

May 31, 2020
Walking in the Spirit
Pentecost Communion

Scripture reading: Galatians 5:16-25

Text: *“Walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh” (Galatians 5:16).*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We all know and have seen Hollywood action movies. In those movies usually there is a fight between good and evil. We are satisfied when the good wins at the end. The truth, however, is that it does not just happen in the movies, but in the real life, as well. There is a warfare, a battle going on, that we may all experience in our lives, when the flesh is opposed to the Spirit. The Holy Spirit, however, wants to bridle the flesh in order to help us to live an obedient life to God.

Actually, the flesh is open to any sin. One of the greatest lies of our old self is to believe that *“if we judged ourselves, we would not come under judgment” (1Cor.11:31)*. How true it is. Many times, we do not judge ourselves but rather we judge and blame others for our own mistakes and failures. By the way, if we get to that point to judge ourselves then most of the time, we try to find excuses to exempt ourselves from responsibility.

However, if we want to live a life that glorifies God and pleases Him, then the Apostle Paul encourages us to *“live by the Spirit”*. *“To live by”* means to surrender ourselves wholly to the leading of the other person. Many people in this world are led by either the flesh or the Holy Spirit. Which one wins depends on which one they yield to. Therefore, either the flesh or the Spirit wins. There is no middle road. However, the consequence is entirely different based on the decisions we make in life.

We may choose between what we allow in our lives and what not. We still have a say in what we allow. We have free will. God did not make us robots. Do you know anyone or anything in your life that turns you away from Christ and leads you to the wrong pathway? If yes, then you need to make a serious decision to avoid those places, people, images, music, movies, tools, and anything that brings temptation and failure to you. Just think about it, if you mess around with it, you will give into it. If you are in a tempting situation then after a while you cannot resist it. Human will many times is not strong enough to resist evil.

However, the Spirit of God can lead us to and give us victory. In order to live a victorious Christian life, the Lord gives us certain characteristics so we may walk and stay on the right way. The Apostle Paul lists nine *fruit of the Spirit* in his letter to the Galatians.

Have you ever heard that the Holy Spirit produces fruit in your life? The fruit of the Spirit is to be present in the life of every believer, without exception. Just like evil works characterize the lives of the lost, the fruit of the Spirit is proof of one's salvation that that person was redeemed from sin.

So the first, from the *Fruit of the Spirit*, is **love**. The second is **joy**. The third is **peace**. The fourth is **patience**. The fifth one is **kindness**. The sixth one is **goodness**. The seventh is **faithfulness**. **Gentleness** or in other Bible translation **meekness** is the eighth fruit of the Spirit. And the last one is **self-control**.

These nine characteristics are the *Fruit of the Spirit*. I do not know if you noticed it or not, but the word "fruit" is in singular. In the letter to the Galatians we find that they are not fruits (plural), but they are fruit (singular). It points us to that you do not get one and then another, then the third one, and so on and so forth, but all nine characteristics are present in the life of the believer. According to the work of the Spirit in you, all nine must be there in your life.

The Holy Spirit produces the fruit in us to live a fruitful life. It means to live and act to the glory of God, to overcome our old self, to resist temptation, and to enrich the life of others. However, you can only produce fruit if you are in Christ and you yield your will to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

May the Lord Jesus help you that you may walk by the leading power of the Holy Spirit, and you may yield your life to Him so the fruit of the Spirit be present and displayed in your life by the work of Christ Jesus. Amen.

Yours in Christ,
Rt. Rev. Dr. Csaba Krasznai
Pastor