



# NEW LIFE

## BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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*"For the Word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ" (Rev 1:9)*

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## **The Practice of Spirit-Filled Living**

*By Pastor Jack Sin (adapted from Maranatha Messenger dated 29 November 2009)*

### **Galatians 5:14-26**

#### **Introduction**

#### **Battle between the Flesh and the Spirit**

- Paul was addressing a serious problem that had the potential to undermine the believers' witness. The answer or solution to the problem is in verse 16, *'Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.'* This verse also tells us that there are two ways to live our lives: (1) walk in the Spirit or (2) fulfil the lust of the flesh.
- Verse 17 tells us that there is a big battle between the flesh and the Spirit within each of us. Reason why born-again Christians still struggle with sin: Even though we are delivered from the penalty of sin, and delivered from the power of sin, we are still not delivered from the presence of sin. This will happen when Christ comes one day.
- Look at the word "flesh". If you take away the letter "h" and read it backwards, you will get "self". Works of the flesh originate from the sinful self and remnants of unrepentant sin that is not confessed. Although we may not be sinless but we are to try to sin less by the grace of God. God has given us a way to win the battle and it is to walk in the Spirit and not in the lust of the flesh. Remember 1 John 2:15-17 which says, *'Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.'* It requires commitment and discipline and God's help as well.

#### **Works of the Flesh**

Verses 19 to 21 shows a list of sins that can be categorised as: Moral sins (verse 19), Spiritual sins (verse 20) and Social sins (verse 21)

#### **Moral sins (verse 19)**

- We live in a world that is increasingly exposed to the moral sins listed in verse 19. There are many temptations and worldly attitudes that affect our young people e.g. pornography, computer games, cavalier attitude towards post premarital sex etc.
- Hebrews 13:4-5 tells us that whoremongers and adulterers will be judged. Such immorality arises from self-centred covetousness. In order to be victorious over covetousness, we need to learn to be content. 1 Timothy 6:10 says, *'For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.'* What is the basis for our contentment? That Christ will never leave us nor forsake us. 1 John 5:21 says, *'Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.'*

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### Spiritual sins (verse 20)

- Idolatry is an example of a spiritual sin. Increasingly, idols are found more in the selves than on the shelves, thanks to famous motivational speakers who teach that everyone can become a god so many trust in themselves on health, wealth and other ephemeral worldly things.
- More and more people are fascinated with astrology, tarot cards, fengshui, geomancy and other new age practices. Even children today are exposed to yoga from a very young age. Never before in history had so many children been exposed to the occult with spells casting and witchcraft and through books such as the Harry Potter series and occultic computer games.

### Social sins (verse 21)

- Murders include a strong desire to malign someone and drunkenness (which is prevalent today among youths) are examples of social sins or interpersonal sins.

Many are caught up in revelling at events such as clubs, dancing or fashion events, Zouk and St James Power Station, foam parties in Sentosa and attending the latest nightspots. Even New Orleans after the floods continued to organise a Mardi Gra parade barely months after hurricane Katrina devastated the city. Verse 21 warns, *'they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.'* We need to heed this sober warning as Paul is speaking the truth here. We should also examine ourselves and reflect upon whether our thoughts, actions (e.g leisure, fun or even in service or attending church or work or serving in a ministry) come from a sincere and committed repentant heart.

## **Fruit of the Spirit**

In contrast with verses 19-21 which are on the works of the flesh, verses 22-23 address the fruit of the Spirit. Note that this is one fruit with many facets. The different facets are with respect to how one conducts oneself, how one relates to others and how one relates to God.

The first group - love, joy, peace - has to do with how one relates with God.

- Love refers to agape love, a genuine, sincere and unconditional love. It comes from God. We are able to love because God first loved us (1 John 4:19).
- Joy refers to an innate, indescribable jubilation that does not depend on one's circumstances, unlike happiness, which depends on happenings. We read in Acts 13:52 that even though Paul and Barnabas were persecuted by the Jews, they were filled with joy. Nehemiah 8:10 says, *'Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for this day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the LORD is your strength.'*

Peace ("Shalom") is very precious today. It refers to the peace that passes understanding that can only come from God, not the temporal peace that the world is seeking. The secret to peace is relying and thinking of Christ. Isaiah 26:3-4 says, *'Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength'* and Philippians 4:6-7 says, *'be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.'*

*Continued on Page 3...*

The second group - longsuffering, gentleness, goodness - has to do with how one relates to other people.

- Longsuffering refers to patience (not easily provoked), enduring love, willingness to wait for God's time.
- Gentleness refers to mildness, kindness and tenderness. It is a virtue that is fast disappearing in our fast-paced life which stress on assertiveness, getting the job done and many succumb to it.
- Goodness refers to moral virtue, benevolence and magnanimity shown towards the people of God as well as to others.

The third group - faith, meekness, temperance - has to do with how one conducts oneself.

- Faith refers to faithfulness, fidelity and truthfulness. This is a very important attribute. Someone who is faithful will carry out what others have entrusted to him / her. This is someone who is dependable. It is interesting to note that Jesus used faithfulness as a criterion in the assessment of service in the parable of the talents - *"Well done, thou good and faithful servant."* Matthew 25:41 says, *'His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.'*
- Meekness refers to strength under control. The prime example of meekness is Moses. Numbers 12:3 says, *'Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth.'* However, one must not confuse meekness with weakness. Moses was meek but most certainly not weak as he was able to stand before the Pharaoh, the great superpower of the world during his time to bravely ask him to let the Israelites go and he succeeded in the end with God's help.
- Temperance refers to self-discipline and control and includes the ability to say "no" to sin. We need 'won't' power, not just will power. Philippians 4:5 says, *'Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.'*

## Conclusion

We can be victorious in the Lord and In order to win the battle against the works of the flesh, we need to *"mortify the deeds of the body"* (Rom 8:13). Colossians 3:5-8 says, *'Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them. But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.'* Verse 24 also refers to the crucifying of the flesh with the affections and lusts. These verses do not mean that we should indulge in self-flagellation, but that we should overcome our selfish desires and live in the Spirit and walk in the Spirit and cultivate the fruit of the Spirit. We can help one another do so by studying the passage with our family members, encouraging one another on the facets that we can see in one another and humbling ourselves to acknowledge the various facets of the Spirit that we need to work on and God will help us if we do our part, rely and trust in Him.

# WELCOME TO NEW LIFE B-P CHURCH LONDON

Our worship services begin promptly at **11.00 am and 4.00 pm.**

Please stay back for Bible Study and fellowship lunch after the morning worship and for tea after the evening service. Do invite your friends to come to Church.

Worship Services			WELCOME
<b>Morning</b>	<i>Today: 06/12/2009</i>	<i>Next Week: 13/12/2009</i>	We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day.
<i>Chairman:</i>	John Poh	Jonathan Kim	
<i>Preacher:</i>	Eld Stephen Toms	Rev Timothy Ki	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Church Resident Minister:</b> Continue to pray for Pastor and Mrs Ki's preparation to return to London in December. Pray that their shipment will arrive safely. Pray for Journey Mercies for Pastor Ki who arrives on Friday.</li> <li>• <b>Lord's Supper:</b> Next week, we will be observing the Lord's Supper. Please come with your hearts prepared.</li> <li>• <b>Bible Study:</b> Today, we will cover Lesson 27 (Genesis 35&amp;36). Please spend the upcoming week preparing for DHW Lesson 28 (Genesis 37).</li> <li>• <b>Pray for those who are sick:</b> - Constance (ankle), Douglas (knee pain), Barbara (Alzheimer's), Prema (thyroid &amp; skin condition), Eld Jack Ford (old age and knees), Margaret (asthma), Mrs Ki's father (lung cancer), Eld Chew (recovery from shoulder injury), Mrs Ki (recovery from back pain), John (cold), Maureen (cold)</li> <li>• <b>Pray for those who are away or on travel:</b> Pastor Ki (S'pore/M'sia/S. Korea), Mrs Ki (Australia/S. Korea), Nicolas (Belgium), Yetta (S. Africa), Fung (HK), Margaret (US).</li> <li>• <b>Pray for those seeking employment/new opportunities:</b> Joy, Yetta</li> <li>• <b>Pray for those who have upcoming exams:</b> Grace, and Josh</li> <li>• <b>The next issue of Our Daily Homily (Jan-Mar 2010) is now available at the book table in the Church hall.</b></li> </ul>
<i>Message:</i>	The Man Who Spoke God's Word	Christ in the Gospel of Matthew	
<i>Text:</i>	1 Kings 13:1	Matthew 1:1	
<i>Organist:</i>	Anthony	Anthony	
<b>Evening</b>			
<i>Chairman:</i>	John Poh	Jonathan Kim	
<i>Preacher:</i>	Eld Stephen Toms	Rev Timothy Ki	
<i>Message:</i>	The King Who Obeyed God's Word	Abel's faith	
<i>Text:</i>	2 Kings 23:25	Hebrews 11:4	
<i>Pianist:</i>	Sophia	Joy	
Other Duties			
	<i>Today: 06/12/2009</i>	<i>Next Week: 13/12/2009</i>	
<i>Ushers:</i>	Jonathan / Constance	Joey / Daniel	
<i>Lunch:</i>	Grace	Constance	
<i>Washing-up:</i>	Volunteers	Volunteers	
<i>PA Crew:</i>	Brian	Joshua	
<i>Bible Study:</i>	Lesson 27 (Gen 35&36)	Lesson 28 (Gen 37)	
Appointments of the Week			
Fri 11 Dec	7:30pm	<b>Young Adults Fellowship:</b> Old Testament Messages	
Sat 12 Dec	4:00pm	<b>Prayer Meeting &amp; Bible Study:</b> Led by Jonathan	
Worship Service Collections			
<b>Offering:</b> £319.00		<b>Lunch:</b> £30.75	
<u>Frozen Love</u>			
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Adapted from "In Green Pastures" by J.R. Miller, D.D.</i></p> <p>There is a great deal of love that lacks affectionateness. Some one speaks of beautiful cathedrals with all their splendid architecture as "frozen music." There is a great deal of frozen love in this world, It is stately, strong, and beautiful, but it lacks tender expression. It lies cold and crystal in the heart, and never flows out in tenderness of word or act. There are hundreds of homes in our land in which there is love that would die for its dear ones if there were need, while yet in those very homes hearts are starving for love's daily bread.</p>			