**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | How to Have a Spirit-Controlled Life |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Galatians 5:13-23 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #1450 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. Many of us have lives that are out of control.
      1. A lot of us are out of control and don’t even know it.
      2. To be out of control is what the Bible describes as the “works of the flesh.”
      3. Either the flesh or the Spirit will control our lives.
   2. Galatians 5:19-21
      1. When the Bible says “the flesh”, it does not mean hide, hair, skin, or bones.
      2. The “flesh” is the old nature that we get from our parents.
         1. They got it from their parents, and they from theirs.
            1. It goes all the way back to Adam.
         2. It is the part of our nature that craves something that is wrong.
      3. The word “adultery” means “sexual union with anyone other than your marriage partner.”
         1. Someone who is living a life of adultery is controlled by the flesh and is out of control.
      4. “Fornication” means “any sexual activity before marriage.”
         1. The Bible teaches pre-marital chastity and marriage fidelity.
         2. Anyone who lives a life of fornication is living a life of the flesh and a life out of control.
      5. “Uncleanness” has the idea of wrong thoughts.
         1. It deals with thoughts that are impure.
         2. A person who reads pornography and who entertains himself with licentious literature or movies is living a life of uncleanness.
            1. It is the life of the flesh and a life out of control.
      6. “Lasciviousness” literally means “a lack of restraint.”
         1. It is what we call sensuality or living by the senses.
         2. It may be overeating or having an inordinate desire for comfort or laziness.
         3. It means letting your five senses dictate what you do.
      7. “Idolatry” is mentioned.
         1. An idol is anything more important to us than God.
            1. Anything we love, fear, or serve more than God is an idol.
            2. This could be business, family, recreation, or hobbies.
         2. If we’re living a life of idolatry, then we have a life controlled by the flesh.
      8. The word “witchcraft” is sometimes translated “sorcery.”
         1. It comes from a Greek word that has to do with the use of drugs.
            1. This refers to recreational drugs; an instant heaven that leads to everlasting Hell.
         2. Sorcery and drug use are linked together.
      9. “Hatred” is mentioned.
         1. Are you nursing a grudge?
         2. Do you carry around hatred in your heart?
         3. If we have bitterness in our hearts toward another person, then our lives are out of control and in the control of the flesh.
      10. “Variance” is the idea of divisions.
          1. It has the idea of strife.
             1. Some people love to start arguments.
             2. They cannot get along with anyone.
      11. The word “emulations” literally means “jealousy.”
          1. Jealousy is rooted in selfishness.
      12. “Wrath” is a desire for revenge; a burning desire to get even.
          1. When we get even, that is just what we do.
             1. We come down to their level.
      13. The word “strife” means “factions.”
          1. It is a spirit that divides.
          2. These people of the flesh are those who split churches, homes, neighborhoods, and communities.
      14. The word “sedition” literally means “to stand apart.”
          1. There are people who separate themselves into clicks.
             1. They think that they are better than other people.
             2. Sometimes they belong to cults.
      15. “Heresies” are false doctrines.
          1. People do not adhere to the Word of God because they are controlled by the flesh rather than by the Spirit.
      16. Then, the Apostle Paul mentions “envyings.”
          1. An envious person is a person who is dissatisfied with what he has.
             1. He has a spirit of covetousness.
             2. He does not have a spirit of thanksgiving.
             3. It is not primarily just wanting more, but it is wanting what somebody else has.
      17. Then, Paul mentions “murderers.”
          1. Jesus said that if we hate our brother, then in God’s eyes, we are guilty of murder.
      18. “Drunkenness” is a mind that has been desensitized.
          1. There is an impairment of judgment caused by the use of alcohol, drugs, or something else.
      19. “Revelings” are the people who are always saying, “Let’s party.”
          1. They are trying to kill and stultify their conscience.
          2. They are trying to escape reality by constant indulgence in entertainment.
             1. They cannot think a serious thought.
          3. Another word for “revelings” is “carousing.”
      20. Paul goes on to say, “And such like…”
          1. He lists seventeen things, but this is not a complete list.
      21. All of these are signs of a life that is not Spirit-controlled, but a life that is out of control.
          1. The result is wasted time, weakened bodies, warped thinking, and wretched lives.
   3. Galatians 5:22-23
      1. Notice the word “but.”
         1. On one hand there are the works of the flesh, and on the other hand there are the fruits of the Spirit.
      2. The word “temperance” means “control.”
         1. It is sometimes translated “self-control.”
            1. It can be translated “Spirit-control.”
         2. It literally means “to be in control.”
   4. Today’s message will discuss how to live a Spirit-controlled life.
2. the standard for the spirit-controlled life (galatians 5:13-14)
   1. The standard is the law of God.
   2. Galatians 5:13-14
      1. Don’t let the flesh have its fling just because you’ve been called to liberty.
      2. If you want to know if you are living a life that meets God’s standard, then ask yourself if you love others as you love yourself.
      3. The standard for the Spirit-controlled life is the law, and the measurement of this is love.
   3. There are three relationships that we can take toward the law of God.
      1. Some people see the law as their enemy.
         1. The flesh does not want anything to do with any kind of law.
            1. The flesh wants to do its own thing.
         2. This is called license.
         3. Rivers and men get crooked by following the path of least resistance.
      2. Some people see the law as their master.
         1. Paul preaches against this.
         2. Some are trying to live under the law, and they are struggling and failing.
            1. This is called legalism.
            2. Their lives become a big list of don’ts.

10,000 don’ts will not make us more like Jesus.

* + - 1. The Christian life is not a legal relationship.
         1. It is a love relationship.
         2. Mark 12:31
      2. Some of us are living lives of negativism.
         1. Don’t do this, and don’t do that.
      3. Galatians 5:1
         1. “The yoke of bondage” is sometimes translated as “the yoke of self-effort.”
    1. Liberty is seeing the law, not as our enemy or as our master, but as our friend.
       1. The Bible says that we have been called to liberty.
          1. Galatians 5:13
          2. Galatians 5:1
       2. Liberty is not doing our own thing.
          1. No one is truly free or liberated until he knows control.
       3. Psalm 119:54
          1. On the back of every law is a song.
       4. When the Bible says that we have a life of liberty, it means that by being controlled by the Spirit, we are free.
          1. Discipline does not restrict us; it frees us.
          2. We bring that control and discipline into our lives by liberty.

It is not by license or legalism, but by liberty.

By the Spirit of God, we will be made free.

1. the strength to live the spirit-controlled life (galatians 5:16-18)
   1. We need the strength to live the Spirit-controlled life.
   2. Galatians 5:16-17
      1. Strength comes from walking in the Spirit.
      2. In this passage, the word “lust” means “has strong desires.”
      3. There is a part of our nature called the “flesh” and a part of our nature (of someone who is saved) called the “Spirit.”
         1. These two are struggling against each other.
            1. The old flesh wants to be in control.
            2. The Holy Spirit and the human spirit want to live for God.
      4. In ourselves, we do not have what it takes to do the things that we should do.
         1. We cannot do it by self-effort.
         2. Galatians 5:16
            1. He does not say, “Don’t fulfill the lust of the flesh, and then you’ll be walking in the Spirit.”

That is backwards, and that is legalism.

* + 1. We do not become more like Jesus by doing all of these particular things.
    2. Holiness is not the way to Christ.
       1. Christ is the way to holiness.
          1. Paul does not say that if we do not walk in the flesh, then we will be in the Spirit.
          2. He says that if we walk in the Spirit, then we will not fulfill the lust of the flesh.
  1. Where do we get this strength?
     1. Galatians 5:18
        1. “Be led by the Spirit” means “to be willingly led of the Spirit.”
           1. There must come a time when we are willingly led of the Holy Spirit.
           2. To be led of the Spirit is to walk in the Spirit.

This is an act of our will.

* 1. The Spirit-controlled life is like walking.
     1. The commencement of the walk:
        1. A journey begins with one step.
           1. If we are going to walk, then we have to decide to walk.
        2. The commencement of the walk is an act of our will.
           1. The Spirit-controlled life is not lived by will power, but we enter it by an act of our will.
        3. It is not lived by will power; it is lived by the power of the Holy Spirit.
           1. But we must choose to be led of the Spirit.

Galatians 5:18

No one can choose for us.

* + - 1. Ephesians 5:18
         1. This is not only for contrast but for comparison, because being filled with the Spirit is a lot like getting drunk with wine.

A person must decide to drink.

Once he decides to drink, then the liquor takes over.

He is under the control of the liquor.

By an act of will, we decide that we are going to be led of the Spirit.

The Holy Spirit takes over, and we are filled with the Spirit of God.

* + 1. The circumference of the walk:
       1. Galatians 5:16
          1. This doesn’t say, “Walk with the Spirit,” or “Walk after the Spirit.”

It says, “Walk in the Spirit.”

* + - 1. We are to stay in the Spirit.
         1. The Holy Spirit of God is to be the element in which we walk.
         2. The Holy Spirit of God is the environment of our lives.
         3. The flesh says that outside of the Spirit, there are certain pleasures that we need that will make us happy.

A person who has a Spirit-controlled life has come to the settled conclusion that there is nothing worth having outside of Jesus.

If we do not come to this conclusion, then we will never live a victorious life.

* + - 1. We have to walk in the Spirit.
      2. All things need to be in the context of the Holy Spirit of God leading and directing our lives.
      3. The Bible says that we are to let the peace of God referee in our hearts.
         1. Colossians 3:15

In this verse, the word for “rule” is the word from which we get the word “umpire”.

* + - * 1. If we step out of bounds, then the Holy Spirit tells us that we are out of bounds.

We repent and step back in.

That is a Spirit-controlled life.

* + 1. The continuance of the walk:
       1. Galatians 5:16
          1. The Greek verb that says, “Walk in the Spirit,” means “to keep walking.”
       2. Walking is a series of steps that begins with a decision but does not end there.
       3. The Spirt-controlled life is a crisis where we say, “I will.”
          1. But it is a crisis that is followed by a process, a step at a time.

We keep on walking.

* + - 1. Colossians 2:6 is a major verse to living the Spirit-controlled life.
         1. We receive the Lord Jesus by repentance and faith.

We are to live the victorious life the same way we got it, by repentance and faith.

* + - 1. A walk is one step at a time.
         1. It takes two feet to walk.
         2. When we walk, we are off-balance and will fall if we do not take another step.

We take one step, and then the other step is necessary.

* + - 1. The two feet of the Christian faith are repentance and faith.
         1. Repentance and faith are not just something that we do in order to be saved.
         2. This is the way we live the Spirit-controlled life.

Colossians 2:6

* + - 1. How do we walk?
         1. We put down the foot of repentance, and then we put down the foot of faith.

Repentance is God’s way of revealing ourselves to us.

Faith is God’s way of revealing Jesus to us.

Repentance is where we see the bankruptcy of us.

Faith is where we see the glory of Him.

* + - * 1. When we are saved, we give all we know of us to all we know of Him.
        2. As we walk in Him:

We learn more about ourselves.

We learn more that we need to repent of.

We learn more about Him.

We get more to trust.

* + - 1. Sometimes a person may think that if they are saved, then they would not have a great conviction of sin.
         1. We have a conviction of sin because we are saved and because we are learning more about us and more about the Lord Jesus.

It is not a sign that we are not saved.

It is simply a sign that we are understanding what it is all about.

* + - 1. We turn from self, and we turn to Him.
         1. We realize that we are not in control.
         2. God is in control through the Holy Spirit of God.
         3. The flesh has been put out of business, and we are growing in the Lord Jesus.

1. the satisfaction of the spirit-controlled life (galatians 5:22-23)
   1. The devil tries to tell us that we don’t want to live this way.
      1. But this is the only satisfactory life.
      2. Paul calls it “fruit.”
         1. Fruit is luscious, beautiful, fragrant; but most of all, it is satisfying.
   2. Fruit is to be consumed.
      1. It meets our basic hunger.
         1. We have a hunger for the Lord.
            1. That hunger will never be satisfied apart from the Lord Jesus.
   3. What a joy it is for a life to be controlled by the Spirit rather than controlled by the flesh.
2. CONCLUSION
   1. The flesh and the Spirit are warring within you, and it is up to you.
      1. You can live a life of license and see the law as your enemy.
      2. You can live a life of legalism and see the law as your master.
      3. Or, you can live a life of liberty and see the law as your friend and the Holy Spirit as your strength.
   2. Make the decision to be willingly led by the Spirit.
      1. Let the Spirit draw the parameters of your life, and find everything in Jesus Christ.
      2. Walk one step at a time by repentance and faith through this life.
      3. God will give you liberty.
         1. Galatians 5:1
         2. Stand fast in the liberty wherewith Christ has made you free.
   3. Don’t think of discipline as restricting you.
      1. No one is ever more free than a person who is living the life of control by the Holy Spirit of God.
   4. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   5. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31
      5. John 3:16