

Wheelersburg Baptist Church 12/05/12 Wednesday evening
"Let the Wind Blow: A Doctrinal Study of the Person and Work of the Holy Spirit"
part 6

Outline of Study of the Holy Spirit

- I. The Person of the Holy Spirit
 - A. Who is He?
 - B. What is He like? (His attributes)
- II. The Ministry of the Holy Spirit
 - A. The ministry of the Holy Spirit in the Church
 - 1. In Worship (Jn 4:23-24)
 - 2. In Unity (Eph 4)
 - 3. In mobilizing for outreach ("filling")
 - B. The ministry of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Christian
 - 1. In salvation (regeneration--John 3) (baptism--I Cor 12:13)
 - 2. Fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-23)
 - 3. Filling of the Spirit (Eph 5:18)
 - 4. Sanctification (II Cor 3:18)
 - 5. Sets free from Habits (Eph 4-5)
 - C. The ministry of the Holy Spirit in the World
 - 1. Convicting of sin (John 16)
 - 2. Restraining (II Thes 1)

Current Series: "Let the Wind Blow: The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit"

We've been learning about the ministry of the Spirit, namely what He does in the life of the Christian. Last week, we explored the topic of "The Fruit of the Spirit" in Gal 5.

Challenge: It's possible to experience these nine virtues! We CAN change. The Holy Spirit is the "change agent." But how does He do it?

Tonight: "The Spirit's Power over Destructive Habits" (Eph 4-5).

What we're going to learn tonight is lifechanging. Lots of sincere Christians are paralyzed by destructive habits and patters. How does the Holy Spirit set us free from sinful habits? Eph 4-5 is a "how to" passage.

Q: Acc. to 4:17, what is God concerned about in our lives? "Our walk"
How we live matters to Him. There is to be a difference between the way we live and the "Gentiles" (non-Christian world) live.

Q: How does the non-Christian world live, acc to v 19? "Given over to lasciviousness" (NIV "sensuality"). They live to gratify their "senses."

Q: What or Who determines how we live, according to 4:20? Christ

Q: What can we assume about the Ephesian church from 4:21? When the Ephesian Christians came to Christ, someone disciplined them. They were taught HOW to live for Christ.

Q: What had they been taught to do, according to 4:22-23? "Put off...Put on"

This is a clothing metaphor. To "put off" means "to lay aside, rid oneself, put away."

Q: What are we to "put off"? V 22 "The old man"

What's that?

--not the same thing as the "inner man" (in Rom 7)

--not referring to "natures" here, not something within us

--the old way of life; the old lifestyle; Paul is thinking of categories here.

There's the old life (that's the way we lived before Christ). There's the new life. So the command is clear, "Get rid of the old lifestyle."

That's hard! How do we do it? How can we live a pure life? It involves a daily choice. Just like I choose what wardrobe I will wear every day, so I must choose what "spiritual wardrobe" I will wear.

Instructions for overcoming Destructive Habits:

1. It is not optional.
2. It is possible, not on our own strength, but by the Holy Spirit.
3. The goal is to be like Christ (4:20).
4. It involves specific, continual, daily choices (Put off, put on).
5. It's not enough merely to "put off the old."
6. We must "put on the new."

Key: According to Ephesians 4:25-5:5, there are six areas that I must yield to Christ every day.

| <u>Areas:</u> | <u>Put Off</u> | <u>Put On</u> |
|---------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Our Speech (25) | Lying | Truth |
| Our Emotions (26-27) | Unchecked Anger | Righteous Indignation |
| Our Possessions (28) | Stealing | Working & Sharing |
| Our Mouths (29) | Unwholesome Talk | Edifying Talk |
| Our Relationships (30-32) | Bitterness, etc. | Kindness |
| Our Morality (5:1-5) | Sexual sin | Thanksgiving |

Let's examine a few of the areas more closely.

Q: When is a liar no longer a liar, acc. to v 25?

When he stops lying? No. When he starts being a truth-teller. When he replaces his old pattern of speech with a new pattern of speech.

Q: Look at 4:28. When is a thief no longer a thief?

When he stops stealing? No. When he stops stealing, starts working, and begins sharing with someone else in need. When he is stealing, he is saying, "What's yours in mine. If I want it, I'll take it." When he starts sharing, he is saying, "What's mine is yours. If you need it, you can have it." He's come full circle. His pattern of sin is broken.

Q: Look at v 29. When does a person who has trouble controlling his tongue have victory? When he learns to keep his mouth shut? No. When he replaces destructive talk with wholesome talk.

Q: If a person struggles with sexual impurity, what must he do, according to 5:4? He must replace sexual impurity with what? Thanksgiving.

Q: Why is "thanksgiving" the replacement for sexual impure behavior?

When I am thankful, I am saying, "Thank You God for the gifts you have given us. I appreciate them. I appreciate the gift of sex, as You have designed it. You have created sexuality to function within the bounds of a loving marriage relationship. Thank You for it. I reject Satan's counterfeit, perversions of sex (pornography, illicit sexual relations, etc)."

What practical steps must I take to experience victory over sinful habits?

1. Make a chart of Eph 4-5. List the categories.
2. Pray through the list each day.
3. Ask God to help you put off the vice, and put on the virtue.
4. Express your dependence on the enablement of the Holy Spirit.