

# The Epistle to the Ephesians

## 7. Ephesians Chapter 5:1-21



How does the follower of Jesus Christ, filled with the Holy Spirit accomplish the mission? Being “Born Again”<sup>1</sup>, means the Holy Spirit comes and dwells in our being, giving us power over our fallen nature. Every believer in Jesus Christ has power through the Holy Spirit to overcome their fallen nature. The struggle for control, begins at the new birth. Here Paul continues to instruct the Christian how to have victory. In chapter 4, he instructed the believer to:

- Walk worthy of the calling with lowliness, gentleness and longsuffering(4:1-2)
  - Bearing with one another in love (4:2)
  - Endeavoring to keep unity of the Spirit (4:3)
  - Grow in the knowledge of the Son of God (4:13)
  - Speaking the truth in love (4:15)
- No longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk (4:17)
  - Put off your former conduct, the old man (4:22)
  - Be renewed in the spirit of your mind, put on the new man (4:24)
  - Put away lying. Speak truth (4:25)
  - Be angry. Do not sin. Do not let the Sun go down on your wrath (4:26)
  - Do not give place to the devil (4:27)
  - Let him who stole. Steal no longer. Work with your hands (4:28)
  - Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth. But what is good for edification (4:29)
  - Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God (4:30)
  - Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor and evil speaking be put away from you (4:31)
  - Be kind to one another, tenderhearted forgiving even as God in Christ forgave you (4:32)

We have power to choose how we act, God’s Spirit gives us supernatural abilities. It also causes conflict, between our old nature and our new nature. This is the application of our position in Christ.

### **Rom 8:4-10**

(4) in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

(5) For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.

(6) For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.

(7) For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot.

(8) Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

(9) You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

(10) But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

---

<sup>1</sup> Joh 3:3 Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

### Walk in Love

We have the power to act, because the Spirit of God gives us the guidance and ability to follow the Spirit. We also have to choose to act, we are free will agents.

1 Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. 2 And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma. 3 But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; 4 neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. 5 For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. 6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

**Ephesians 5:1-6**



(1) History and biographies are powerful, learning about people their problems and their triumphs empower many to action. For example, Julius Ceaser was 33-years old and a governor in Spain, when he entered the temple of Hercules<sup>2</sup> and saw a statue of Alexander the Great, he wept. Why did he weep? Because he was 33 and had yet to achieve greatness like Alexander. He than mapped out his life to be like Alexander and the rest is history. Julius Ceaser wanted to imitate Alexander, he was a model for him.

Paul said, we should be **Imitators of God**, we have a model to mold and shape our life. The LORD is our model of how to live our life, he is the example we need to imitate. In this world its easy to look at human greatness; athletes, businesspeople, actors and actresses, it's our nature to look to idols. We have the inner desire to model our lives. Statues of leaders are constructed for a reason, Communism is a great example, they build monuments to their

leaders for people to copy, Lenin, Mao, Stalin. We do the same, George Washington, Abraham Lincoln and Martin Luther King to give us models. Paul points us to the model of Jesus Christ.

(2) **Walk in love:** we have the power to conduct our life, to regulate our path, the Greek word for walk is "*peripateo*", meaning it's the path we choose to live. Looking at Jesus, as our model, God choose to humble himself and enter His creation and die for our sins. Despite His humiliation and abuse he endured for His love of humanity to pay the price for our sins. This should be our model, our statue to copy.

**Php 2:6-8**

(6) who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,

(7) but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

(8) And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Jesus's love is our model of for how to live our life. When we feel injustice, humiliation and hate, look to the model of Jesus. The sacrifice of Jesus was the reality of the type of animal sacrifice in the Temple. His life was the **sweet-smelling** aroma of the burning animal's ashes drifting up to heaven (Hebrews 9:23).

---

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.dominicanajournal.org/and-caesar-wept/>

**(3)Fornication<sup>3</sup>** porneia...**uncleanness** akatharsia...**covetousness** pleonexia These actions are part of the fallen human nature, its not uncommon, but common. From the lowest slaves to the highest officials, sexual immorality, lust and greed are part of the condition of fallen man. Contrast this to followers of Jesus Christ, we have power to reject these aspects of our nature. The word for Saint is *Hagios*, it means clean, when we accept Jesus and the Holy Spirit dwells inside of us, we are *Born Again* (John 3:3), we are clean, so we should live our life accordingly as **Fitting for saints**. It is our uniform we wear as believers in Jesus Christ.

**(4)** There is the clothing of the world, just like a uniform there is the world's clothing, this is exhibited by the actions of what comes out our mouths. It's a revelation of what is inside of us, **Filthiness** or obscenity...**foolish talking** or *morologia* words of a moron (Moron Logic) or fool...**coarse jesting** or vulgar talk. Contrast this to the behavior of believers. We should be giving **thanks**, because we know who we are in Jesus Christ.

**(5)** Our outward actions identify our inner being, If we are truly saved, Born Again (John 3:3), that means the Holy Spirit is living inside you. Your life should change. If you are the same as you were before you accepted Christ, did you really accept Christ? Paul is making a statement, to those who carry on, and continue to sin and name Jesus Christ as their savior. He says **You know**, the people who **fornicators, idolaters, covetous** are lost, they don't have an **inheritance in the kingdom of Christ**. Our actions identify our person. Can a saved person sin? Yes, but they should be convicted of their sin and repent, if they don't, they should question whether they are really saved.

**Col 3:5**

(5) Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

**Rom 6:6**

(6) We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.

We have power over our fallen nature, through the Holy Spirit dwelling inside.

**(6)** The world is going to be judged, God is holding back judgment, He is giving people time to repent and turn from sin. There are consequences for sin, as followers of Christ, we have power to act. Paul warns those wrestling with sin, the **Wrath of God**, God's judgment in this life and in the world to come will fall eventually come, false teachers deceive people into sinning, they downplay judgment to continue in sin. People often downplay judgment and elevate sin and relabel it in humanist terms. Love is Love is a recent example.

The **sons of disobedience** are those who identify with sin, like Cain and Abel, salvation means to be saved from the wrath of God. To be Holy or *Hagios* means to be separated and clean from those who practice sin.

*Walk in Light*

7 Therefore do not be partakers with them. 8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light 9 (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), 10 finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. 11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. 12 For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. 13 But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. 14 Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light." **Ephesians 5:7-14**

---

<sup>3</sup> Porneia: illicit sexual intercourse, Akatharsia: in a moral sense: the impurity of lustful, luxurious, profligate living  
Pleonexia: greedy desire to have more, covetousness, avarice



**(7) Therefore:** If you are a follower of Christ, a believer in Jesus, you have power over your actions. Being a **partakers** is being a partner with sinners. It means to do and participate in what they are doing. Living the lifestyle of sinning while claiming to be a follower of Christ is an anomaly. If you are a partaker, then you should question your position, are you truly saved?

**(8)** There are two roads for eternity, the saved and the lost, before we came to Christ we were lost. We were in **darkness**, we could not see the

reality of sin and just how lost we were. The light of the Gospel and Holy Spirit should have changed us, we should be conscious of sin. A saved person sees the reality of sin because they have the **light** of the Gospel and the Holy Spirit, they can see reality, they are no longer in darkness. This means we have the power to **Walk as children of light**, we have power to choose.

**(9-10)** Paul want the Ephesian believer to comprehend, if they are believers, they should have fruits. The **Fruit of the Spirit** proceeds from the inner man, **goodness, righteousness and truth**.

Gal 5:22-23

(22) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, (23) gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.



Because God's Spirit is in us, we should see the things of God, we should be moved to do what is **acceptable**. It should be in our nature to love, be kind, to help one another, we should be changed.

**(11-13)** As followers of Christ, we are freed from the power of sin, we can choose, therefore we should have no partnership or **fellowship** with **Unfruitful works**. Sin is pervasive, because we live in a fallen world, we have the choice to participate or reject it. We are the light in the darkness, its our job to **expose** darkness to the light. Do people feel comfortable when they sin around us? Do we laugh at dirty jokes? Are we seen as the prude because we don't participate in raunchy behavior?

Light exposes the darkness, it's the same in the spiritual realms, the Holy Spirit inside us exposes darkness. Behavior and language come from our inner

being, it's a contrast of two directions, one direction is toward heaven the other is hell. It's a war in every sense, things done in secret will be exposed by the light, evil will be judged and made manifest.

God holds back on judgment because of his mercy, God told Abraham if there were ten righteous in the city of Sodom, he would not judge the city for the sake of the ten, yet even when there were 4, the angels told Lot, we cannot do anything till you leave the city and arrive in Zoar (Gen 19:22).

Gen 18:32

(32) Then he said, "Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak again but this once. Suppose ten are found there." He



answered, "For the sake of ten I will not destroy it."

Lott should have been a light in the city of Sodom, but when he spoke out he was judged by the men of the city. The city of Sodom and its luxury impacted him and affected his testimony.

Gen 19:6-9

(6) Lot went out to the men at the entrance, shut the door after him,

(7) and said, "I beg you, my brothers, do not act so wickedly.

(8) Behold, I have two daughters who have not known any man. Let me bring them out to you, and do to them as you please. Only do nothing to these men, for they have come under the shelter of my roof."

(9) But they said, "Stand back!" And they said, "This fellow came to sojourn, and he has become the judge! Now we will deal worse with you than with them." Then they pressed hard against the man Lot, and drew near to break the door down.

**(14)** As believers we have a war taking place in our inner being, an old nature versus a new nature, its easy to become lazy in our walk. We have power to make that choice, like the Ephesians who might have been compromising their walk, Paul quoting maybe from Isaiah tells the reader to wake up.

Isa 26:19

(19) Your dead shall live; their bodies shall rise. You who dwell in the dust, awake and sing for joy! For your dew is a dew of light, and the earth will give birth to the dead.

We should be lights in the darkness, not sleepers, Christ is our light to shine in this fallen world. If we wake up, the light of Christ will shine through us into the darkness. It is our choice.

### *Walk in Wisdom*

15 See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, 16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. 18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, 19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, 20 giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, 21 submitting to one another in the fear of God. **Ephesians 5:15-21**

**(15) See then:** Its choice how we walk, with the Holy Spirit, we have power over our walk.

**Walk circumspectly** ("*akribos*" lit "*accurately*") "look that you walk carefully" Its as if you are walking around as in a circle, examining how you walk. We must be aware of who we are, our position and how the world looks at us.

**(16) Redeeming the time:** transfer time from this world, we are each given 24 hours a day 7 days a week, or 168 hours a week, what do we do with the time? To redeem it, means to transfer it from this world into the world to come. Think of every week you are given 168 gold coins, you can do anything you want with them, sleep, eat, party, sports, but you must spend them. By giving the Lord our time, we redeem them into heaven.

**Days are evil:** We live in a fallen world, it will consume our time, the best thing to do is to redeem it.

**(17) Therefore...unwise:** We have the power and the knowledge of God, we need to act in it.

**Understand..will of the Lord** (Syniete.."comprehend intellectually"): This is our choice as believers to act like the world or submit to God's Wisdom and pursue the Lord's will in our life.

**(18) Drunk with wine..** (excess, debauchery, riot,) Drinking was and is very common form of escape from the problems of life. We could drink to oblivion and forget about our issues, or we could turn to the Lord and be **Filled with the Spirit:** We are to pursue the Spirit filling us...What do I need to do? What is stopping me from being "Spirit filled"?

*Four results of being "Spirit Filled"*

Living the life of a spirit filled believer is a choice. The Holy Spirit want to proceed from us, we must give Him the control of our life, Paul in verses 19-21, tell the believer to let the Holy Spirit flow in our life:  
How:

- (19) 1. Speaking to one another Psalms...Hymns....Spiritual songs**
- 2. Singing..melody in your heart.. To the Lord**
- (20) 3. Giving thanks**
- (21) 4. Submitting to one another**  
**Fear of God**