

8: Spirit Over Self

Accompanies the 2/28/2021 Sermon

BIG IDEA

When the Scriptures call us to Die to Self, they don't call us to try harder or do better but rather surrender more fully to the Spirit and walk by His strength instead of your own.

GETTING STARTED

Use the following questions to break the ice and begin your group discussion together:

- *Talk about something that you have been doing for a long time yet in spite of all your practice or experience you still struggle with? (i.e. communication in marriage, eating right, etc.)*
- *How does this experience parallel with our walk in the Christian life as it relates to battling the flesh?*

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

Read the following Scriptures together and then use the questions below (or any you wish to add) to discuss the text and unpacking its meaning.

 Have someone in your group read **Galatians 5:16-26**.

 **The CONTEXT of Galatians:**

Paul writes Galatians to a group of Christians who were being lured back into a life of rules and regulations, specifically following the Old Testament law, as a means of growing in spiritual maturity. Repeatedly throughout the book Paul reminds them that salvation is by faith, not works; and that maturity, too, (sanctification) can only be found through relying on the Spirit of God instead of our own strength.

- What do you think it means to “walk by the Spirit”? Practically speaking, what might that look like in your day to day activity?

- What are some of the biggest challenges that keep you from keeping in step with the Spirit? (v. 25) How can we better posture ourselves to walk with the Spirit throughout the course of the day and avoid falling back into the flesh?

- Have someone in your group **read Romans 8:26-28** out loud. How does this passage help clarify what we can and should do in order to walk by the Spirit when we are struggling with our flesh? What is the promise of God to us in this passage when we seek to rely on His Spirit?

GETTING PRACTICAL

Discuss the following questions together as a group, giving particular thought to how we are called to live based on what the Scriptures have said.

1. As you think about your own life, what have been some of the things that have helped you 'Die to Self' in the face of sin and temptation? What spiritual practices have helped and what does that look like in a given situation?

2. What is one of the biggest challenges you face when it comes to this idea of 'walking by the Spirit' vs. walking in the flesh?

3. As you read the New Testament you quickly realize how important the Holy Spirit is to our daily walk with God. Knowing that, why is it that so many in the Christian community are uncomfortable talking about the Spirit? How can we make these conversations less uncomfortable for those who may be new to the faith?