

“The Gospel of Jesus”
February 2, 2014

Galatians 5:16-17;24-25

16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. 24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.

Two Ways to Approach Life:

- **By the FLESH or by the SPIRIT**
- **“The FLESH...”**
 - **SELF-RELIANCE**—using force of personality, intimidation or manipulation to “power through” life.
 - **(At the heart) DEFIANCE**—living independently at the “Tree of Know-It-All”; rejecting input from others. Even from God!
 - **Posture toward God:** *Draw back from—in order to move ahead*
 - **Theme song:** *“I did it My Way”*
- **“The SPIRIT...”**
 - **CHOOSES LIFE**—receives life.
 - **Lives DEPENDENTLY**—abiding in Him...holding fast to the Head
 - **Posture toward God:** *Draw near—in order to follow Him*
 - **Theme song:** *“Teach me Your ways”*

NOTE: The ENDS don’t justify the MEANS. Jesus said: “Whatever is BORN OF THE FLESH is FLESH. And whatever is BORN OF THE SPIRIT is SPIRIT.” (Jn 3:6)

One of the clearest examples of the difference—DAVID RETURNING THE ARK (1 Chronicles 13-15)

- **1st attempt was “by the FLESH**
 - **“Carried by an Ox-cart. Steadied by man named “Uzzah” (“strength”)**
 - **Hymn: “Stand Up for Jesus”—“...stand in His strength alone; the arm of flesh will fail you. You dare not trust your own (strength)...”**
 - **They failed.**
- **2nd attempt was “by the SPIRIT”**
 - **Simple trust & obedience + supernatural provision**
 - **2 poles. 4 gold rings. 4 priests. 2-3,000 lb. gold-laden box**

IMPOSSIBILITY → I’M POSSIBILITY!

PROP- THE most powerful demonstration of God moving on the earth through a man moving in the Spirit—overcoming seemingly impossible odds—is seen in THE LIFE & MINISTRY OF JESUS.

- MATTHEW—written for Jews. (Jesus is KING—the Lion)
- MARK—for Romans. (Jesus is SERVANT—the Ox)
- LUKE—for Greeks. (Jesus, the son of man—the Man)
- JOHN—for all. (Jesus, son of God—the Eagle)

Mark 1:1- “The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the son of God”

1. **“BEGINNING”**

- Same phrase used in Genesis 1:1 (*Greek Septuagint*)
- Jesus came, creating a new heaven (spiritual climate) and a new earth by invading earth with His Kingdom—“the domain of the King”
 - Not fully completed
 - Yet, powerfully begun
 - *“He who began a good work is faithful to complete it” (Phil. 1:6)*
- Also speaks of a calling and a commission
 - Just as Adam & Eve were entrusted with continuing His work on the earth (*i.e., “be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, subdue it—have dominion over it”*)...
 - ...SO we have been entrusted with fulfilling Jesus’ commission
 - “CO—mission”—in step with Him as He heals & restores people
 - Only the “beginning”—“greater works” to follow!

2. **“GOSPEL”**

- “Evangelion”—political word meaning “good news”
 - In Rome, the “Gospel” was the continuous reminder that “Caesar is Lord!”
 - Announced the Caesars births, lives and victories over their enemies
- The “Gospel” of Jesus was the announcement that...
 - He has fulfilled every promise Father made
 - He is the promised Messiah—King of all kings
 - He has defeated all of God’s enemies
 - Isaiah 9:7- “No end” to the “increase of His gov’t & peace”!
 - SEE Isaiah 52:7-10
- The ANNOUNCEMENT of the GOSPEL is...
 - CREATIVE WORD—establishing a new world; filled with potential
 - INAUGURATION—establishing a new reign on the earth

3. **“JESUS CHRIST, THE SON OF GOD”**

- “Son of God”
 - He “became flesh”

- He “emptied Himself” of all divine privilege—accessing His Father and His Father’s provisions as a man living on earth.
- Jesus lived and ministered as a human being—by the SPIRIT’S POWER.
 - He was the “New Adam”—the “firstborn of many”—starting a chosen race & a royal priesthood on the planet
 - He was the “true Israel”—being as God intended His people to be.
 - He was our model for life & ministry
 - He was totally dependent on His Father & the Holy Spirit—JUST AS WE ARE!!!

RESPONSE

- (Mark 1:8) He will “baptize you with the Holy Spirit, too!”
- We will walk with Him—as He did when He walked the earth:
 - *“God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.” (Acts 10:38)*