

DISCUSSION IDEAS
WALK IN THE SPIRIT PART 2

Galatians 5:13-26

November 20th, 2016

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IF WE WALK IN THE SPIRIT, HE WILL FILL OUR CHURCH WITH HIS FRUIT.

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT ONE: WHAT IS A CHURCH?**

We think about the Holy Spirit living in us ... meaning in ME.

Look at two of the numerous verses about His indwelling: Romans 8:9 and Galatians 4:6.

Do you realize that the Scriptures always refer to His indwelling as being in "you"-plural?

Yes He does indwell each of us, individually, BUT all references to this are in the context of the whole Body of Christ!

So, what (who) is the Body of Christ?

How does the presence of the Holy Spirit in each believer affect every other believer?

Read through Gal. 5:13-26 with this in mind.

How is YOUR walk with God of major importance to your brother or sister's walk with God?

What will God's Spirit bring to any local group of believers (a "church") if we allow Him to? Find the answers in Gal. 5:22-26.

Thought: If this is true, then what is a church where those who attend just show up on Sundays, say "Hi" with a smile, listen to the service, and then go home?

What must Jesus feel about that?

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT TWO: THE HOLY SPIRIT IS WITH ME EVERY MOMENT OF EVERY DAY**

EVERY moment?

What about when I disobey Him?

What about when I get depressed?

What about when I feel unloved?

Look again at Romans 8:9-10 and Galatians 4:6-7.

Compare Eph. 1:13-14 to that.

How is the presence of God's Spirit in our lives NOT a feeling, but a fact?

How does this fact affect my way of dealing with problems in life?

Also, how does knowing that I am part of the larger Body of Christ affect my outlook?

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♦ **DISCUSSION POINT THREE: THE HOLY SPIRIT AND GOD'S WORD**

Do you ever start to think, "The Bible is so complicated. I can never really understand it."?

Read 1 Corinthians 2:6–16. Who is this amazing gift that God has given to us?

Read Colossians 3:12-17 and then Ephesians 5:15-21.

Now go back and compare Col. 3:16 compare Eph. 5:17-21.

How are the statements, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly" and "be filled with the Spirit" related to each other?

WHO is our teacher?

WHO is our motivator?

WHO never, ever, will be unavailable to us?

♦ **FOR MEDITATION: Spend some time pondering the following:**

... the Holy Spirit is with me every moment of every day

... the Holy Spirit is helping me think about life the way Jesus thinks about life

... the more of God's word I take in the more renewing and guiding the Spirit can do

Note the wording in Gal. 5:16.

Does that say that, when we walk in the Spirit, we will not feel the desires of the flesh any more?

Or does it say that we will not act out, fulfill, those desires?

Note that the word "lusts" in the KVJ and New KJV is not a particularly accurate translation. As you can see from other translations, the word is "desires" and that covers a lot more than just "lusts".

How will letting other believers into my life help me understand God's Word and be obedient to the Holy Spirit?

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♦ **FOR PRAYER:**

Continue to uphold the Shelter Valley believers, and the GCC team that serves there. Pray for continued growth in understanding among those who attend about God's Plan and what it really means to follow Him.

Pray for the new home groups starting up soon, especially the leaders.

Let's continue to pray for the Lord's love and power to be seen in Barangonan Island.

Thank God for the encouragement for Benders and Ingvaldstads as the Cuyunan church grows. Ask God for protection from injuries and from sickness.

Pray for the men who are growing in Christ and taking on greater responsibilities on Barangonan Island.

Praise and continued prayer: Continue to uphold the Tagbanwa believers who go to a neighboring island every Friday to teach about God. Pray too for the hearers to respond.

"Continue to pray for them as there continues to be a solid group listening and interacting with God's Word. We often get to go, and its exciting to see `the body' in action.

"Not only are there teachers, but others go to support and engage this new group who is hearing. If you can believe it, there are even some who catch fish for the families who go so they won't miss a meal!

"Continue to pray for strength and endurance for those who go, as well as understanding for those who hear."

Conrad Binder writes: "15 people decided to make a public statement of their 'oneness with Christ', by being baptized. Through baptism they expressed that they had died to their old ways, and that the new life they live, is because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. We heard some very encouraging testimonies on what Jesus Christ did in their lives. Gary came to know Jesus Christ through the teaching in Balo-balo, he said "What kind of faith is that, if we don't have the courage to make it known publicly through baptism".

"The most exciting part of our ministry here, is seeing Jesus Christ become visible in their daily life in their decision-making, and in their testimonies."

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Thank God and uphold in prayer the "TFG" (Time For God) group of children and young folks who meet every day!

Pray with the strong, self-motivated women's group as they study God's Word and grow to be mature believers.