

The Spirit Indeed Is Willing - Part 1

Scripture reading: Matthew 26:41

Some weeks ago, during prayer for some dear brethren, the word came, "*the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak*" - with this came also a much deeper understanding of these words.

Flesh is not only man's body, but man's whole being, including sense and reason when it is destitute of God, because the seat of sin is in the soul.

"Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth He any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of HIS OWN lust, and enticed." James 1:13-14.

God does not tempt man. Romans 8 speaks in absolutely plain language of the MIND OF THE FLESH; how it works contrary to the will of God. Man's only hope of overcoming the flesh is through the Spirit, by which security is provided by God's love. The Spirit gives life in place of death. The Old Testament brethren could not have the magnitude of OVERCOMING grace which we have received, because a set of laws or legal codes could not bring righteousness; only a life controlled by the Spirit, on the basis of THAT NEW LAW WRITTEN NOT ON TABLES OF STONE, but ON THE HEART, could produce such qualities in us as peace, joy, hope and love.

The flesh is constantly at war with the Spirit. The desires of the flesh are ever present, but the provision for overcoming is through the Spirit, therefore, the following seven steps are absolutely necessary to the overcomer.

1. The believer should, at some time after accepting Jesus as Saviour, receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.
2. The believer should be aware of the Holy Spirit as being a part of the Godhead.
3. The believer should want to be no longer in charge of his own life, but desire the Life of Christ to be lived out in him.
4. Be sensitive to the voice of the Spirit. (He is always speaking, but we are not always listening.)
5. Be exercised in the operations of the Spirit through obedience.
6. Most important - be willing and ready to submit to the chastening and cleansing of the Spirit as He makes known deep-hidden or simple-surface weaknesses - because "*He will **not** always chide.*"
7. Bear in mind, that when we come together in worship, the move of the Spirit in the midst is different than in any other place - prophecies and all the gifts of the Spirit can be practiced, and the believer has the type of growth that is necessary to his overall spiritual advancement.

THE CARNAL MIND: The carnal mind is that which is not under the control of the Holy Spirit. Because of this, it can conceive and bring forth evil, since Satan is the prince of evil.

There are some innocent desires (might not be evil) which can eventually become the occasion of sin. The CARNAL MIND cannot please God.

Scripture states:

"Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry." Colossians 3:5.

We should see to it that these members of ours do not resist the restraint of Divine Law. Human life, therefore, would be brought under subjection to the purpose for which it was ordained.

God made man to live in beauty and strength according to His Divine laws. Sin made an inroad and left a roadway. Man was defiled. God in His plan of restoration has to redeem man spirit, soul and body, but this cannot be achieved without the willingness and total submission to God's Divine plan. As the Spirit is allowed to work in the inward parts, He is able to turn bitterness to sweetness, rage to peace, hate and animosity to love, rough to smooth, sorrow to joy and heaviness to praise, delivering the soul from envy, jealousy, malice (and) pride, causing a true spirit to pervade which can stand the LIGHT OF HIS COUNTENANCE.

So many times, it seems easier to give way to the flesh in anger, malice, strife, hatred, (and) mistrust of the brethren, or on the other hand deceiving the brethren, giving false witness, using a false balance and others too many to mention (whatsoever does not edify the individual or the Body of Christ, or glorify Jesus is not of God). Some things are seen out in the open - others are not very obvious; then some left only to the honesty of one's conscience before God; "To thine own self be true." (Shakespeare). Trust and be trusted.

(Excerpt from *Nuggets for the Needy*, 1997, pages 69-71)

Thought for today: The desires of the flesh are ever present, but the provision for overcoming is through the Spirit.