



The Gospel in Galatians Lesson 12 3Q 2017

Living by the Spirit

SABBATH

What does it mean to live by the Spirit? The Spirit is the Spirit of three prime attributes—what are they?

- Truth
 - And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. Jn 14:16,17
- Love
 - Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love 1Jn 4:8
- Freedom
 - Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 2Cor 3:17

If these are three prime attributes of the Holy Spirit—what would it mean to live by the Spirit?

What method does the Spirit use to bring salvation to people?

‘Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,’ says the Lord Almighty. Zech 4:6

Why will the Holy Spirit not use might and power?

What does God want to achieve in people? Is it not complete and perfect love and trust?

Can love and trust be restored into sentient beings by threats and punishment?

What method?

By the truth of God’s character of love, given, demonstrated, communicated, proved in selfless love, leaving people free to reject that love.

What happens when you believe someone is out to harm you? What happens in your heart?

What happens when you believe someone is required to inflict punishment, and not only is required, but has the moral and legal right to do so? What happens when instead that person, rather than punishing, forgives, but more than that redeems, heals, restores you?

What is it that has separated us from God? Is it God’s anger and wrath, or is it the lies we have believed about Him, and our own fear and selfishness?



What would be necessary to reconcile us, to get through the barrier of such lies, fear and selfishness? Would it not be love and truth?

And metaphorically—if you were to set up a play to reveal that God is pure love and truth who is trying to reach us, but we are separated from God by lies and our own fear and selfishness, what might you act out? Might you act out a brilliant light being hidden and obstructed by a veil and that veil being ripped through to open the way for you to enter into the light?

What happened when Christ died? Did not the veil which separated the priests, which represent the believers, get ripped and the way into God's presence what opened?

And what did Christ tear through if not the lies we believe and the fearfulness we have that drive us to watch try and save ourselves? He tore through these barriers in order to provide us a new character and heal and save us!

Hebrews 10:19,20 from *The Remedy*:

Therefore, brothers and sisters, since Jesus died to bring us the truth about God and to eradicate selfishness from humanity, we no longer need to be afraid but can confidently enter the Most Holy Place—God's very presence—because Christ's death revealed the truth about God and ripped open the veil of lies told by Satan that blinded our minds, and destroyed the infection of selfishness that separated us from him.

Have you experienced the love of God as revealed in Christ so that any doubts, fears, insecurities that separate you from God have been ripped out of your heart and you have been reconciled back to oneness with our God of love?

From the book *Christ's Object Lessons*:

In the great and measureless gift of the Holy Spirit are contained all of heaven's resources. It is not because of any restriction on the part of God that the riches of His grace do not flow earthward to men. **If all were willing to receive, all would become filled with His Spirit.** {COL 419.1}

It is the privilege of every soul to be a living channel through which God can communicate to the world the treasures of His grace, the unsearchable riches of Christ. **There is nothing that Christ desires so much as agents who will represent to the world His Spirit and character. There is nothing that the world needs so much as the manifestation through humanity of the Saviour's love.** All heaven is waiting for channels through which can be poured the holy oil to be a joy and blessing to human hearts... {COL 419.2}



The indwelling of the Spirit will be shown by the outflowing of heavenly love. The divine fullness will flow through the consecrated human agent, to be given forth to others. {COL 419.4}

The Sun of Righteousness has "healing in His wings." Malachi 4:2. **So from every true disciple is to be diffused an influence for life,** courage, helpfulness, and true healing. {COL 419.5}

The religion of Christ means more than the forgiveness of sin; it means taking away our sins, and filling the vacuum with the graces of the Holy Spirit. **It means divine illumination, rejoicing in God. It means a heart emptied of self, and blessed with the abiding presence of Christ.** When Christ reigns in the soul, there is purity, freedom from sin. The glory, the fullness, the completeness of the gospel plan is fulfilled in the life. **The acceptance of the Saviour brings a glow of perfect peace, perfect love, perfect assurance.** The beauty and fragrance of the character of Christ revealed in the life testifies that God has indeed sent His Son into the world to be its Saviour. {COL 419.6}

Christ does not bid His followers strive to shine. He says, Let your light shine. If you have received the grace of God, the light is in you. Remove the obstructions, and the Lord's glory will be revealed. The light will shine forth to penetrate and dispel the darkness. You cannot help shining within the range of your influence. {COL 420.1}

SUNDAY

Read first paragraph, "'Walking' is a metaphor drawn..." When you think about walking, do you think of some arduous technically difficult task you must perform, or an ability that develops naturally?

How do we learn to walk physically?

Is effort put in? It is effort that the child must be coaxed into doing?

Does learning to walk spiritually require we put in effort? When does the most spiritual growth happen, when you are being prodded, coaxed, pushed or when you desire to grow spiritually?

Does walking physically require continued walking to keep walking? And spiritually?

Can we learn to walk by merely watching other people walk? And spiritually?

What interferes with learning to walk physically—diseases, lack of effort, injury, what about spiritually? Sin-sickness of heart, failure to engage with God, and mental, emotional, physical and spiritual injuries all interfere.



When a child learns to walk do they ever stumble and fall? When people learn to walk spiritually do they ever stumble and fall?

When a child stumbles and falls when they learn to walk physically, do we mock, criticize, ostracize the child or do we immediately seek to comfort, heal in injured and help the child back onto their feet?

Do we treat those who fall spiritually with the same attitude?

Should the child think after falling, “I’ll never learn to walk. Look at all these older children and adults they walk so well, some even run, I can barely stand, I’m just not good enough?”

Do those who fall spiritually ever fall into such traps and give up?

Should the adults/parents, when their child falls and perhaps gets hurt, think “I will never let my child fall again” and therefore pick their child up, carry them and never set them down again?

Are there lessons here we should consider in learning to walk by the Spirit?

Read last paragraph, “Paul’s comments about...” thoughts?

Is there any conflict with walking in the Spirit and obeying God’s law?

Can law keeping, sometimes, become an obstacle to walking in the Spirit? How and when?

What type of law and law keeping is opposed to the Spirit?

From the book *Christ’s Object Lessons*:

The man who attempts to keep the commandments of God from a sense of obligation merely--because he is required to do so--will never enter into the joy of obedience. He does not obey. When the requirements of God are accounted a burden because they cut across human inclination, we may know that the life is not a Christian life. **True obedience is the outworking of a principle within. It springs from the love of righteousness, the love of the law of God.** The essence of all righteousness is loyalty to our Redeemer. This will lead us to do right because it is right--because right doing is pleasing to God. {COL 97.3}

Do you hear two types of law being described in the quote above?

What is the natural result in your heart when you are required by an external authority to obey a law on threat of punishment—one that you have not agreed with?

What happens when you obey because you not only understand, and agree, but also because it is the way you prefer it be done?



Genuine law keeping isn't about an argument over the accuracy of one's definition of the commandments—should we have images of Christ in our church or not? Should we worship on Saturday or Sunday—this is not the question. Assuming that whatever law one is attempting to keep is the correct law—what happens in the heart of you keep it (the correct law) but do so under the imposed law model—i.e. you believe it is a rule that if you break God's justice requires that He punish?

This is how Satan has infected Christianity—by getting Christians to falsely believe God's law functions like human law, and millions have grown increasingly fearful of God while trying to keep His law, trying to stay out of trouble with God. This has resulted in their characters being hardened—leading to fracturing of the church into tens of thousands of groups, leading to using methods of force and coercion on those who break the rules we believe are God's, and has pitted Christians against each other arguing back and forth over this doctrine or that, while all are suffering with the exact same sickness of heart and refusing the genuine Remedy Christ has provided.

What is meant by love being fulfillment of the law? It is the design protocol of life and must be restored into the heart/mind/character in order for salvation to be experienced, why? Because that is what salvation actually is—healing and restoration to healthiness also known as righteousness.

The last sentence reads, “The genuine obedience that God desires never can be achieved by outward compulsion but only by an inward motivation produced by the Spirit.”

This is well said, what then does it mean in regard to the doctrines we teach about God and how He deals with sin?

If this is true, and it is, can God be the source of inflicted punishment for sin? Can God's law function like sinful human laws? Why not?

MONDAY

The title for the day is *The Christian Conflict* what is that conflict? With whom does each of us have the greatest battle to fight?

The lesson points us to Galatians 5:17 and Romans 7:14-24.

Gal 5:17: “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.”

What does this mean? Does it mean you don't do the good you want to do or you don't do the evil you want to do?



What is it the natural heart wants? And if we live by the Spirit we no longer gratify those desires, so we don't do what the carnal nature wants.

Is this how you read it?

In Romans 7 there has been a long debate as to whether Paul is speaking of a converted or unconverted person, whether there is victory or not.

Let's read Romans 7:14-25 from *The Remedy*:

¹⁴We know that the law is consistent, reliable and reasonable; but I am inconsistent, unreliable and unreasonable, because the infection of distrust, fear and selfishness has warped my mind and damaged my thinking.¹⁵I am frustrated with what I do! For having been restored to trust, I want to do what is in harmony with God and his methods and principles; but I find that even though I trust God, my old habits, conditioned responses, preconceived ideas and other remnants of the devastation caused by distrust and selfishness are not yet fully removed.¹⁶And if I find an old habit causing me to behave in ways that I now find detestable, I affirm that the law is a very helpful tool revealing residual damage in need of healing.¹⁷What is happening is this: I have come to trust God, and I desire to do his will, but old habits and conditioned responses—which present almost reflexively in certain situations—have not yet been totally eliminated and thus cause me to do things I do not want to do.¹⁸I know that my mind was completely infected with distrust, fear and selfishness, which totally perverted all my desires and faculties, so that even when distrust has been eradicated and trust has been restored, the damage caused by years of distrustful and selfish behavior has not yet been fully healed. So, I find that at times, I have the desire to do what is right, but do not yet have the ability to carry out the desire.¹⁹For the old habits and conditioned responses are not the good I want to do: No! They are remnants of my selfish, unconverted mind.²⁰So, if I find myself doing what I no longer desire to do, it is not myself that acts, but the vestiges of old habits and conditioned responses that have yet to be removed. And through God's grace, they will soon be removed.

²¹So I find this reality at work: When I want to do good, my old selfish habits and residual feelings of fear are right there with me.²²In my mind, I rejoice in God's methods and principles,²³but I recognize that I remain damaged from years of being infected with distrust and practicing Satan's methods, so that even though the infection of distrust has been removed, the old habits of fear and self-promotion tempt me from within.²⁴What a damaged and corrupt man I am! Who will deliver and heal me from a brain and body so diseased and deformed?²⁵Praise be to God—for he has provided the healing solution through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I find that in my mind I am now renewed with trust in God and love of his methods, but my brain and body remain damaged by years of self-indulgent behavior.

My understanding, which I think is obvious in the paraphrase, is that when we are converted our hearts, our software, our inmost desires are to live in harmony with God and His methods. However, our individuality is still operating on hardware (bodies and brains) in which we have previously practiced



sinful living. Thus we have developed various habits, conditioned responses and automatic reactions, which go against our new desires and intentions. It takes time to change these imbedded patterns of response and I believe this is what Paul is describing in Romans 7.

Because of this tug of war between our reborn spiritual nature and our selfish nature, God has given us counsel that if we follow results in a reduction of the power of our selfish drives and improves our ability to resist; conversely if we don't apply God's counsel then the power of the selfish drives are more intense and our power to resist is diminished. Any thoughts on what those directions are?

- First and foremost a trust relationship with God in which the Spirit lives in us, then:
- Studying God's Word along with prayerful meditation—the law of worship, by beholding we become changed. We must assimilate new ways of thinking, new patterns of understanding, new methods of decision making, and by studying God's Word, worshipping and meditating on His character, creation, methods, precepts etc. we strengthen healthy brain circuits and leave dormant unhealthy ones, which over time are pruned back—thus we are changed.
- Choosing to help others—altruism activates love circuits and calms fear circuits; the law of exertion—if you want something to be stronger you must exercise it, thus exercise love circuits and they grow stronger.
- Healthful lifestyle choices, such as regular sleep, avoidance of intoxication, regular exercise etc. which all improved higher cortical function and reduce selfish impulses thus making it easier to choose to live in harmony with God's methods. In other words, you will be less irritable, less likely to act in ways you later regret.
- Forgiving those who do us wrong—which releases us from negative emotions, calming immune response and decreasing illness, again making it easier to live in harmony with God's principles.

Read bottom green section, “From your own experience...” anyone want to share wisdom they have learned?

- After having repented and experienced God's forgiveness—after having done all in your power to set right any wrong you have done—after having had a change of heart so that such an act in the future is offensive to you—then forgive yourself. Recognize history cannot change, but your heart desires and motives can be changed in a trust relationship with Jesus Christ—if you have experienced that change then don't live in shame and fear of past mistakes, but accept those past mistakes as symptoms of the sickness of sin with which you were born, and from which you are being healed by God's grace working in you.

TUESDAY

The lesson asks us to read the list of works of the flesh and then the fruits of the Spirit, so let's read Galatians 5:19-21:

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.

What do you hear?

How is idolatry and witchcraft works of the sinful nature?

What is the sinful nature? It is fear and selfishness, and what is the basis of idolatry and witchcraft? Fear and selfishness, about protecting self, getting for self. Pagan practices always have works, appeasement, attempts of the worshipper to influence, control, pay, bribe, or otherwise direct outcomes. Self does not die in such practices, but the misdeeds may be accounted for.

Look for this in Christianity—are there versions of Christianity which focus on accounting for the bad deeds, presenting offerings to God in order to assuage or propitiate His wrath? Such practices are paganism disguised as Christianity.

What about practices in Christianity where certain incantations must be recited in order to bring the power of the supernatural to bear to get what you want, whether it be healing, or a job, or a promotion etc. There is the belief that if the right words, or right rituals, or right incantations can be stated then God is required to dispense supernatural energy to effect the outcome we want—this is witchcraft.

Why will those who live like this not inherit the kingdom of God?

What is the kingdom of God? Is it primarily a kingdom of possessions, is it the kingdom of fear, of selfishness? Or is God's kingdom primarily defined by its attributes, methods, character? Which is what?

God's kingdom is the kingdom of love, truth and freedom—why won't those who live as described by the works of the flesh above inherit such a kingdom?

Is it because God makes the choice to refuse them? Or, is it because they are unfit to live their and they actually choose death rather than to live in God's kingdom?

WEDNESDAY

Read 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.

What are these? How do we assimilate them?



What is the last fruit listed here? Self-control—what does this mean?

What does this mean in light of certain religious experiences that claim the Spirit of God is present and people lose self-control?

What does this mean for those who pray that they don't want to be in control, so they ask God to take control?

If God has His way in our lives who ends up in control of our lives? We do—God heals us and restores us to His original design such that we are in governance of ourselves. Why? Because only free sentient beings are capable of genuine love and God ultimately is love and wants us to live in a universe where we experience genuine love.

Read first paragraph, “The Ten Commandments...” Can we understand the fullness of God's love by obeying the commandments?

Can the commandments be obeyed in ways that have no love at all?

Can God's law be fully understood written on stone? Why or why not?

God's law is a living law and can be fully understood only in living beings.

What is the highest and fullest revelation of God's law? Jesus!

What about “The idea that love for God and love for our neighbor void the Ten Commandments makes about as much sense as saying that love for nature voids the law of gravity.”

What is the problem with their assertion?

They are comparing a codified written *description* of a design law with an actual design law.

This occurs because they fail to understand the difference between design and imposed law, and fail to understand the purpose of the 10 Commandments.

The lesson is correct that love does not void the 10 Commandments, but what does the law of love do in regard to the commandments?

It puts the commandments in their proper place, which is what? A diagnostic instrument and protective hedge that was added because of our need. The law was not given as a remedy to sin, or a list of behaviors to which we are to conform. The 10 Commandments are not the law upon which life is built, but a codified description of that law specifically written for fallen human beings.



Angels didn't need a code to honor their parents, not commit adultery or warn about how sinful living would genetically alter them and pass down 3 and 4 generations. We fallen humans did.

Thus the Bible teaches:

What shall we say, then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! Indeed I would not have known what sin was except through the law. For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, "Do not covet." Rom 7:7

We know that the law is good if one uses it properly. ⁹We also know that law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious; for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers, ¹⁰for adulterers and perverts, for slave traders and liars and perjurers—and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine ¹¹that conforms to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which he entrusted to me. 1Tim 1:8-11

So, love does not void the law—but when God's design law of love is written again on the heart, its purpose on stone is no longer needed.

Read last paragraph, "The fact that Paul..." Why is love supreme? Because it is the principle upon which life is based!

Read 1Corinthians 13 from *The Remedy*:

¹If I am gifted to speak the language of people and angels but do not have God's love in my heart, I am only making meaningless noise, because I remain terminal and dying.²If I am gifted with prophetic insight and understand all mysteries and knowledge, and if I am trusted to move mountains but do not have God's love in my heart, I am a fraud because I am still dying in sin and am nothing at all.³If I give away all my possessions to the poor and die as a martyr tied to a burning stake but don't have God's love in my heart, I am still unhealed and have gained nothing.

⁴Love is the principle upon which life and health are built to operate, and when active in intelligent beings, love is patient and kind. Love gives in order to bless others and does not envy, boast, or promote self.⁵Love is not intrusive, rude, selfish, irritable, or hot-tempered. And love doesn't hold grudges or keep a record of wrongs.⁶Love takes no pleasure in evil but rejoices with the truth.⁷Love always protects, always heals, always restores, builds up, trusts, hopes, and perseveres.

⁸Love originates in God and therefore will never stop and never fail. But one day, prophecies will cease, talking will be paused, and human knowledge will fade.⁹We are finite—knowing just a part of all truth, and prophecy is just a piece of a greater whole.¹⁰But when God restores the universe to His perfect design of love, all imperfection will disappear.¹¹When I was a child, I talked like a child, bragging about myself; I thought like a child, focusing on the dos and don'ts,



and I reasoned like a child. But when I grew up, I embraced God's kingdom of love and put the childish ways behind me.¹²Our minds are so darkened by selfishness that we see God's kingdom poorly, like a reflection in a cloudy mirror; but when he returns, we shall see perfectly—face to face! Right now I know only part of God's reality; then—I will have all questions answered and fully know the truth, just as God fully knows me.

¹³So these three endure: trust, hope and love; but the greatest of these is love.

THURSDAY

The lesson lists five keys to victory in the Spirit:

- To choose to apply to our lives what the Spirit leads
- To be willing to following where the Spirit leads
- To be reborn with new motives from the Spirit
- To conform our choices, practices and habits to harmonize with the Spirit of love and truth
- To choose to say no to the desire of the selfish nature, i.e. be willing to tolerate negative emotions in order to choose to follow where the Spirit leads

The way the Spirit works is the Spirit enlightens with truth we can comprehend and will convict us of what the right choice on any given subject is, but then the Spirit leaves us free to choose the right or not. When we choose to apply the truth to our lives then we receive divine power sufficient for the task. BUT we don't get the power until we make the choice!

Example of Lot! Lot was willing to leave, but didn't have the power on his own, so the angels provided the power to pull him out of the doomed city where he was emotionally attached.

FRIDAY

Read first paragraph, "The life of the Christian..." Could this describe religious people?

Read and discuss questions 1-3



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Sep 5, 2017: Dr. Jennings' new book *The God-Shaped Heart* will be released by Baker Books.

September 15,16 2017: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the Church in the Valley, Aldergrove, British Columbia, Canada.

September 26-Oct 1, 2017: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the AACC World Conference, Nashville TN, and our ministry will have a booth in the exhibit hall.

October 12-16, 2017: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at Garden Grove SDA church in Garden Grove, CA. This will be a multi-speaker event focusing on the atonement. For more information contact:

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October 27, 28, 2017: Dr. Jennings will speaking at the Arlington SDA church in Arlington, TX. For more information contact: <http://www.arlingtonadventist.com/>

November 17,18, 2017: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the Vallejo Dr. SDA church in California.