

# A Spiritual Life

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[ 0 : 0 0 ] Last day in Galatians chapter 5, and it is not verses 22 and 23. After nine weeks there, it is not those verses. So, one announcement I forgot to make, out on the back table, there are these brochures for a family camp.

It takes place August 6th through the 9th. Church in Bucksport that we fellowship with, and you've seen Pastor Donato at the Good Friday services and things.

Their church puts it on, but it's open to all the churches in our fellowship. And so, if you're interested in a family camp, a chance to get away for a few days with your family, they do it, I can't pronounce the name of the place, look at the brochure, but they have a family camp that's available.

If you're interested, take a brochure. There's also a sheet out there, so if you want to come, bring your family, you can sign it up, send it in to them, and sign up for a family camp, if you're interested.

So, okay. Galatians chapter 5, verses 24 through 26. 24 through 26.

[ 1 : 1 0 ] And they that are Christ, have crucified the flesh with the affections and lust. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another. Let's have a word prayer. Father, be with us this morning, Lord, as we look at your word, as we look at your scriptures.

Lord, as we talk about those that are Christ, Lord, help us to understand this morning what that means. Be a part of Christ, and have Christ in me, me in Christ, his Spirit working in and through me.

Lord, pray that you would help us to be drawn closer to you today. If there's any here who are not saved, Lord, may they come to know you today. Lord, I pray that you would just help us, help us all to have a closer relationship with you.

Lord, just bless our time now, in Jesus' name. Amen. You ever thought, just see, think about, notice I have a title up there, A Spiritual Life.

[ 2 : 1 6 ] What does it mean to be spiritual? I always hear people talking about so-and-so's spiritual. How do you know that? How do you tell if they're spiritual? You know, a lot of times, we look at the way they act, the way they do things, which is a good indicator, but people can fake the way they act.

People will say, oh, I read my Bible this much time every week, and I spend this much time in prayer every week. That's good. You should do that. But does that make you spiritual? I don't want to save people who read their Bible every day.

My mother-in-law got saved at the age of 90. Before that, she read her Bible every day. But she wasn't saved. But she did get saved. You know, so, spiritual life is not something we can contrive, something we can conjure up.

It's not something we do. God gives us a spiritual life if we follow what He wants us to do. You know, back in Galatians chapter 2, verse 20, verse that probably most of you know, says, I am crucified with Christ.

Nevertheless, I live. Yet not I, but Christ liveth in me in the life which I now live in the flesh. I live by the faith of the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me.

[ 3 : 35 ] I was crucified with Christ. When Christ went to the cross, He paid for our sins. That included my sins and your sins. He went to the cross to make the payment for our sins.

But He says, nevertheless, I live because Christ now lives in me. If I've asked the Lord Jesus Christ to come into my life, if I've accepted the gift that He's given to me, and I said, Lord, I know You paid the price for my sin.

I know You went to that cross for my sin. I accept the gift that You're giving to me of forgiveness of sin. Do we reach out and take the gift and make it part of our life?

And when we do, He says, you know what? I'm going to give you something. I'm going to give you that life, but along with that life, I'm going to give you the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit's going to come to live within you, and He's going to be able to show you and lead you and guide you in every way that you need to go.

He's going to give you everything that you need to have. He's going to point you in the right direction. So when we take the Holy Spirit in, and let Him come and live and take up residence, three things happen.

[ 4 : 44 ] See, to be a spiritual person, first of all, we need to talk about the position that we have. The position that we have. First of all, the statement of ownership.

Notice what it said there in verse 24. And they that are Christ. They that are Christ. Do you belong to the Lord Jesus Christ?

That's apostrophe S on there, the possessive. They that are Christ. Do you belong to Him? Have you given your life over to Him? See, we can do that, first of all, because we are purchased by Christ.

We are purchased. We were in debt. We were in captivity. Christ came and gave Himself to pay the price for our sin so that we could be ransomed from that life of sin.

ransom from under the control of the devil. 1 Corinthians 6, verses 19 and 20 says this. What?

[ 5 : 44 ] Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God and ye are not your own? Stop. Your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost.

When you ask Jesus to come into your life, He gives you His Spirit. He takes up residence in you. You are a temple. God lives with you. Remember in the Old Testament?

You know, they had the temple and stuff. God took up residence there. That's how they worshipped. They went to worship Him at the temple. He lives in you. You now have your body as a temple.

And then He goes on in verse 20 and He says this. For ye are bought with a price. Jesus Christ's blood. Therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit which are God's.

If you've taken Jesus Christ into your life, if you've asked Him to be your Savior, He says glorify Him because you belong to Him. Glorify Him because you belong to Him.

[ 6 : 50 ] You know, if we belong to Him, you know what? We are now, second of all, in Christ. We are in Christ. Second Corinthians 5, 17 says this.

Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature. All things are passed away. Behold, all things have become new. Those of you who are here this morning and saved, when you ask Jesus Christ to come into your life, did things change?

Did things become different? He says, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature. We don't have the same desires. We don't have the same wants. We don't have the same outlook on life that we used to have.

All things have become new. The sin that was in your life can be washed away, taken care of, not to ever be brought up again. Ephesians 2, verse 13.

But now, in Christ Jesus, ye who were sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. He says, you were far off. You didn't want anything to do with Jesus.

[ 7 : 53 ] You didn't want anything to do with Christ. You didn't care anything about Christianity. You didn't care anything about church or people who go to church and say, oh, those people are kind of weird. He says, but now that you're in Christ, you've been made nigh because of his blood that was shed.

We understand now the difference. We understand that Jesus Christ makes all the difference in the world. We understand that. So, we have a position in Christ.

We have ownership by him. We also have a different position. He makes a statement about a position we have. We just sang victory in Jesus. Number one in our positions, we come from a position of victory.

A position of victory. because Jesus Christ came. He conquered sin. He conquered death. We have a position of victory.

You know, all those former influences and stuff, they still exist. They're still out there fighting. But, Paul says, you know what? I'm no longer dominated by those.

[ 9 : 06 ] They don't have dominion over me. He said, I have Jesus Christ and I have his spirit living within me. And because I have that, he says, I don't have to submit to all these other things.

Now, it's still out there. It's still going. Look at verse 17 of that chapter. Galatians 5, verse 17. For the flesh lusteth against the spirit and the spirit against the flesh.

And these are contrary to one to the other so that ye could not do the things that ye would. He said, they're always fighting the flesh and the spirit. Our flesh wants to do what we want to do.

We want to live the way we want to live. We want to do the things we want to do. We want to say the things we want to say. We want to, whatever. And the spirit's going, you need to go this way. According to God's word, you need to go this way.

According to God's word, you need to live this way. According to God's word, you need to think this way. And they're always fighting together. But one of the great things about the victory we have, we also know we have a position of finality.

[ 10 : 07 ] finality. Once we come to Christ, we are set for our eternity. You know, Paul explains it that those that belong to Christ, you know, because He's crucified the flesh, Paul's saying, okay, the flesh is gone.

The flesh is dead. Well, wait a minute. How can that be? You just read verse 17, which says, the flesh lusts against the spirit and the spirit against the flesh. So how can it be that we say, those things are gone?

Well, Paul's writing looking back at the cross. And as Paul looks back at the cross, he says, that ended it. Right there. We now have victory.

We now have finality. We now have the Lord Jesus Christ living within us as we've accepted what He has done for us. Taken that gift that He's given to us. So we have all of that.

So then, how can we still be battling the flesh? Well, it's kind of a gross illustration, but I think it'll help you understand. How many of you grew up on a farm?

[ 11 : 22 ] Oh, only a couple. All right. I thought there were more. How many of you had somebody in your family that had a farm? Okay, a few more of you. You remember when Grandma used to say, I think we'll have chicken for dinner.

You remember how that worked? Not well for the chicken. When Grandma said we're going to have chicken for dinner, Grandpa would go out and he'd get a chicken for dinner.

And you remember how that was accomplished? And if you were, I'm not going to go into detail, but you remember after he took care of that chicken, what would that chicken do?

He'd still be running around, wouldn't it? His head was missing, but he would still be running around and stuff. And it's like, this is so weird. When Christ went to the cross, he took care of sin and death and all that for us.

It's just now wandering around based on what little energy it had left. That's it. we have victory. We have finality over those things because the Holy Spirit comes to live within us.

[ 12 : 39 ] Not only does the Holy Spirit come to live within us and we have the position we have, but as the Holy Spirit lives within us, we have promptings. Promptings of a spiritual Christian.

What are they? First of all, he lives in the Spirit. We live in the Spirit. Verse 16, back there in chapter 5. He says, this I say then, walk in the Spirit and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

If we're walking in the Spirit, Jesus Christ, we've asked him to come into our life to take over. His Spirit lives within us. He says, now walk in that Spirit.

Don't walk in the flesh, don't walk in the world, don't walk in all those different things. He says, walk in the Spirit of God. Look at God's Word, see what it says, let the Holy Spirit guide you in the way you're supposed to go there.

Romans chapter 8, verse 10, and if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. Body is dead through its lust and all those things, but the Spirit comes in you and gives you life, gives you energy, gives you strength, gives you everything you need to live this life.

[ 13 : 57 ] Geographically, I'm in the flesh right now. I'm standing right here behind this pulpit in front of you, but spiritually, I'm in Christ. Spiritually, I have Him.

He's in me, I'm in Him. He gets to call all the shots. This is our standing, this is our position that we have and that is never going to change. You live by the Spirit of God when you ask Jesus to come in your heart.

When you do that, hopefully, number two, you're led by the Spirit. Led by the Spirit. Look at verse 18 there in that chapter. But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.

We don't need a bunch of rules and regulations to teach us how to live if we're living in the Spirit of God. A lot of people see Christianity as do this, do this, do this, don't do this, don't do this, don't do this.

No, Christianity is God, you live within me, I'm going to follow you in whatever you want, whatever you're doing. Wherever your Holy Spirit leads me, that's what I'm going to do.

[ 15 : 07 ] That's how I'm going to live. God gave His life for us through Jesus Christ. I'm going to do whatever I can to make God know that I appreciate what He has done for me.

I'm going to do whatever I can to make sure God knows that I love Him for what He has done for me. And therefore, I'm going to live according to what He has done. We're going to be led by the Spirit.

The Spirit's going to teach us as a verse that talks about how to walk in righteousness and goodness and truth. That's how I'm going to live my life. It's according to what the Holy Spirit taught me.

Then, third thing, He's going to walk in the Spirit. That's what verse 16 has told us. Walk in the Spirit. He says, I'm going to walk in the Spirit. See, if I'm going to live a spiritual life, it's because I'm walking in the Spirit.

How can I have a spiritual life if I'm not doing what the Spirit wants? How can I have a spiritual life if I'm not allowing the Spirit to work? How can I have a spiritual life if I'm not allowing the Spirit to mold me and shape me and guide me?

[ 16 : 11 ] And that's the first thing we need to see about it. It is a guided walk. A guided walk. Probably two of the most famous verses on the Holy Spirit.

John chapter 16 verses 13 and 14. Here's what it says. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth, for he shall not speak of himself, but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak, and he will show you things to come.

He shall glorify me, for he shall receive of mine and shall show it unto you. He says, you're going to walk in the Holy Spirit. He's going to guide you into all truth, it says there in verse 13.

How's he going to do that? He says he's not going to talk about himself. He's going to tell you everything that he hears about me.

And who is saying these words? If you have one of those red letter edition Bibles, those are the words of Jesus. He's going to tell you about me. He's going to point to me.

[ 17 : 18 ] He's going to glorify me. Jesus will always be lifted up. Jesus will always be exalted. As the Holy Spirit works in you, guides you, speaks to you, he's always going to be pointing you to Christ.

What's our job? To keep pointing people to Christ. Because the Spirit lives within us, we should do what the Spirit wants. Point people to Christ. It's a guided walk, but it's also a worthy walk.

A worthy walk. Colossians 1.10 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing. Being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.

That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing. Are we living up to our responsibilities before God? Are we living up to our responsibility to point people to him?

Are we living up to our responsibility to live for him day by day? He says, being fruitful in every good work. Increasing in the knowledge of God. I hope you don't mind, but I'm getting very warm.

[ 18 : 31 ] So, didn't turn the air conditioners on this morning, probably should have, but I'm getting very warm. He says, look, walk worthy of God. How do you do that? He says, you follow him, you please him, and you try to be fruitful in every good work and you try to increase in the knowledge of God.

You want to be a spiritual Christian? You want to be a spiritual person? Follow God in everything he says. Ephesians chapter 4, verses 1 and 2, 1 through 3.

Ephesians chapter 4, verses 1 through 3. I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, Paul was writing this from jail, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called.

He says, walk worthy of the vocation wherewith God has given you something to do. God has given you eternal life. God has given you a message to take to people.

God has given you a life to live. He says, walk worthy of that. How do we walk worthy of that? We follow his word.

[ 19 : 34 ] Follow what he says. Verse 2 says, with all loneliness and meekness, with long suffering, forbearing one another in love. You know what?

Walk worthy by walking humbly. Humbly before your God. He says, lowliness, meekness, long suffering, humbly. And then, verse 3, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

So, what's he saying? Walk worthy by living humbly and endeavoring to keep the unity. If we're walking humbly, that's what's going to happen. We're going to endeavor to keep the unity.

If we're walking humbly, we're going to try to do what is right for God and for his church. He says, look, walk worthy. And if you're walking worthy, you're going to walk humbly and you're going to walk trying to keep the unity.

We're going to walk according to what the Holy Spirit wants. Now, what did we already say the Holy Spirit wants? He's always pointing to Jesus. George Sweeting, who was minister at the Moody Memorial Chapel in Chicago, also past president of Moody Bible Institute, he said this, watch out for any ministry or person who claims to be led by the Holy Spirit, but acts contrary to the word of God.

[ 21 : 06 ] They claim to be led by the Holy Spirit but acting contrary to the word of God. They're not following what this book says. Then he goes on, he says, and beware of any movement or group whose focus is on the Holy Spirit.

Why? Because the Holy Spirit points to, not to himself, but to Jesus Christ. remember those verses I read back in John?

How be it when he, the Spirit of truth, has come, he will guide you in all truth, for he shall not speak of himself, but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak, and he will show you things to come.

He shall glorify me, for he shall receive of mine and show it unto you. He says, if the whole concentration is on the Holy Spirit, they're missing something, because the Holy Spirit's job is to point people to Jesus.

He says, make sure you're always pointing people to Jesus, and you do that, you walk worthy by doing that, and you do it humbly and with unity. Third thing, the practice, the practice of a spiritual Christian.

[ 22 : 25 ] Man who used to be evangelist, pastor back in the olden days, Lewis Spiri Chafer, he said, when led of the Spirit, the child of God must be as ready to wait as to go, and is prepared to be silent as to speak.

We think we've got to do, do, do, go, go, go, say, say, say, do it. He says, no, he says, if you're led by the Spirit, sometimes you learn to just stop. sometimes you learn just to be silent.

I always think, I mentioned in Sunday school this morning, Galatians chapter 4, verse 4, yep, but when the fullness of time was come, God sent forth his son.

When God was ready, when the time was right, God sent forth his son. God knew exactly when it needed to happen. God knew exactly when it was the right time to do it. God waited.

I think of Jesus when he was doing his ministry. Remember, Mary and Martha sent to him and said, our brother Lazarus is dying. You need to come. Jesus waited four days.

[ 23 : 38 ] Why did he wait? Because he had a greater lesson to teach him by raising Lazarus. He had just the perfect timing to take place. He says, look, when the timing is right, I will come.

He says here as a Christian, be ready to wait, be ready to be silent, as well as to go out and do things. We need to be listening to the spirit. We need to listen to what he has to say.

So what's my practice? Well, if I'm going to practice, we already talked about the first one, be humble. Be humble. And look at verse 26. He said, let us not be desirous of vaing glory.

Don't be desirous of vaing glory. Be humble in the way you handle things. Remember in 1 Corinthians 3, 7.

So then neither is he that planteth anything, neither he that watereth, but God that giveth the increase. God gives the increase.

[ 24 : 56 ] I can get up here and talk and talk and talk and talk and talk and talk and talk and nothing is going to happen. God gives the increase. Remember we talked about this, I think it might have been in Sunday school a couple of weeks ago.

Our job is to be the conduit. Holy Spirit flows through us. God does the work. We're just the one that flows through. And that's what we need to do.

It's allowing God to do that. James chapter 4 verse 16. But now you rejoice in your boastings. All such rejoicing is evil. Oh.

You're rejoicing in what you're doing and what you're saying and what's going on with your life. He said you got it wrong. God gives the increase. God gives the things.

So I'm going to be humble. How do I do that? Forgive one another. Forgive. Verse you all know well. Ephesians 432.

[ 25 : 57 ] And be ye kind one to another. Tender hearted. Forgiving one another. God for Christ sake I've forgiven you.

He says look. You're going to be kind to people. You're going to be tender hearted to people. You're going to forgive people. Because that's what Jesus did for you. He was forgiven.

That's why he went to the cross. So that you could be forgiven of your sins. See we think of Jesus people think of Jesus God up in heaven he's no.

He's forgiven. he wanted us to know that he would forgive sin. He would forgive. And because he did that we need to do the same for others.

I've mentioned this many times before but I'll mention it again. I run into Christians all the time. And you start a conversation with them and you talk to them and they are going to tell you about something that happened 20 or 30 years ago.

[ 26 : 59 ] Get over it. Oh this happened and that happened. Different things happened.

Yeah. That was a long time ago. People have moved on. You need to as well. You need to forgive and move forward.

Second thing rejoice. Rejoice for others. Romans 12 15. Rejoice with them that do rejoice and weep with them that weep.

Rejoice with them that rejoice. When somebody else gets something that you wanted how do you act? Do you rejoice with them? I wanted that job.

I wanted that promotion. I wanted that. You didn't get it. They did. Yeah I know they did. I hate that person. No. He says rejoice with them that rejoice.

[ 28 : 03 ] Weep with them that weep. Be caring. Be compassionate for those around you. Third thing. Don't hold offenses. Don't hold offenses.

Kind of goes along with what I said about forgiving. Ephesians 4 31. He said to the Sunday school. But all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and evil speaking be put away from you with all malice.

He says put all those things away. Get rid of those things. He says it's not good for you to have those things in your life. If I put those things away if I'm humble it'll help me to deal with others so that now I can be the second thing helpful.

I can be helpful. He says there look let us not be desirous of vainglory verse 26 provoking one another. He says don't be provoking one another.

Don't be going after one another. Be helpful to them. If we're not going to be provoking be helpful to them. James chapter 3 verses 14 through 16.

[ 29 : 33 ] It says but if you have bitter injuring and strife in your hearts glory not and lie not against the truth.

This wisdom descendeth not from above but is earthly sensual devilish. For where every envying and strife is there is confusion and every evil work. He says look get rid of the envying.

Get rid of the strife. Get rid of all those things. Don't glory. Like I said you know those people 20 30 years they kind of can't have that as a badge of honor. I've been doing this for 20 or 30 years.

I haven't forgiven them yet. They're going to wait and they're going to pay. No they're not. You're the only one paying for it. Could you keep hanging on to it? He says look don't worry in that.

He says you think that but he says that wisdom comes from earthly sensual devilish. It comes from the devil. Don't buy into the devil's lie. He says for whatever envying and strife is there is confusion in every evil work.

[ 30 : 38 ] He says all you're doing is contributing to God not being able to accomplish what he would like to accomplish because you're not allowing yourself to be used of him.

You're not allowing the Holy Spirit to work in your life. You're hanging on to things that you don't need to be hanging on to. Instead get rid of those things where you can be helpful to those that are around you. Be humble.

Be helpful. Third thing. Be hopeful. Be hopeful. He says envying one another. Don't envy people. Be hopeful. God can use them.

And if God uses them maybe he can use me too. Be hopeful. See as a Christian why did God send Jesus? Why did God allow Jesus to come and be crucified for us?

Because he loved us. And in 1 Corinthians chapter 13 it talks about that great love chapter in the Bible. And in that chapter it says in verses 7 and 8 it says beareth all things believeth all things hopeth all things endureth all things.

[ 31 : 46 ] He says if you truly love this is what your life is going to be like. You're going to bear things. You're going to put up with some things. You're going to face some things and yet some people are not going to treat you right and things are going to happen.

You still love. And you believe that God has all the answers and God is working. And you hope you have that confident expectation that everything God does is right and you endure.

You go through it and watch what God's going to do on the other side. Because then it says in verse 8 charity love never fail.

it never fails. Whether there be prophecies they shall fail. Whether there be tongues they shall see. Whether there be knowledge they shall vanish away. Everything else you know is going to fail.

Everything else you know is going to go away. Love doesn't. You want to be a spiritual Christian? Learn to love. Learn to show that love to those around you.

[ 32 : 47 ] See, Christians who walk in the spirit are going to fulfill the responsibilities of God and man. They're going to walk in the spirit. They're going to listen to the spirit through the word and they're going to do what the spirit tells them to do and they're going to be successful with God and man.

They're going to do the responsibilities God has given to them. It's important for us to remember that if we walk in the flesh we can't fulfill the fruit of the spirit.



Remember back here again earlier in this chapter verses 19, 20, and 21 he tells the works of the flesh. Ooh, bad stuff. He says adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envying, murders, drunkenness, revelings.

He says no that's not the way you want to walk. You want to walk down in those other verses to show the fruit of the spirit. Love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance against such there is no law.

He says that's the way you want to walk. You want to be a spiritual Christian, you walk in the fruit of the spirit. You allow the Holy Spirit to work in your life. God's Spirit is going to prompt your life. God's Spirit is going to point you in the right direction.

[ 34 : 06 ] He's going to sit you in the heavenlies. He's going to take you where you need to be. Are we following? Are we walking in the spirit that we might not fulfill the Thessalonians?

When he wrote to the Thessalonians he said look, I'm going to give you some things that you need to do. I'm going to give you a little checklist at the end of 1 Thessalonians chapter 5.

These are things you need to be aware of and be checking off and make sure you're doing them. In 1 Thessalonians 5.19 he says quench not the spirit. We have a tendency to do that a lot I think.

The Holy Spirit will be working on your heart. He'll be pointing things out to you. He'll be saying go talk to that person or go do this or go help this person with this or go do he says don't quench the spirit.

Don't quench the spirit. Allow him to work in your life. You want to be a spiritual Christian? And allow the spirit to do his job. We can so many times put roadblocks in the way.

[ 35 : 16 ] Don't do that. See we need to have a tender heart. We need to have a tender heart that listens to what the Holy Spirit is saying. We need to have a tender heart that says I'm going to do what God asked me to do.

I'm going to follow him no matter what. Is that the hot attitude we have? He said walk worthy. That's how you walk worthy. You have a tender heart to follow the Holy Spirit in everything he says.

Take him books. Turnipade.