

Victory in Your Spiritual Battles Galatians 5:16-21

We must acknowledge the spiritual battle we are in. Galatians 5:16-17

"But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please."

- **The desires of your flesh are in opposition to the desires of the Holy Spirit so you do not do what is right.** Romans 7:18-20
 - Your flesh is born in sin. Psalm 51:5
 - Your flesh will grow in sin. Titus 3:3
- **You can experience a new spiritual birth by the Spirit so He will give you victory over your flesh.** Galatians 5:16, 18
"But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh...But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law."
Titus 3:4-7 · 2 Peter 1:4 · 1 Corinthians 12:13
 - Walk by the Spirit
 - Be led by the Spirit
(See Digging Deeper on the back for practical ways to be led by the Spirit and overcome the following areas of attack.)

We need to identify and turn from the specific attacks in our life. Galatians 5:19-21

Sexual attacks:

- **Immorality:** all illicit sexual relationships.
- **Impurity:** broad term for immoral sex in thought, deed and word.
- **Sensuality:** shameless brazen display of sexual sins.
2 Peter 2:6-7

Religious attacks:

- **Idolatry:** replacing Christ and His values with materialism and temporal values.
- **Sorcery:** use of false stimulants like drugs for spiritual gains.
"pharmakeia"

Relational attacks:

- **Enmities:** hatred toward others.
- **Strife:** the result of enmities is a quarrelsome argumentative behavior.
- **Jealousy:** selfish resentment against another person.
- **Outbursts of anger:** consequence of failure in preceding sins.
- **Disputes:** self-effort to create factions/divisions in the church.
- **Dissensions:** when you stand apart from another causing division. Romans 16:17
- **Factions:** when you follow your own opinion or rumor and divide people. "heresy"
- **Envy:** displeasure when people prosper more than you.
- **Drunkenness:** excessive use of alcohol, anything over .08%
- **Carousing:** disruptive behavior from drunkenness.

Warning: *"I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God."* Galatians 5:21

- **Find Hope:** Everyone can change. 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

Digging Deeper

Galatians is now addressing some of the deep needs of any Christian's life by exposing the desires and deeds of our sinful flesh and its opposition to the Holy Spirit. While the battle can be difficult, we have great power "walking by the Spirit" and being "led by the Spirit" to overcome the areas of attack as Paul listed them in Galatians 5:19-21. Each of those areas will be replaced by the "fruit of the Spirit" found in Galatians 5:22-24 if we are led by the Spirit.

LifeGroup Discussion

Privately, read through the list of fleshly sins in Galatians 5:19-21. Do you recognize any of these areas as battle lines in your life? Are you being tempted in any of these areas and struggling to overcome them?

The following steps can help you "walk by the Spirit" and be "led by the Spirit" to overcome all sin. Look up each passage and discuss what it means and how it can help you overcome the opposition to your flesh.

- 1. Confess any sin that may grieve or quench the Holy Spirit's work in your life.** Ephesians 4:30 · 1 Thessalonians 5:19
How do you feel when another offends or hurts you to cause grief in your life?
Does that help you understand the idea of grieving the Holy Spirit?
- 2. Read, reflect and apply the Bible.** Colossians 3:16 · 2 Timothy 3:15-17
What happens when the Word of Christ dwells in you?
How are the Scriptures profitable and what will they do for you as you learn them?
- 3. Grow intimate with and learn about Jesus.** Romans 13:14 · Hebrews 12:1-3 · 2 Peter 1:2-4
In Hebrews 12:1-3, what do you need to lay aside?
What should you focus on instead?
- 4. Faithfully connect with the community of Christ for encouragement and accountability.** Hebrews 10:23-25
Community with Christians is important. How will they help your spiritual growth in Hebrews 10:23-25?

Next Steps

- 1. Serve our Lord by serving others at VBS this coming week.**
At Fun Factory VBS (Vacation Bible School), July 24 - 28 at 9:00 am - 12:30 pm, kids discover not only that God made them the way they are, but for a purpose too. It's rare to be able to offer such a great VBS for free. One distinction with Calvary Church's VBS is that it has always been free and will always be, but that is only because of great people like you. Register to volunteer at calvarylife.org/vbs
- 2. Find a discipleship mentor.** Discipleship is the lifelong process of accepting God's invitation to grow up – to mature and become like Jesus. Calvary offers opportunities to be mentored by another Christian, or to become a mentor for others. To learn more, visit calvarylife.org/mentor
- 3. Attend Celebrate Recovery on Wednesday nights to find victory in your sins.** Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered twelve-step program and a ministry of Calvary Church of Santa Ana. We are a safe haven where people who are hurting can experience hope and healing in a Christian community. Learn more at calvarylife.org/cr



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