

THE SELF-CONTROL OF THE SPIRIT!

Galatians 5:16-26

INTRODUCTION: If, as we look at the fruit of self-control by the Spirit of God, you have to say to yourself: "My self-control is pathetic don't get discouraged all that means is you have plenty of room to grow! When we deal with the gifts of the Spirit we see it passed out by God as He sees fit. Some get one gift others get multiple gifts: 1 Corinthians 12:4-11. However, the fruit of the Spirit is given to all the saints! They are all ours through Jesus Christ. When the Holy Spirit comes into our lives He comes in to take over! Do you need more self-control?"

I. A LIFE OUT OF CONTROL!

A lot of people are out of control and don't even know it. The Bible calls being out of control "living in the flesh!" We are either living in the Spirit or living in the flesh. The Bible describes living in the flesh as living out of control: Galatians 5:16-21. There are 17 works of the flesh listed and just in case he missed you he says "and the like." Verse 22 begins with the word "But". There is a contrast coming between being out of control and being controlled by the Spirit of God.

II. A LIFE CONTROLLED BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD!

Galatians 5:22-23: the last word "Temperance" means "a moderation in action, thought, or feeling: RESTRAINT: b. habitual moderation in the indulgence of the appetites or passions: SELF-CONTROL."

III. THE SPIRIT CONTROLLED LIFE: A FEW CONSIDERATIONS!

As we think about the Spirit of God giving His children the ability to control their own lives there are some things to consider:

1.) THE PRACTICE OF SELF-CONTROL! This is talking about someone who has mastered their desires and passions, especially their sexual appetites. Self-control is more than just self-discipline. Self-control is when our whole self, our whole being, our whole body, soul and spirit comes under the control of Jesus Christ. To practice self-control is to be governed by God! Galatians 5:16-18. Have you made the decision to allow Jesus Christ to truly be Lord of your life? Jesus asked His followers: Luke 6:46.

2.) THE PRICE OF SELF-CONTROL!

If you desire the Holy Spirit to give you self-control you must realize there is a price to be paid. You must decide who is going to run your life. Luke 9:23-25; Jeremiah 9:23. We must decide that we will relinquish our own control of our lives and allow Jesus Christ to control our lives. Are there areas of your life that you know are not under the control of Christ? Ephesians 3:14-21. Our heart is now God's home: 1 Corinthians 6:19-20. We must guard our hearts: Proverbs 4:23; Ephesians 3:17.

3.) THE PATHWAY OF SELF-CONTROL!

It was said of Alexander the Great, the great conquer of Greece, that he conquered the world but he could not conquer himself. Proverbs 25:28. In order to gain in self-control we must be filled with the Spirit of God: Ephesians 5:18. This a command to be filled to overflowing with the Holy Spirit. This is a command not a suggestion! Self-control is placing ourselves under the control of the Holy Spirit: Titus 2:11-13; Philippians 2:13. In our lives Jesus Christ must increase and we must decrease:
John