



## No Growth - Self 2

**This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust after the flesh.**

*Galatians 5:16*

**Spirit** - Mark 14:38

**Eyes/Ears** - Mark 8:18

**Love** - 1 John 2:15

**Father** - Matthew 6:4

For every human being who has the ambition to serve God, they will need faith and determination to overcome the reality about themselves. The self has its tendencies to desire and follow the sinful nature that resides in this world. There are so many influences the physical side wants to attach to, such as things or people that pull us away from God, preventing our inner person from developing, and allowing us to connect with Him. Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ, under the impulse of the Holy Spirit, began under the theme of Galatians "**Salvation by Grace through Faith,**" with the subject matter for verse sixteen, of chapter five, "*This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.*"

On the one hand, there are the evil appetites and passions of the flesh or of the senses. On the other hand, from the dominion of the law. It is easy to tell which has the upper hand: the flesh or the Spirit. The flesh is known by a long catalogue of sins, the Spirit by a catalogue of Christian graces. Those who belong to Christ have subdued the flesh, with all its impulses, by their union with a crucified Savior.

All the believer has to do is react to the rule of the Spirit, as the Spirit directs, without self-parading or quarreling.

To walk in the Spirit is to conduct yourselves by the rule of the Spirit, as the Spirit directs—the Spirit of God, not the spirit in man. The flesh is the predominant part of this whole, but there is much in it besides the material organization. Referring to the divine Spirit which imparts life and holiness, and on the other hand, to human nature severed from God, and distracted by evil desires because it was wrenched away from Him. Live by the Spirit, and you will not need a hard outward law, nor will you be in bondage to the works of the flesh."

If our practical life is to be directed by the spirit of God, He must enter into our spirits, and we shall not be in Him, but in the measure that He is in us. Nor will our spirits be alive because of righteousness unless He dwells in us and casts forth the works of the flesh. If we walk in the Spirit, we shall thereby acquire new tastes and desires of a higher kind, which will destroy the lower.

Self has to be contained for Jesus Christ to rise within you. *Here is a story of a man who decided one day he was going to invite Jesus to stay at his home. So he went to Jesus. He said, "Jesus, I bought this house. I want you to come stay in my house with me."*

*Jesus agreed. Jesus goes to the house. The man says to Jesus, "Listen, Jesus, I'm going to take you upstairs to my room, you can do whatever you want to do in your room, I just want you to come home and stay with me."*

*Jesus goes to the room and shuts the door. Later that night, the man hears a hard knock on the door. He goes to the door. Satan's at the door trying to get in. The man is wrestling really hard to keep Satan and the demons out. He finally gets the door shut.*

*And he thinks to himself, saying, Why am I down here struggling with Satan, and Jesus is right upstairs? Well, the next couple of nights, the same thing happens again. The man goes downstairs. Satan's knocking at the door. He keeps wondering why Jesus isn't coming to his rescue.*

*The next morning, he goes to Jesus. He said, "Jesus, for the past couple of nights I've been fighting with Satan. Every night I go to the*

door. Satan is trying to get in. But you're right upstairs. I thought you said you love me and care for me."

**And Jesus said to the man, "I do love you and care for you. But when you brought me to this house, you got me to this room and said to me, "This is my room and I can do anything I want to do in it. I want you to know nothing has been happening in this room.**

**Jesus looked at the man and said, "The problem is you failed to give me control of the whole house instead of just giving me control of a room."**

*The man thought about it. He repented. He gave Jesus control of the whole house. That same night, Satan knocks on the door. Jesus comes down the stairs, swings the door open, and says, "What do you want, Satan?*

*Satan looks up and sees Jesus, and says, "I'm sorry, I got the wrong address." What is the point of this story concerning the self? The self is like a house. What we let in and who is in control shapes how we live within ourselves. It's either that the devil has access or God has full access.*

The self has an inner person, which is the spirit. The spirit, also known as the soul, is what will connect with God. How do we communicate with the Lord? Through prayer, it is the most effective way of getting His attention. **"Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak," as in Mark fourteen, verse thirty-eight.**

Life in the Spirit is what's needed in every believer. To awaken the inner person and to shun the self from leading our lives. The next verse after the theme, in Galatians five, verse seventeen, *"For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would."* It can be like a mediator between two forces. Which one will you yield towards?

For unbelievers, they love self and feed its desires, and therefore they will not yield to the inner person within them because it is spiritually dead. For believers, the inner person is alive because they have accepted the Son of God, Jesus Christ, but may not be in charge of the body because the self is

fighting to resist what God and the Holy Spirit offer — the fruits of the Spirit. Some saints desire these spiritual gifts, but because of their desire for other things, they are prevented from moving in that direction, and they become stagnant. "I want this, but I want that," mentality." In Galatians three, verse three, "Are ye so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?"

Life in the Spirit begins with prayer, as stated earlier. This is to break the habits and strongholds in life by yielding the self out of the way and the inner person to take over the leading of the body, which is the temple of God. However, the verse in Mark fourteen, verse thirty-seven, gives insight into how challenging it will be for some to overcome self with prayer, which is the breakthrough of the inner person, our spirit leading the way in life. **"And he cometh, and findeth them sleeping, and saith unto Peter, Simon, sleepest thou? Coudest not thou watch one hour?"**

That verse explains how difficult life will be for those who harbor the things of the world rather than the things of God. Peter or Simon could not stay awake and pray because the self is in control, and their inner spirit is still developing. Peter was disciplined due to self issues in Mark eight, verses thirty to thirty-two, when Jesus foretells His upcoming death. He gives the example of the response by the Son of God in verse thirty-three, *"But when He had turned about and looked on His disciples, He rebuked Peter, saying, Get thee behind me, Satan: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but the things that be of men."*

Peter and the disciples neglected to keep watch and pray, the only thing that could have saved them from failure at this time of testing. Later in verse fifty, in Mark fourteen, when the test came, "And they all forsook Him, and fled."

The disciples and Peter failed due to weakness, self, rather than wickedness. However, if they had been praying at the time Jesus was in verse thirty-seven, their reaction may have been different.

Don't worry about anything but praying over everything should be the motto for believers today. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away;

behold, all things are become new," as in Second Corinthians five, verse seventeen.

Why did Jesus say to them, "**Couldst thou not thou watch one hour?**" **That must be the yielding point where the inner person begins to come alive, and the self has to step aside and allow the Holy Spirit to connect with our spirit.** In verses thirty-nine through forty of Mark fourteen, Jesus returned twice after praying only to find them sleeping. The example of these disciples gives all saints of God the battle that must be won to overcome the self that fights our body, not to pray even though our inner person desires to do it. Believers should ask God for help to open the doors of their prayer life to flourish.

The self will feed off from the eyes and ears, which are known as the "eye-gate" and "ear-gate," to the window and door of our souls. However, our hearts are what God pays attention to when He sends one of His God-fearing, holy-living servants to feed the word through with the eyes, to hear with the ears, and to touch the heart of those looking for a change in life. Although God attempts to reach the heart, the self will try to pull us back from seeing and hearing with the rest of the world. Self tends to disrupt the heart from God, as in Acts twenty-eight, verse twenty-seven, "For the heart of this people is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes have they closed; lest they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them." Again, in the moment, the heart is willing, but the self turns away.

The eyes and ears are a part of the self. These senses may physically hear and see trouble, but spiritually do not, because the self tends to get in the way. Otherwise, Acts twenty-six, verse eighteen, would come about, "To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me."

Satan blinds the unsaved to the reality of their lost and perishing condition and to the truth of the gospel. Only preaching Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit will open their understanding. Satan is the ruler of the world,

and all those without Christ are under his control and enslaved by his power. Satan's spirit works in all sinners, known as the **children of disobedience** in Ephesians two, verse two.

Some people have hearts of stone, as in Zechariah seven, verse eleven, "But they refused to hearken, and pulled away the shoulder, and stopped their ears, that they should not hear." Many who lost out on God did so because their eyes led them astray, and their ears lured them away from knowing the Holy One to fall into the ungodly one.

What is the number one problem why some Christian people do not have a close relationship with God? Or even lose out with Him? Things. "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him."

Adam and Eve sinned because of **something**, the forbidden fruit from that tree. Saul lost his way with God because of **something** he did wrong that caused him to disobey. Lot's wife became a pillar of salt because her heart was on **things** back in Sodom and Gomorrah. There are more examples in the Old Testament, but also in the New Testament. Ananias and Sapphira lied about **something** in the House of God, and they both lost out.

Something is the word, and is separated from **some-thing**. There are people today who lose their lives over **some-thing**. **Either people today worry about something or get themselves in trouble because of some-thing. Again, this is because of the self and its earthly tendencies.**

"And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love, and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him," as in First John four, verse six. There are believers today who say they love God, but the self has them also loving other things, which results in a back-and-forth lifestyle where most are still stagnant and not able to produce fruit for the Kingdom of God. Again, the self is leading the way and not the inner person. Only God can change that through prayer to Him regularly to yield the self back and pull the inner person forward to control the body itself.

God, the Father, made man in His own image as in the first part of Genesis one, verse twenty-six, "And God said, let us make man in

our image after our likeness.” The Creator of the universe made us for His purpose and not for ourselves to do whatever we feel comes to mind.

The Pharisees, in John eight, verse nineteen, “Then said they unto him, Where is thy Father? Jesus answered, “Ye neither know me, nor my Father: if ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also.” So, who is your father? God? Or is it self?

The Pharisees were attempting to publicly embarrass the Son of God by asking about His father, whom they knew. Still, because Mary was pregnant with Him, this group became suspicious of something different.

For believers to be connected to the Father which is in heaven begins through His Son in Matthew sixteen, verse twenty-four, “Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.” This verse is also expressed in Luke nine, verse twenty-three, “And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.” Therefore, to deny self and its desires will give us access to the Father, God, the Creator of the universe. However, on the other hand, “But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven, as in Matthew ten, verse thirty-three. If anyone allows that, it means the self is dominating their lives and will cause them to lose out with God.

The example of Peter with Jesus in Matthew twenty-six, verses thirty-three to thirty-five, “Peter answered and said unto him, Though all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be offended. Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, That this night, before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. Peter said unto him, Though I should die with thee, yet will I not deny thee. Likewise also said all the disciples.” Jesus knew Peter’s denial of Him would be present because he foresaw that self was going to get in the way and change his mind. Peter at the time when he spoke confidently, did not know he would react in the way he did when the time of testing came and self would get in the way.

Peter’s denial of Jesus came later when Jesus was before Caiaphas in Mark fourteen,

beginning at verse fifty-three. A maid spotted Peter and pointed out to him that he was with Jesus. “But he denied, saying, I know not, neither understand I what thou sayest. And he went out into the porch; and the cock crew,” as in verse sixty-eight.

Then a maid saw Peter again and others nearby and declared he was with Jesus. “But he began to curse and to swear, saying, I know not this man of whom ye speak. And the second time the cock crew. And Peter called to mind the word that Jesus said unto him, Before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny me thrice. And when he thought thereon, he wept,” as in verses seventy-one to seventy-two.

Peter spoke well before Jesus where his inner spirit resonates before the presence of the Son of God. However, when Jesus was before Caiaphas, and chief priests and other people, Peter allowed the outer part, self, to interfere due to the situation at hand.

Many people today who desire to serve God allow themselves to fear and get in the way of potential criticism of family, workers, neighbors, friends, and other social attachments to deny the Savior of the world. Some individuals will go to church and pretend and not serve God truthfully because they have one foot in the godly atmosphere and the other in ungodly environments after. However, the ones who do serve God righteously are obvious among the world because their light shines and they are noticed by unbelievers, the lukewarm, the church-goers, and the pretenders.

There are many people today who know that there is a God but do not serve them and perhaps do it in their own way. However, that occurs because self is stopping that from happening because it leads the body while the inner person is buried somewhere within them. They do not realize because the devil works with the outer to deceive them from knowing God. The minute they realize and fight spiritually or strive with all their heart to know God and serve Him, He will enable them to find their way to Him. Times are changing rapidly, and the decision rests with them. Self must allow the inner person to lead to Jesus Christ.