

GROW IN GRACE

NEWSLETTER

Volume 40, No.3, January 21, 2014 / Southside Baptist Church & Christian School / P.O. Box 1594 / 1028 South Water Avenue, Gallatin, TN 37066 (615) 452-5951 / **The Grow in Grace Newsletter**— a weekly Bible Study, plus news notes— designed first and foremost for members and those attending services at Southside Church... sent forth to aid one and all, (including friends far and wide who receive the Newsletter), in the experience of 2 Peter 3:18. **"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our LORD and Saviour JESUS CHRIST. To Him be glory both now and forever. Amen."**

The Flesh vs Holy Spirit Fruit and Holy Spirit EMPOWERED CHOICES!

A person may be religious, a pastor, a professing Christian or an 'out and out' pagan; but if their lifestyle is dominated by the works of the flesh the Word of God says that such ones will have no part in the kingdom of heaven! Tragically, the pulpits and pews of the land are all too often filled with those dominated by the works of the flesh. UNLESS there is repentance and new birth, **Jesus will one day say, "I never knew you: depart from me..." (Matthew 7:13-27) Let each one of us carefully hear the word of the LORD:**

Galatians 5:19-21, (AMP), "Now the doings (practices) of the flesh are clear (obvious): they are immorality, impurity, indecency, Idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, anger (ill temper), selfishness, divisions (dissensions), party spirit (factions, sects with peculiar opinions, heresies), Envy, drunkenness, carousing, and the like. I warn, ... just as I did previously, that **those who do such things shall not** inherit the kingdom of God."

WARNING: No genuine Christian has perfection in putting off the works of the flesh. However, neither does any Christian have continuing, lifestyle bondage to the works of the flesh! (Romans 6:14) Now, the Word of God continues,

Galatians 5:22-24, (AMP), "But the fruit of the [Holy] Spirit [the work which His presence within accomplishes] is **love, joy** (gladness), **peace, patience** (an even temper, forbearance), **kindness, goodness** (benevolence), **faithfulness, Gentleness** (meekness, humility), **self-control** (self-restraint, continence). Against such things there is no law [that can bring a charge]. And those who belong to Christ Jesus (the Messiah) **have crucified the flesh (the godless human nature) with its passions and appetites and desires."**

Note: It is never wrong for Saints to manifest the fruit of the Holy Spirit and never right when they/we fail to manifest the fruit of the Holy Spirit!

It's true, real Christians do not have perfection. Nevertheless, this is so very plain: If you or I truly belong to Christ— then, we have experienced our own personal CRUCIFIXION! (Galatians 2:20; 5:24) Our carnal passions and carnal appetites, our natural evil desires have been crucified! These sinful passions can no longer have dominion over us, Romans 6:14-16.

How is it that we can boldly say that 'sin shall no longer have dominion over us?' ANSWER: Because our **life source** is now the indwelling Holy Spirit who leads, guides, directs and empowers HIS HOLY TEMPLE! His Holy Temple!— that would be you, dear Christian!

Thus, for the true Christian, the Crucifixion/Resurrection is not a mere historical event. It is not a holiday or a man-made holy day. RATHER, by amazing grace we are now in the living experience of being crucified to the old life and resurrected to new life in Christ. The person born of God can never be the same!

WE ARE IN SERIOUS SPIRITUAL WARFARE; AND IT IS CRITICAL to tell THE TRUTH to my protesting flesh! There are a multitude of excuses which I may give in seeking to justify expressing the works of the flesh. **However, there are none acceptable in the sight of Almighty God!** There are a multitude of excuses which I may give in seeking to excuse the sad reality of not expressing the Fruit of the Holy Spirit. **However, there are none which are acceptable in the sight of Almighty God!**

BEWARE of embracing the deadly lie of feeling fully justified for not responding to life with the fruit of the Holy Spirit— for, after all, 'the other person' - (spouse, fellow church member, relative, neighbor, or whoever) 'caused me' to respond with the works of my flesh!

BEWARE OF THE RESULTING DEADLY TRAPS FROM THIS SAD SONG: "He/she/they did not meet my needs. He/she/they are not loving me the way I NEED to be loved; OR THE WAY God commands them to love me! He/she/they are being down-right evil toward me. I have it all documented! I have friends and counselors agreeing with me. **Yes, I have problems; but they are the fault of he/she/they. Therefore, I AM EXCUSED from manifesting the fruit of the Holy Spirit!**"

THE STRATEGY OF SURE DEFEAT, DEPRESSION, AND DESTRUCTION is well trodden— for many use this same failed strategy over, and over, and over: (1) Accusing others and defending self; defending self and accusing others. (2) Blame-shifting and putting up smoke-screens to hide/excuse our own failures. (3) Confessing the real or imagined sins/faults of the other person **instead of** obeying Scripture and only confessing OUR OWN faults, (James 5:16; 1 John 1:9). (4)

Gathering an army of supporters to promote 'our side'! NOTE: Most of this is carried on BEHIND THE BACKS of the ones we are accusing. In other words, we are gossiping, back biting, and usually slandering.

REALITY: The longer these sin-filled, satan-pleasing tactics are used there will be growing hardness of heart, resentments, bitterness, hopelessness, destruction of families, destruction of churches, and the name of Christ will be blasphemed among the heathen!

GOOD NEWS REALITY: What other people do or don't do is not to guide/dictate our responses. Instead, as life 'tumbles in' we simply need to ask and respond Christianly to two questions:

1. "LORD, WHAT do you have in this situation for me?" That is, what do you want to teach me? What do you want to take out of my life that has not or is not pleasing to you, LORD JESUS? What do you want to BUILD INTO MY LIFE so that I will be in attitudes, words, and actions an adornment to the Gospel of Christ?

2. "LORD, WHAT do you have in this situation to accomplish through me?" That is, what are the attitudes, words, and/or actions you want me to take so as to REVEAL CHRIST to a watching world? What manifestations of the FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT do you desire to release through me so others will SEE JESUS?

I also need to make this foundational CONFESSION: "I am BOUGHT with the price of the precious blood of Jesus. He has full rights to manifest Himself through me!"

"What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost, which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's!" (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

CHRISTIAN, you Are Bought With A Price! We are tempted on every hand and in many different ways to bow to the world, the flesh and/or the devil. However, WE ARE NOT OUR OWN! WE ARE BOUGHT WITH A PRICE— redeemed "...with the precious blood of Christ..." (1 Peter 1:18)

THEREFORE, CONFESS: * MY PAST— I have been bought by the blood of Jesus! My sins are forgiven. Sin and satan's power over me have been canceled. I am not my own. I belong to Jesus!"** (Romans 12:1-2) *** **IN THE PRESENT— CHRIST is for me! I am In Christ! Christ is in me; and I am a Minister of Reconciliation, an Ambassador for Christ, on Mission with God!** (1 Cor. 3:7-9; 2 Cor. 5:19-20) *** **MY FUTURE— because of the BLOOD OF THE LAMB, I will continue to experience the ongoing cleansing power of the blood of Christ; and I will rule and reign with Christ for all eternity."** (Rev. 5:9-10; 7:9-12; 12:11)

*** **MY PAST is forgiven! The blinding, binding, grinding power of sin and satan is broken.** *Sin's weights are lifted!* I am set free from the **futility of performance based living, of trying to be good enough to merit heaven.** I am resting in the total sufficiency of Jesus, in His precious blood, in His goodness and in His merit.

*** **MY PRESENT—** because I am forgiven and resting in Christ, I am now free to be and become all that Christ intends today! I no longer search or strive for significance— **for in Christ I have supreme significance! I AM A CHILD OF GOD! I HAVE A FAMILY! I HAVE A MOST SUGNIFICANT OCCUPATION!**

*** **MY FUTURE:** I am free from any obligation to fear death or the future. I am FORGIVEN, IN CHRIST, and COMMISSIONED to give His Gospel to others! Nothing or no one can separate me from the love of God in Christ. Whether I live or whether I die, I am the LORD'S!

QUOTE: "If you refuse the implication of His claim upon you, then what business have you to hide in the shelter of John 3:16? I cannot have the grace of God without the government of God!... The price of His blood demands a practical surrender of all my body... I now acknowledge, **'I am no longer my own; I am bought with a price!'**" (Alan Redpath)

"His [indwelling] presence... is rather like the sun, which cannot shine without brightening the earth and sky and sea; **without** giving color to the rose, its fragrance to the lily, its flavor to the peach; **without** ripening the golden grain and cheering and brightening the hearts of men. **GOD CANNOT DWELL IN THE SOUL WITHOUT CORRESPONDING INFLUENCES; without** fostering love and purity; **without** making sin more odious; **without making** holiness more attractive; **without** giving the soul strength to banish sin and the strength to follow holiness." (W.G. Blaikie)

BORN AGAIN CHRISTIAN— YOU ARE BOUGHT WITH A PRICE! **Jesus Christ is now in you and you are IN CHRIST! BOUGHT WITH A PRICE! THUS, IT IS TIME TO MAKE GOOD CONFESSIONS— FOR In Christ,**

I have the Power to CHOOSE!

I Choose Love— No evil spoken or done to me justifies hatred, resentment or retaliation. No injustice warrants the holding of a grudge or bitterness. **I am Divinely empowered to WALK IN THE STEPS OF JESUS and to Choose Genuine Love because** God first loved me while I was His enemy— unloving, unresponsive, unworthy. I can and I must choose to love because at salvation, (by His Holy Spirit,

Romans 5:5), He flooded my heart with His unselfish, sacrificing, forgiving love that never fails, that never quits. **I choose love!**

I choose love and surrender to love; and I choose to be a channel for the love of God which is very patient, very kind, always looks for a way to be constructive, is never envious, never boastful, is not arrogant, is never rude or conceited or indecent, does not insist on its own way in a self-seeking way, **is not quick to take offence, it is not irritable or touchy, nor does this love keep an account of the failures of others.**

This love with which God has flooded my heart is never glad when others go wrong, delights in the truth. God's love in the saint is slow to expose the failures of others and is eager to believe the best. There is nothing this love cannot face; there is no limit to love's faith. **And God's love in me hopes under all circumstances; and knows no limit to its endurance; and this love never comes to an end! (Drink deeply of First Corinthians, chapter 13!)**

I Choose Joy— I will invite the one, true and living God to be the God of all my circumstance. **I will refuse** the temptation to be cynical. **I will refuse** to claim that people have stole my peace or my joy— Only my wrong, un-Christ like response to them can do that! **I will refuse** to see any problem as anything less than an opportunity to see God at work... **To transform me** more into the likeness of Jesus!

Jesus, the most joyful person ever on earth, had to learn obedience through suffering. Suffering, trials, tribulations, persecutions are brought or permitted by God because He has a storehouse of JOY He is wanting released! As I choose to walk in the steps of Jesus, **I am choosing joy!**

I Choose Peace— Upon the merits of the precious blood of Jesus, I HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN! I will live forgiven. I will forgive others so that I may live in the awesome freedom of Divine forgiveness. I am empowered by the Holy Spirit— **I choose peace!**

I CHOOSE to embrace the path of peace: *“Do not fret or have any anxiety about anything, but in every circumstance and in everything, by prayer and petition (definite requests), with thanksgiving, continue to make your wants known to God. ⁷And God's peace [shall be yours, that tranquil state of a soul assured of its salvation through Christ, and so fearing nothing from God and being content with its earthly lot of whatever sort that is, that peace] which transcends all understanding shall garrison and mount guard over your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.”* (Phil. 4:6-7, Amplified Bible)

I Choose Patience— **Because** I am astounded at the patience of God with me; and because He who is patient lives in me that He might live His patience through me! **Rather than** complaining that the wait is too long, I will thank God for a moment to pray! **Instead of** clinching my fist at new assignments, difficult people or circumstances and using them in an attempt to justify my flesh— I will face them with joy and courage. **I choose patience!**

I Choose Kindness— I will be kind to the poor, for they are alone; Kind to the rich, for they are afraid; And I will be kind especially to the unkind, for such is how God treated me while I was yet His enemy! **I choose kindness!**

I Choose Goodness— I will look for the good in others when it is hard to find. I will confess hope and faith toward others. As commanded in the Word of God, I will do good to all, especially to saints! Because God, who alone has perfect goodness, resides in me to be made manifest through me— **I choose goodness.**

I Choose Faithfulness— Today I will keep my promises. **My debtors** will not regret their trust. **My associates** will not have reason to question my word. **My spouse** will not have reason to question my love. **My children** will never have to fear that their parent will not come home. **My Church family** will find me in my place of service and with a Christ-like spirit.

This choice, as all the others, is the result of the **indwelling compelling** Holy Spirit. **I choose faithfulness!**

I Choose Gentleness— **Brute force, does not win. I choose to be gentle.** If I raise my voice, may it be only in praise. If I clench my fist, may it be only in prayer. If I make a demand, may it be only of myself. By the grace of God, my passion shall be that I shall overflow with the awesome, transforming power of the Gentleness of Jesus! THE GREATEST BATTLE OF ALL TIME WAS WON BY JESUS AS THE LAMB OF GOD! **I choose gentleness!**

I Choose Self-control— I am a temple, a dwelling place of the Holy Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit fruit in me and through me is self-control. I am no longer a slave to sin, self, satan or selfishness. I am no longer a slave to bad habits, bad thoughts, bad attitudes or an evil tongue. I am free in Christ. My body and spirit belong to Christ. I am His Holy Temple.

I have no right... I NEVER HAVE ANY RIGHT to think, to say or to do anything with which JESUS is not well pleased.

I choose to be being continuously filled with the Holy Spirit by letting the Word of Christ richly dwell within me. I choose to "live by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God!"

And when I fail in any of the above, I will choose to be humble, confess my sin and repent. PRAISE THE LORD! I will be restored by God's amazing mercy and grace!

Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-control— to these I yield, because in CHRIST I already possess them one and all by the gracious Inwelling Holy Spirit!

They are expressions of the Love of God which has been given to me and poured into the very center of my soul and spirit by the

Holy Spirit. For by the Grace of God, I am a Christian! The very life of God is in me by the indwelling Holy Spirit! **I am not a victim of or a slave to my past.**

I will rise above any present failings or trials or persecutions! I will give thanks! I will seek God's face! **And then when this day is done, I will place my head on my pillow and rest**, experiencing the peace of God which surpasses all understanding— being all amazed by the goodness, the mercy, the love and the grace of God in Christ!

Abounding Grace to all! James www.southsidegallatin.org

SOUTHSIDE NEWS NOTES!

***** EVERY WEDNESDAY: PRAYER SERVICE at 7:00PM! NOTE:** Jody Allen is ministering to young Children, up to about age 10 during Prayer Service. Older children, but not old enough for the Youth Group... will be with their parents in the Prayer Service. / ****** YOUTH GROUP: Wednesdays 6-8pm**

****** LADIES BIBLE STUDIES— 2nd & 4th Thursdays, each month, 11:00am. / NEXT ONE, THIS THURSDAY: 1/23/14... meet in Ladies Sunday School room, next to church offices!**

****** EVERY Saturday @ 8am: Men's Fellowship/Bible Study ******

SUNDAY SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY: 26

1. 9:30am- Sunday School→ Bible Study and Small Group Fellowship

2. 10:45am- Morning Worship / Children's Church

3. Noon: Fellowship 'covered-dish' Meal together!

4. 1:00pm- This specific service on 1/26 will be devoted to discussion/questions/responses on the vital subject of Biblical Church Elders/Pastors/Bishops. [Have you prayerfully read the mailout on this topic?]

IT IS IMPORTANT FOR US ALL TO BE PRESENT. WE WILL MOVE TO THE AUDITORIUM FOR THIS SO AS TO HAVE USE OF MICROPHONES.

SOUTHSIDE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL!

Children are like young plants in a garden— while young and tender they must be protected. Southside Christian School works in harmony with the local Church and empowers parents!

<http://www.aceministries.com/curriculum/?content=presentingACE> Call: 615-452-5951