

Intro: Last week we talked about finding Freedom from ourselves and the bad decisions, internal struggles, self-imposed limitations, and awful attitudes that keep us in spiritual bondage. We referenced the Pogo cartoon that is really funny...until you stop to realize just how accurate it is!

Today I want to follow up on that and talk about a PRACTICAL implementation strategy that will help you find the power you need to overcome the internal struggles with sin that we all have. In our focal passage today, Gal 3:1-14 Paul says something critically important: Vs 3: *"Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort?"* As we said last week, there are two parts of our spiritual life being referenced: Justification....and Sanctification...I want to define them and compare and contrast them to help you understand them

- **Initial: Justification:** *Is the act of God whereby He declares the believing sinner righteous in Jesus Christ.*
 - Act not a Process All done at Once: Never get MORE justified
 - Of God All God, none of us
 - Declares us righteous Declaration, not a practical reality
 - Sinners apart from God brought into relationship Sinners, not Believers (Already done!)

- **Ongoing: Sanctification:** *Is the ongoing work in the life of a believer empowered by the Holy Spirit whereby we are progressively purified from sin and set apart for God. God making you what He declares you to be!*
 - Process not an Act Ongoing for all of your life, NEVER finished til with Him
 - In life of a believer in Christ Only believers are in this process
 - Empowered by Holy Spirit HS is the active Agent, We participate with Him
 - Progressively purified Little by little, step by step: More surrender: More Sanctified

So here is what I want to focus on with you this morning. I want to help you understand the WHAT of Sanctification...and discover HOW Sanctification happens...and what you need to do to participate with the HS in that process.

Let's begin with an overview of the work of the Holy Spirit

1. We are **DRAWN** to the Jesus by the work of the Holy Spirit.

- Rom 3:11 No one seeks after God
- John 6:44 No one comes to Jesus unless Father draws him: Instrumentality of Spirit and Word

2. We are **CONVICTED** of our sin by the Holy Spirit.

- John 16:8 When He comes He REVEALS Jesus and Spiritual Truth
- We RESIST: Acts 7:51 Stoning of Stephen: You are resisting the HS
- Or We Yield: Acts 9:1-9 Paul chose to Yield to the HS

3. We are **BORN AGAIN** by the Power of the Holy Spirit. John 3:1-8

- Those who *yield* to Christ and seek forgiveness are given Spiritual Life.
- Those who *resist* remain in Spiritual Death. John 3:17

Every single one of us has to make that decision individually and personally.

Listen...you don't need to do ANYTHING to spend eternity separated from God.

It is the default setting in your spiritual life...SIN...Separation...Death

You have to do yield to God and ask HIM to change that setting from DEATH to LIFE!

4. We are **BAPTIZED** by the Holy Spirit into the Body of Christ. 1 Cor 12:13

- To be placed into, immersed in, or made a part of something
- We are placed into and made a part of the Body of Christ (Everyone, not just special!)
- This highlights that Church is more than just physical: Spiritual union; Purposeful;
- You are an Essential part of the body, needed, important, necessary, contribution makes all better

5. We are **SEALED** by the Holy Spirit, guaranteed eternity with the Father. Eph 1:13-14

- A guaranteed of God's continued work in your life, down payment for the future
- It is impossible to lose your salvation

6. We are called to WALK in the Spirit.

Gal 5:25

"Since we live by the Spirit let us walk by the Spirit."

There are two important pieces of what Paul says in this very short verse.

- Since we live: Since we have eternal life given by Spirit: Drawn, Convicted, Born Again, Sealed
- Let us walk: Let us live our daily life in step with the Spirit, and in His power, guidance, help!

DON'T

- Grieve Spirit: Eph 4:30 By ignoring His voice, Disobeying His direction, Walk in own Strength
- Quench Spirit 1 Thess 5:19 Persistent disobedience to point of hardness of heart, ignoring Him

7. We WALK in The Power of the Spirit BY being FILLED with the Spirit!

Eph 5:18

"Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit."

We have arrived. This is the place we have been driving toward. This is where we find the POWER to live the life God calls us to live. This is where we learn how to walk in the Spirit. This is where we learn to listen to His voice and yield to His direction. This is where we leave OUR strength, our wisdom behind, and lean on HIS strength and wisdom.

To Walk in The Spirit

- Be Being Filled: Talks about an ONGOING Action...Not a one time event: DAILY...or MORE!
- Filled: Lit = *to cram to the top, to fill completely, to supply all that is needed*
- Analogy: Don't be filled (controlled) by wine
Instead, be filled, controlled by the Holy Spirit within
Let Him permeate every thought, decision, action, every part heart, mind, body, spirit
Illus: When you drink you surrender to the alcohol. In same way surrender to Spirit!

Illus: Let me teach you a simple spiritual exercise that will help you learn how to yield to the Holy Spirit, and in doing so find the power to walk in the Spirit!

Spiritual Breathing

- Early in the day: Jesus Pattern: Scripture Psalm 63:1 (At dawn will I seek you!)
- Sit before God quietly, Review the day before; Look ahead to the day behind
- Read Scripture that applies to your day, or helps you think through Gal 5:16-26
- Write down anything HS brings to mind.
 - Sin to confess
 - Strength you need
 - Wisdom for decisions
 - Person interact with that is difficult, unsaved, needs encouragement
- Breathe out your sin...confess it to him
- Breathe out your own strength, wisdom, desires,
- Breathe IN the Holy Spirit...yield to Him
 - Ask for His strength
 - Ask for His wisdom
 - Ask for His direction
 - Ask for Him to Go before
- COMMIT AHEAD of time you will DO whatever He says, or NOT do what He forbids
- Throughout the day revisit this over and over
 - "Be being filled"

CONCL

As Paul said: Whatever made us think we can come to Christ by faith...and then life for Christ in our own strength Come today and yield to Him...offer yourself as the living sacrifice Rom 12 talks about...and start WALKING in Spirit

You will NEVER be more justified...but you can be more SANCTIFIED by the Holy Spirit...Come seek that strength