

## What on Earth Are We Here For? Week Four: Led By the Holy Spirit

### Getting Started:

What grows in your garden or lawn without your help? What grows with your help? What's the difference?

Some bad habits happen easily and almost without notice, while developing good spiritual habits and character qualities take a lot of work. But God has given the Holy Spirit to his people to guide, comfort, and lead us into all godliness.

### Bible Study:

Read these verses from Galatians 5 –

*<sup>16</sup> So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. <sup>18</sup> But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.*

*<sup>19</sup> The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; <sup>20</sup> idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions <sup>21</sup> and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.*

*<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. <sup>24</sup> Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup> Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. <sup>26</sup> Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.*

1) The first few verses talk about walking by the Spirit and being led by the Spirit. What do you think he means by using those phrases?

2) Talk about the conflict between the flesh and the Spirit. The Bible clearly teaches in other places that not all fleshly/physical things are wrong. In fact, First Timothy 6:17 reminds us that God has “richly provided” this world for our “enjoyment.” So what is it teaching here?

3) Verses 19-21 list “acts of the flesh.” It’s not meant to be an exhaustive list, but an example of the kinds of things that stand opposed to God’s Spirit. What surprises you about this list?

4) Verses 22-23 list what is commonly called the “fruit of the Spirit.” At the end of that list, the Bible says, “Against such things there is no law.” What are we to learn from that commentary?

5) What does it mean to “crucify” the flesh with its “passions and desires”?

**Application:**

- 1) So – having read these verses, what is the Holy Spirit’s role in this process? What is your role?
  
- 2) As you consider the fruit of the Spirit – what is one character trait of God listed here that you would like to see more evident in your life?
  
- 3) How is it possible to grow one area of your life and kill another simultaneously? What is it like to be dependent on the Holy Spirit?
  
- 4) When unhealthy temptations come through your mind, what have you found most useful in dealing with them?

**For Additional Study:**

Through the week, take a look at Romans 8:5-17

The presence of the Spirit seems to be sign of belonging to God. What does it mean about your relationship with God to be called his child?