

*So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law. Galatians 5:16-18 (NIV)*

## **Led By The Spirit**

This world is a battle ground. **How so?** Every day my heart and mind and life are under the constant attack of the thoughts, opinions and values of the world. The world seeks to conform me into its image or fit me into its mold. The world would like me to think and speak and act according to its patterns and practices. **What's wrong with that?** The world, the flesh and the devil all stand in opposition to you. I really only have two choices in life. **What are those choices?** I can either live my life according the world, the flesh and the devil or I can live my live according to the Spirit. In other words, I can either follow you are be filled with all the fleshly, worldly and evil desires that are in the world. There is no middle ground. **Why is that?** The battle is intense. No one can win victory over the world without being led by the Spirit. If I were to try, with my own strength, to live in victory over the flesh, the world and the devil, I would fail miserably. **That sounds like the voice of experience.** Yes, it certainly is the voice of experience. I have had far too many failed experiences trying to live in victory under my own power. **That does not work.** No, it does not.

**What is it that you desire?** I desire to be led by the Spirit. **That's good. What has my Holy Spirit led you to do so that you can live a life that is in alignment with my good, perfect and pleasing will?** Your Holy Spirit has led me to turn away from my old life. I have put off all the thoughts and opinions and values and practices of my old life. I have repented of my sin. I have asked for your forgiveness. I have received your cleansing. You have filled me with your Holy Spirit. I am now loving, following and serving you as my Savior and Lord. **That is very good. What else?** The Holy Spirit has led me to meet with you in your word. I have been letting your word dwell in me richly. I have been meditating on your word day and night. **With what purpose?** You have been using your word to change my heart and transform my mind. You have been helping me to think your thoughts, speak your words and do your deeds. The Holy Spirit has been using your word like a sword to fight in me, with me, for me and though me against evil that is in the world. **That is very good. What else?** The Holy Spirit has led me to put on the new life I have in you. **How so?** I am listening to your voice. I am going where you guide me. I am doing what you ask of me. I have been allowing you to both give and grant new desires in my heart. **What is the strongest desire that you have in your heart?** It is the utmost desire of my heart to know and love and follow you. **You indeed, you are being led by the Spirit.** Yes, I am and for that I am very thankful. **That is very good.**

*Holy Spirit, I know that only you can empower me to live in victory over worldly, fleshly and sinful decisions. Take God's word and use it to fight in me, with me, for me and through me. Lead my life so I can live according to God's good, pleasing and perfect will. Amen*

**Becoming Like Christ** *Live By The Spirit*

So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law.

NIV Galatians 5:16-18

**Becoming Like Christ** *Let The Holy Spirit Guide Your Lives*

So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions. But when you are directed by the Spirit, you are not under obligation to the law of Moses.

NLT Galatians 5:16-18

**Becoming Like Christ** *Live By The Spirit*

Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law.

NRSV Galatians 5:16-18

**Becoming Like Christ** *Walk and Live By The Spirit*

But I say, walk and live [habitually] in the [Holy] Spirit [responsive to and controlled and guided by the Spirit]; then you will certainly not gratify the cravings and desires of the flesh (of human nature without God). For the desires of the flesh are opposed to the [Holy] Spirit, and the [desires of the] Spirit are opposed to the flesh (godless human nature); for these are antagonistic to each other [continually withstanding and in conflict with each other], so that you are not free but are prevented from doing what you desire to do. But if you are guided (led) by the [Holy] Spirit, you are not subject to the Law.

AMP Galatians 5:16-18

**Becoming Like Christ** *Walk By The Spirit*

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law.

NASB Galatians 5:16-18

**Becoming Like Christ** *Walk By The Spirit*

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 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. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

ESV Galatians 5:16-18

**Becoming Like Christ** *Walk In The Spirit*

I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

NKJV Galatians 5:16-18

**Becoming Like Christ** *Motivated By God's Spirit*

My counsel is this: Live freely, animated and motivated by God's Spirit. Then you won't feed the compulsions of selfishness. For there is a root of sinful self-interest in us that is at odds with a free spirit, just as the free spirit is incompatible with selfishness. These two ways of life are antithetical, so that you cannot live at times one way and at times another way according to how you feel on any given day. Why don't you choose to be led by the Spirit and so escape the erratic compulsions of a law-dominated existence?

MSG Galatians 5:16-18

**Becoming Like Christ** *Obey The Holy Spirit's Instruction*

I advise you to obey only the Holy Spirit's instructions. He will tell you where to go and what to do, and then you won't always be doing the wrong things your evil nature wants you to. For we naturally love to do evil things that are just the opposite from the things that the Holy Spirit tells us to do; and the good things we want to do when the Spirit has his way with us are just the opposite of our natural desires. These two forces within us are constantly fighting each other to win control over us, and our wishes are never free from their pressures. When you are guided by the Holy Spirit, you need no longer force yourself to obey Jewish laws.

TLB Galatians 5:16-18

**Becoming Like Christ** *Live By Following The Spirit*

So I tell you: Live by following the Spirit. Then you will not do what your sinful selves want. Our sinful selves want what is against the Spirit, and the Spirit wants what is against our sinful selves. The two are against each other, so you cannot do just what you please. But if the Spirit is leading you, you are not under the law.

NCV Galatians 5:16-18

# Live By The Spirit

Year \_\_\_\_\_ Week \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Becoming Like Christ** – Galatians 5:16-18

**In Context:** *Read Galatians 5*

**Begin With Prayer:**

***Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.***

**Meditating On God's Word:** ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law. Galatians 5:16-18 (NIV)

**Considering The Words:** ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

So I say, | live by | the Spirit, | and you | will not | gratify the desires | of the | sinful nature. | For | the sinful nature | desires | what is contrary | to the Spirit, | and the Spirit | what is contrary | to the | sinful nature. | They are | in conflict with | each other, | so that you | do not do | what you want. | But if | you are led | by the Spirit, | you are not | under law. Galatians 5:16-18 (NIV)

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**Praying The Scripture:** ***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Holy Spirit, I know that only you can empower me to live in victory over worldly, fleshly and sinful decisions. Take God's word and use it to fight in me, with me, for me and through me. Lead my life so I can live according to God's good, pleasing and perfect will. Amen

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**What It Means:** ***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

When, where and how are you most likely to face battles with fleshly and sinful desires?

When, where and how are you most often tempted by worldly desires?

When have you most clearly experienced the sinful nature in opposition and conflict with the Spirit?

Why is the power of the Holy Spirit your only real hope to overcome worldly, fleshly and sinful desires?

**How has the Holy Spirit used God's word to help you to resist worldly, fleshly and sinful desires?**

**How are you seeking to live each day by being led and filled by the power of the Holy Spirit?**

**When has the Holy Spirit given you victory over a worldly, fleshly or sinful desire?**

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**Living It Out:** ***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Seek to live a Holy Spirit led life so you can live out God's good, pleasing and perfect will.

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**Seeing It Happen:** ***(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)***

Have faith that the Holy Spirit will lead you in victory over worldly, fleshly and sinful desires.

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**Get Ready To Share:** ***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group how you are seeking to live a Holy Spirit empowered life.

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**Close With Prayer:**

***Quiet Yourself Before The Lord***

*Pause And Offer Prayers Of...*

*With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You*

Adoration... \_\_\_\_\_

Thanksgiving... \_\_\_\_\_

Confession... \_\_\_\_\_

Intercession... \_\_\_\_\_

Petition... \_\_\_\_\_

**Journal**

*As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord*

**What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?**

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**What Prayers Are You Praying Today?**

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**Prayer Of Blessing**

*(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)*

*May you live by the Spirit so you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.*

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**Prayer To Carry**

*(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)*

*Holy Spirit, I will live by you so that I will not gratify the desires of the flesh.*

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**What Do You Want To Remember About Today?**

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**A Question To Ask God**

*(What Would You Like To Ask God?)*

*Holy Spirit, how do you want to lead my life today?*

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