

**GROW
IN
GRACE**
NEWSLETTER

Volume 41, No. 39, September 29 , 2015 / Southside Baptist Church & Christian School / P.O. Box 1594 / 1028 South Water Avenue, Gallatin, TN 37066 (615) 452-5951 / The Grow in Grace Newsletter is **a weekly Bible Study**, plus local church news notes— designed first and foremost for members and those attending services at Southside Church. It is sent forth with the desire to aid one and all, (including friends far and wide), 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."***

[THERE IS ABUNDANT EVIDENCE that receiving and applying the truth set forth here is presently greatly needed by more than a few! IT IS TIME FOR US — ALL OF US! — TO HEED this clear Word of God!]

IN CHRIST, CHRISTIANS HAVE THE POWER TO CHOOSE!

The title is true. However, we have great opposition to making right, godly choices! As a Christian I cannot remain ENSLAVED to the following works of the flesh. I MUST put OFF the works of the flesh and put on Christ! I MUST NOT MAKE EXCUSES for any of the WORKS OF THE FLESH!

Galatians 5:19-21— ***Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,***

Note: Here are additional words for these sins of the flesh: *Idolatry, sorcery, quarrels, a contentious temper, envy, fits of rage, selfish ambitions, dissensions, and heresies. Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, (sensuous pleasure) and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things [as a continuing lifestyle] shall not inherit the kingdom of God.*

Note: The warning is that those whose lifestyle (as to attitudes and actions) is as the above works of the flesh— they are not truly born again and they shall not inherit the kingdom of God. **Galatians 5:22-24: *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, Meekness, temperance [self control]: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.***

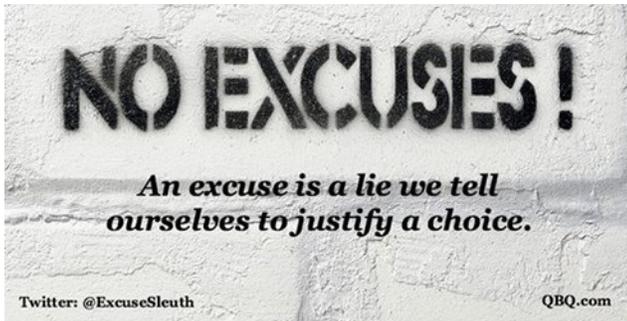
[BOTTOM LINE: It is never wrong for Saints to manifest the fruit of the Holy Spirit! Saints are never right when they, when we fail to manifest the fruit of the Holy Spirit.]

IT IS TRUE: Real Christians do not have perfection. Nevertheless, this is also so very plain: If you or I truly belong to Christ— then, we have experienced our own personal CRUCIFIXION! Our carnal passions and carnal appetites, our natural evil desires have been crucified! These sinful passions **can no longer** have dominion over us! (Read: Romans 6:14-16)

THIS IS TRUE— 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! **EVEN SO, it is vital to deal with our ‘screaming, protesting flesh’!**

1. There are a **multitude of excuses** which I may give to justify expressing the works of the flesh. However, there are none acceptable in the sight of Almighty God! **[EXCUSES: Lies I tell myself attempting to justify a flesh-pleasing choice!]**



2. There are a multitude of excuses which I may give 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!**

3. **YES, as a Christian,** I can only walk in the flesh by grieving and quenching, the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit! Moreover, if I do not repent, in God's perfect time He will do whatever is necessary to BRING ME to repentance... or He will take me from this present life! O YES HE WILL! (Read these verses carefully: 1 Cor. 5:7-13; 11:30-32)

SO AS CHRISTIANS— we have choices. We are divinely empowered to make JESUS PLEASING CHOICES. We choose! Our choices have consequences! AND INDEED, IN CHRIST our ability to make choices is radically enlarged and empowered!

THINK ABOUT THIS!

I always choose to think, say or do that which I MOST WANT to think, say or do at the moment! If I think, say or do something— it is because that is what I most wanted to think, say or do! [Many years ago, I heard R.C. Sproul present this concept... which, I think, he got from Jonathan Edwards. Regardless, I find it to be absolutely true.]

Example: A thug sticks a gun in my chest and says, "Give me your money or I will take your life!" Granted, I would love to have MORE OPTIONS than those two! Nevertheless, at that moment, I will FREELY CHOOSE to do that which I most want to do! In the case above, I don't know about you-- but I will give the thug my money!

Example: The Cafe owner 'tempted me' with a most wonderful piece of homemade chocolate pie. I'll give you one guess as to why I said, "Yes!" I SAID 'YES!' BECAUSE at that moment, I chose to value the momentary pleasure of the pie over the opportunity to make progress in losing weight!

Example: LIFE TUMBLES IN and people around us DO and/or SAY stuff. I/we ALWAYS RESPOND, CHOOSING TO DO THAT WHICH we MOST

WANTED TO SAY OR DO AT THE MOMENT! And we will have CONSEQUENCES from our choice—Consequences from our choices of thoughts, words, and/or deeds!

**IT IS TIME TO MAKE GOOD CONFESSIONS/GOOD CHOICES!
In Christ, I have the Power to CHOOSE!**

THEREFORE,

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; and 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! **I choose love!** (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!... TO FURTHER the gospel via my Christ-empowered, Christ honoring responses!

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 getting ready to pour out! 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. **And 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 AM NOT ASKING FOR patience, for by the indwelling Holy Spirit I HAVE PATIENCE. I yield to the Spirit of Christ and give thanks for 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! God's love to me is patient and KIND! God's love in and through me is ready to be kind! **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!

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 to YIELD to the Holy Spirit's indwelling 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 NEVER HAVE ANY RIGHT to think, to say or to do anything with which JESUS is not well pleased.

I choose to OBEY THE COMMAND to be being continuously filled with the Holy Spirit by letting the Word of Christ richly dwell within me. (Col. 3:16)

I choose to "live by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God!" (Matt. 4:4) And when I fail in any of the above, I will choose to be humble, confess my sin, repent, rejoice in the cleansing blood of JESUS, and take the next step of loving faith/obedience! **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 indwelling 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. My attitudes and behavior are NOT caused by the Real or imagined failures of others. 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... all amazed by the goodness, the mercy, the love and the grace of God in Christ!...

ALL FULL OF HOPE— KNOWING THAT ONE DAY I SHALL SEE
MY LORD AND SAVIOUR FACE TO FACE
AND HE WILL WELCOME ME HOME,

**“WELL DONE, MY CHILD, YOU YIELDED TO ME
AND FOLLOWED ME AND WALKED IN MY STEPS!
ENTER THOU INTO THE JOY OF THY LORD!”
FOREVER, AND FOREVER,
AND FOREVER! AMEN!**

SOUTHSIDE NEWS NOTES:

MONDAYS: Jail Ministry— First and Second Monday of each month at 7:30pm. Questions? Contact Mike Munday at 615-681-7533

TUESDAYS: Come and sing every Tuesday night at Gallatin Health Care nursing home. Meet at the front door at 5:30PM. Questions? Contact Bradley Pennington at 615-804-3054.

WEDNESDAYS: 6:30pm— Children Ministry/activities;

□ **6:30pm— Youth** Activities and Bible Study— **(For both of these... enter via double doors by gym)** □ **6:30pm— CHURCH PRAYER SERVICE...** Come in side entrance, iron steps... meet in Ladies Sunday School Room

LADIES BIBLE STUDY— NEXT, OCTOBER 8, 11:00am, The Life of David! Cindy Bell, teaching. {Meet in Ladies Sunday School Room: Come in FRONT doors of the church auditorium or the SIDE door at the top of the IRON STEPS!}

* **EVERY SATURDAY MORNING @ 8am: Men's Fellowship/Bible Study!** {Study in ROMANS}... Come to back of Church building... Come in under the drive-thru awning... walk forward... till you smell the coffee!

SOUTHSIDE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL— *Uniting Church, Home, and School in CHRIST!* For the 2015-2016 school term we are offering Second through Twelfth grades. Children need the Home, the Church, and the School to model and teach the same basic philosophy of life. ***Children are like young plants in a garden— they must be protected.***

<http://www.aceministries.com/curriculum/?content=presentingACE>

SPECIAL NEWS NOTE: We NEED PHOTOS of all Southsiders— MEMBERS and those attending!

1. Adam and/or Bethany are taking photos after the worship service! IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY had your photo taken— please do so this Sunday
2. **Option to family photo being taken— BRING ONE FROM HOME, this Sunday!**

SUNDAY SERVICES, OCTOBER 4 & 11:

1. **9:30am, Sunday School;**
2. **10:45am, Worship Service;**

3. NOON 'Covered-Dish' meal;

4. 1:00pm afternoon service.

Sunday Service for October, 18— 1. 9:30am, Sunday School;

2. 10:45am, Worship Service/LORD'S SUPPER SERVICE; NO meal & NO afternoon service

3. SOME HOME GROUPS MEET IN THE EVENING— INQUIRE FOR DETAILS!

SUNDAY SERVICES 25:

1. 9:30am, Sunday School; 2. 10:45am, Worship Service;
3. NOON 'Covered-Dish' meal and church-wide WELCOME HOME and fellowship time with *Odell, Beth, Josh, Titus, Caleb, and Wyatt Summers.*