



new life fellowship

Sermon Title: The Holy Spirit: Walk by the Spirit
Speaker: Helen Kim Nowalk, Pastor of Community Life
Scripture: Galatians 5:13-26

¹³ You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh^[a]; rather, serve one another humbly in love. ¹⁴ For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."^[a] ¹⁵ If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

¹⁶ So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ 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^[a] you want. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

¹⁹ The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; ²⁰ idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions ²¹ 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.

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

(NIV)

Sermon Outline:

Paul writes this strong letter to the church at Galatia because he was angry that something was cutting in on the good news of Jesus Christ, creating discord in the church. Paul was urging the church to walk in freedom so as not to become enslaved again.

Just like the Galatians we are living in a world today where we need to protect the Gospel, as we can easily choose the old ways that lead us to live lives in bondage and slavery.

Following Jesus is not automatic but hard work that does not come easy. Christ has come and done the work on the cross, but we are not yet in heaven and walk in a place of tension and trouble.

- Desires of the Flesh: What do I want? Living this way causes us to live an enslaved life.
- Desires of the Spirit: What does God want? What does my neighbor need? Living this way leads us to a life of freedom.

We get caught in the tension of going back and forth between living with the desires of the flesh and desires of the Spirit. Our lives are caught in an already- not yet world. As we learn to lean into the desires of the Spirit, our lives will begin to be changed and formed by the Spirit. True freedom is what the Holy Spirit is leading us to. When experience tension, it is a good reminder that we live in the already-not yet world.

How do we walk in the desires of the Spirit?

- Spirit love takes place when what the Holy Spirit desires is at the center.

- When you step into what the Holy Spirit wants and desires, your own desires shift and change.

Living this way is counter cultural. The Holy Spirit is constantly calling all of us into freedom. It takes the Holy Spirit and us walking together in love to live a life of freedom.

The fruit of the Spirit emerges over time, where there is tension but also the good news that the Holy Spirit is active and at work. As we allow God to work in us, something emerges, and we become radically different people that the world notices.

Sermon Summary:

This Sunday, Pastor Helen Kim Nowalk, Pastor of Community Life, continues our sermon series on the Holy Spirit. Today Pastor Helen explores walking by the Spirit and what it means for us to be led by the Spirit so that we are able to live lives of love and true freedom.

Sermon Questions:

1. Do you feel an invitation from Christ in today's scripture passage? What words resonate with you? Why?
2. We live our lives serving the flesh, where we can become self-centered. Spirit love calls us to move out of our self-centeredness and place the Holy Spirit's desires at the center. We are to think of what God wants and what our neighbor needs. Are you able find time this week to ask your neighbor how you can help them? Can you make it a priority to say "I'm sorry" to those around you when you have messed up and need to ask for forgiveness?
3. The way in which we prioritize and plan the use of our time is another way we can be led by the Spirit. How available do you make yourself to those around you? Thinking about your week ahead, where are you planning on using your time? Are you focusing on yourself, or can you be led by God to offer yourself to those around you?