



Within - Week 8

Speaker: Pastor Rob King

Introduction

[Reader: Group Leader]

Let's open in prayer. [Leader prays]

The Holy Spirit breathes into our lives and beckons us to be more like Jesus. We then have a decision to make; we can either hear His message and instruction or ignore it, and fight against it. The decision is ours and it requires a keen ear and a soft heart. The Holy Spirit's subtle promptings will always direct us towards God's will. However, sometimes we find ourselves pushing our own agenda, giving into our flesh, and in that moment we turn from God. But, praise be to God that He is always with us and will never forsake us or leave us. We must simply turn back, repent, and keep running the race set-out before us. Oh Holy Spirit come!

Deuteronomy 31:8 ESV

It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed

Here is the opening question:

- What does a Spirit filled life look like?

[Reader: The last person to arrive]

Sanctification

Sanctification is God's will for us (1 Thessalonians 4:3). The word sanctification is related to the word saint; both words have to do with holiness. To "sanctify" something is to set it apart for special use; to "sanctify" a person is to make him holy.

- See the full definition of sanctification at <https://www.gotquestions.org/sanctification.html>.

Watch Video Clip on Sanctification



Read John 3:8

The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.

- How does John 3:8 give insight on how we see the Spirit at work?
- How is the Holy Spirit sanctifying you?

[Reader: Person who drove the farthest]

Read Ephesians 5:18

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

- How does Ephesians 5:18 give insight into being filled with the Spirit?
(Note: "be filled" is a continuous sense, ie: keep being filled)
- How does the example of a sailboat describe the Spirit filled life?

[Watch Video Clip on Sailboat Analogy](#)



The Acts of the Flesh

We are easily moved by our own emotions and deep seated need to control our lives. The spiritual battle is represented when the guidance of the Holy Spirit is up against our overpowering innate need of our flesh. God addresses the spiritual warfare within us in Ephesians 6:11-17. Therefore, in order to overcome the acts of the flesh; we must put on the full armor of God.

- Why do we need the armor of God?
- What do you think the schemes of the devil include?
- What does each piece of the armor represent?
 - Belt of truth:
 - Breastplate of righteousness:
 - Shoes/Gospel of peace:
 - Shield of faith:
 - Helmet of salvation:
 - Sword of the Spirit:

Read Galatians 5:19-21

The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions 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 does the list of the acts of the flesh tell us?
- Can guilt be "good guilt"

- How can you/should you deal with guilt regarding sin?

[Reader: the person with the longest hair]

Fruit of the Spirit

The Fruit of the Spirit flows out of our connection and relationship with Christ. When we are engaged in our spiritual walk and devoted to becoming more like Christ. We begin to exude these characteristics naturally. You cannot force them or act as though you have them. They are a gift from the Holy Spirit within you.

Read Galatians 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

- In contrast, describe a life led by God's Spirit.
- How can you live a life with those characteristics?

[Reader: Person whose legs are crossed or is wearing a colorful shirt.]

Read Romans 8:10-12

But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life. And if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of His Spirit who lives in you. Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation—but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it.

- How does Romans 8:10-12 give us insight into the life God wants us to live?
- How do you deal with the choices you regularly face between following the world versus following God?
- What area(s) is the most difficult for you to make good choices?

[Reader: the person who is wearing glasses or contacts]

Read Galatians 5:13

Life by the Spirit

You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.

- What does Galatians 5:13 teach about freedom?
- From this verse, what is the best indication of the Holy Spirit's presence in a person's life?

- How can you show love more consistently?

Application:

Break into groups of 3 or 4 and discuss what you've learned that was new from this series about the Holy Spirit. How have you grown from these lessons? What has changed within you? What do you want to start doing to better work in tandem with God? If you have a specific area of spiritual battle, share that with your cluster.

Prayer: Pray over one another. Ask God to strengthen you so that you may better hear and that your heart will be soft so that you will follow. Call out to the Holy Spirit and tell him to come fill you, and fill your space.