit **have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.** 6 The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; 7 the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. 8 Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God. 9 **You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you.** And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. NIV

27. Those who live according to the sinful nature have their _____ _____ on what that nature desires.

28. Those who live according to the Spirit have their _____ _____ on what the Spirit desires.

29. The mind _____ by the _____ is life and peace!

30. The _____ is hostile to God. It does not _____ to God's law, nor _____ it do so. Those _____ by the sinful nature _____ please God.

31. If the Spirit of God lives in you, you are _____ by the Spirit.

Colossians 2:13-14 - 13 When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, 14 **having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away,** nailing it to the cross. NIV

32. Christ _____ the written code (law), with its _____, that was _____ us and stood _____ to us. He _____ it to the cross!

2 Peter 1:3-4 - 3 His divine power has **given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him** who called us by his own glory and goodness. 4 Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that **through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption** in the world caused by evil desires. NIV

33. His divine power has given us _____ we need for _____ and godliness through our _____ of him.

34. It is through the _____ of God that we participate in the divine nature and _____ the _____ in the world.

35. In this context, what causes the corruption in the world?

2 Cor 10:3-5 - 3 For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. 4 The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. 5 **We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.** NIV

Rom 12:2 - 2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, **but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is**-his good, pleasing and perfect will. NIV

Col 3:1-2 - 3:1 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. 2 **Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.** NIV

Discernment and influence

The type of influence that a Christian allows in their life is very important. If it is God's will for you to be holy and sanctified, will you pollute God's Holy temple, your body, by fellowship with the world? *Would you arise early to quiet time with God in scripture, only to sit for hours in the evening amused by some vile movie filled with adultery, murder and sensuality?* Shall we fill God's temple with idols? Don't you know that bad company corrupts good character, or that friendship with the world is to be at war with God? It is imperative that Christians set themselves apart as holy unto God. We are to make judgments and use discernment about the things we indulge in, whether or not they are pleasing to God. With the powerful media (Books, Magazines, Television, Movies, Internet) of today's culture it is important for Christians to keep oneself from being polluted by the world. Let us therefore exercise discernment about what we allow to influence our thinking!

1 Cor 2:15-16 - 15 **The spiritual man makes judgments about all things**, but he himself is not subject to any man's judgment: But we have the mind of Christ. NIV

James 4:4 - 4 You adulterous people, don't you know that **friendship with the world is hatred toward God**? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. NIV

James 1:27 - 27 Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and **to keep oneself from being polluted by the world**. NIV

2 Cor 6:14-15 - 14 Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. **For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common?** Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? 15 What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever?

1 Cor 15:33 - 33 Do not be misled: "**Bad company corrupts good character**." NIV

Ezek 44:23 - 23 And they shall teach My people **the difference between the holy and the unholy**, and **cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean**. NKJV