

Gal 5:16-24
The Effect of the Holy Spirit

Why must we talk about sin? Because sin is the condition of every human being after the fall of man in the garden. Sin, which results in a natural separation of humans from God, must be dealt with. Humans must be rescued from the grips of sin for sin permeates every facet of our humanity, making it impossible for us by our own means to free ourselves from its dominion. And once rescued from sin, it must be held at bay for sin is relentless. God has accomplished the aforementioned by sending His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross and raising him the dead, and second, by sending his Holy Spirit to all believers. If Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life, and he is, the Holy Spirit is the keeper of the way, truth and the life.

Eph 1:13-14 “¹³In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

I say all this to continue to press upon our hearts the absolute necessity of God’s Holy Spirit and the Spirit’s work in the church and hearts of believers. Today, I want us to consider the effect of the Holy Spirit in the life of each believer. God cannot possibly dwell in us by His Holy Spirit and there be no impact on us. So, drawing from the text three observations regarding the effect of the Holy Spirit.

First observation, the Holy Spirit keeps us upright. V5 When we walk in the Spirit, we avoid the pitfalls of the flesh. As Paul writes

it, “the lust of the flesh”; those things which are to no avail. That only offer, at best, temporary satisfaction and in the end leave us empty and having offended one another and God. Church, there is a war being waged on the inside of each of us and the frontline of this war is the mind. The way we engage in this war is by walking in the Spirit, which is to govern our lives according to the standards of God as revealed in scripture, in the gospel of Jesus Christ. Standards that will never leave us empty in the end or lead to us offending our neighbor, one another, or God. Standards that are brought back to our memory by the Holy Spirit in moments of battle. If we are to walk in the Spirit, we must arm ourselves with God’s word, the gospel of Jesus Christ. The effect of the Holy Spirit in our lives is in direct proportion to, in direct relation to the time we spend in God’s holy word.

John 14:26 “²⁶ But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you.”

Romans 15:13 “¹³ I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.”

1 Tim 3:16-17 “¹⁶ All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. ¹⁷ God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.”

Second observation, the Holy Spirit keeps us out of harm’s way.

V18 Any path traveled other than the path charted by the Holy Spirit places one in the crosshairs of the law of God. And

considering our inability to perfectly keep God's law the end-result will be disastrous. On the other hand, when we yield to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we can rest assured that we are on a path that is blessed and God/Christ honoring. I get the image here of a parent who holds his/her child's hand and leads the child on a safe path as the child follows. I also get the image of that child who resists the guidance of his or her parent by pulling away to chart his or her own path, usually right into harm's way. Resist charting your own path in this life. Yield, surrender, submit to the leading of God's Holy Spirit. The outcome will be glorious now and later.

John 16:13-14 ¹³ "When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

Romans 8:14 ¹⁴ "For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God."

Acts 20:22-23 ²² "And now I am bound by the Spirit to go to Jerusalem. I don't know what awaits me, ²³ except that the Holy Spirit tells me in city after city that jail and suffering lie ahead."

Final observation, yielding to the Holy Spirit produces the abundant life. V19-24 The Holy Spirit produces in us that which glorifies God/Christ in place of that which glorifies the flesh. He produces in us that which gives evidence of abundant life in place of that which produces death. It is critical that we notice the fruit is but one. This fruit produced by the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer brings forth **love**- agape; **joy**- experiencing great pleasure and happiness; **peace**- agreement or harmony

with others; **longsuffering**- patience, slowness in avenging wrongs; **kindness**- the quality of being friendly, generous, and considerate, tolerance towards others; **goodness**- doing that which honors God/Christ/Holy Spirit and benefits others; **faithfulness**- one who can be relied on; **gentleness (meekness)**- a gentle submissiveness to the divine will and mildness towards others; **self-control**- a firm control over one's desires and passions; especially one's sensual appetites. Are we bearing this fruit in our lives? If we have the Holy Spirit, we should be. If not all these now, certainly well on our way.

Romans 8:12-13 “¹²Therefore, dear brothers and sisters, you have no obligation to do what your sinful nature urges you to do.¹³ For if you live by its dictates, you will die. But if through the power of the Spirit you put to death the deeds of your sinful nature, you will live.”

The Holy Spirit keeps us upright, out of harm's way, and produces the abundant life, if we walk according to him. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.