

“The Danger of Refusing to Surrender to the Spirit”: Acts of the Flesh
Galatians chapter 5:13-21

“True surrender is not simply of our external life but surrender of our Will—and once that is done, surrender is complete. The greatest crisis we ever face is the surrender of our Will. Yet God never forces a people into surrender. He does not beg. He patiently waits until that person willingly yields to Him.... And once this is done, the remainder of your life will exhibit nothing but the evidence of this surrender, you never need to be concerned again with what the future may hold for you. Whatever your circumstances may be, Jesus is totally sufficient.” (My Utmost for His Highest Oswald Chambers)

Throughout the book of Galatians, Paul has been talking about the significance of the grace of God given to Gentile believers. Paul argues that God’s Grace was sufficient for their soul salvation without needing human action to seal the deal. However, in chapter 5, Paul argues that God’s Grace was a gift given to gentile believers to free them from wasting time engaging in empty rituals that had no impact on whether they were right before God or not. However, the freedom given by the grace of God was not to be misunderstood as a pass from spiritual accountability. The Grace of God afforded you the freedom, space, and time to surrender your Will, choose His Will, and through growth in the Spirit, gain ultimate freedom from the power over Sinful Desires. But Grace should not be taken as a free pass to remain in bondage. “You, my brothers and sisters were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the Flesh, rather serve one another in love.... So I say walk by the Spirit and you will not gratify the desires of the Flesh.” Verse 13, 16

The overall goal of the grace of God is that we eventually decide to surrender our desire to please ourselves (our Will) through intentionally choosing to walk in continual step with the Spirit, being guided by the Spirit, so we will have the power to say no to our fleshly self-desires and yes to the Spirit’s plans for our lives. The result of all of this is bearing Fruit that serves the mission of Christ, which impacts others in the fruit of love.

Paul outlines in verses 19- 21 four types of fleshly desires we can fall subject to when we choose not to Surrender to the Spirit but to Flesh.

1. Desires to Give into Bodily Pleasures

- Sexual immorality (Porneia) scriptural ex: 1 cor 6:18
-repetitive, loveless, cheap, sex Giving of my Body to Things and People that do not lead to God’s purposeful connections. Devaluing of the body for sexual gratification. Interestingly, he says to walk in the Spirit so that you do not gratify or satisfy the desires of the Flesh. Amazingly, the first way he describes gratifying the Flesh is through lust, but more importantly, the result of lust is the devaluing position we place on our bodies, the temples of the Lord.
1st Corinthians 6:19-20

Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; You were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your bodies.

What lustful actions do we engage in today that do not honor God's temple?

- Impurity and wickedness: scriptural ex: Romans 6:19

This desire centers around external sources that contaminate the inside of our souls and hearts. Placing things in my body through what I see and listen to that results in a stinking accumulation of mental, emotional, spiritual garbage. What I put in my body that makes me wicked.

Jesus said what defiles man is, yes, what comes out, but what comes out is a result of what I allow to come in.

What do I expose my body to that contaminates my mind, Spirit, and life?

2. Desires that honor other Powers Over God

- **worshiping false gods:** frenzied and joyless grabs for happiness; trinket gods; Prioritizing something else over God, who should be first over everything else.

What in my life recently have I placed over God as an idol? Do I know I placed it over God as an idol?

Things we place over God:

Family, obligations, self-desires, plans, spouses, money, etc.

Name yours?

- **Witchcraft: magic-show religion.**

Strong dependency on other power sources other than God. Comparison of Moses vs Pharaoh magicians. Elijah Vs. the Temple Magic prophets. The idea of magic and witchcraft are the human indulging in other things to gain God-like affects. We will soon realize nothing is like God.

We don't need magic. We have God. We don't need the lottery. We have God. We don't need other sources of power. We have God.

What sources have you been seeking to do what God can do?

3. **Desires lead by emotions, frustration, and anger**

- Most time emotions, frustrations, wrong people in are ear misinformation, leads to dissensions, factions (divided homes and divided lives), dividing into little groups and thinking the other groups are wrong. Hatred, envy and fighting, fits of rage being jealous, being angry, arguing, The devil's desire to get a foothold, and the way he gets his foothold is through division.

Types of division

Poor vs rich

Black vs white

Women vs men

Young vs old
Married vs. single
Educated vs uneducated
Family division
Marriage division
Sibling wars and now family wars (brothers family vs. sister family or cousins vs. cousins
Parents arguing with children

How have you recently fallen prey to these sinful desires?

4. Desires that Lead to a Lack of Control

Drunkenness: Eph 5:18 (Do not get drunk with wine, for that is wickedness (corruption, stupidity), but be filled with the [Holy] Spirit and constantly guided by Him.

- wild parties & orgies: scriptural ex Romans 13:13
- Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy.

This desire is the temptation to lose control, to over engage in something that hinders me from hearing God through the Spirit clearer.

This can be alcohol, overworking, obligation to family, or drive for success. The temptation to lose control is not limited to a few areas; it tempts me from hearing from God and operating in the power of the Spirit. The Flesh takes complete charge, and the Spirit has not said so.

Ending Question: What do you need to Nail to the Cross to Walk as a New Creature in Christ?

Cultivating the Fruit of the Spirit

So I invite you to seek the Bible's definition of Christian character through our *Groundwork* series "[The Fruit of the Spirit](#)":

- [The Fruit of Love - 1 John 4:7-11](#)
- [The Fruit of Joy - 1 Peter 1:3-9](#)
- [The Fruit of Peace- Philippians 4:4-9](#)
- [The Fruit of Patience- 1 Timothy 1:15-16 and Colossians 1:9-12](#)
- [The Fruit of Kindness- Luke 6:2-36 and Ephesians 4:31-32](#)
- [The Fruit of Goodness- Galatians 6:7-10](#)
- [The Fruit of Faithfulness- Lamentations 3:22-23, 1 Corinthians 16:13, and Hebrews 12:1-3](#)
- [The Fruit of Gentleness- Matthew 11:28-30 and 1 Peter 3:15-17](#)
- [The Fruit of Self-Control- Titus 2:1-8, 11-14](#)