

## “Our Greatest Problem Solved” Galatians 5:16-23

The greatest problem that believers face in life: we know what we ought to do, but we don't do it. We know what's right, what's good for us, what God expects of us as His children. Yet so often we fall short. In fact, if left to our own resources, we will always fall short because we are still sinners by nature; we are still powerless to overcome the sinful leading of our flesh. But thank God that He has not left us alone in this struggle! He's given us His Almighty Spirit who can overcome the desires of our flesh and produce righteous actions and attitudes in our lives. But we must choose to cooperate. We must walk in His power and presence through faith, obedience, and practice.

### **Our Greatest Problem**

We know what we ought to do but we don't do it.

- Spend daily time with the Lord
- Share the gospel
- Sacrificially serve others
- Walk in purity
- Be joyful, thankful, content
- Love others (5:13)

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

### **Why We Fail**

- The “flesh” (5:13)
  - our sinful, fallen human nature
  - the works of the flesh (5:19-21)

Romans 7:18-19

For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.

- the result: loss of inheritance

Revelation 2:26

"He who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations"

## **The Only Solution**

- The Holy Spirit (5:16-18)
  - His "fruit/harvest" (5:22-23)
  - includes both actions & motives

Philippians 2:13

for it is God who is at work in you, both to will ("*to wish, desire*") and to work ("*to do*") for His good pleasure.

- result: v23b - no need for law

## **How He Works**

- He works through struggle (v17)
  - struggle is evidence of the Spirit!!
- He requires our participation
  - v16: "walk by the Spirit"
  - v18: "led by the Spirit"
  - v25: "keep in step with the Spirit"

## **Our Part**

- Believe: Don't give up the fight
- Obey: Don't quench His power
- Prioritize: Don't crowd Him out of your life
  - pray, read, study, memorize, worship, fast, be silent and still...