

"Doomed to Repeat?"
Galatians 5.16-25
November 10, 2013
Message Outline



1. The road to growth goes through the battlefield. (v. 17a)
2. We are not doomed to continually repeat the passions of our sinful nature. (v. 16)
3. The Spirit has already begun making everything new! (v. 17b)

"Over-desires" of the sinful nature (vv. 19-21):

sexuality - *sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery*

religion - *idolatry and witchcraft*

relationships - *hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy*

drink - *drunkenness, orgies*

The acts of the flesh are indicators of spiritual danger. (v. 21)

Spirit-grown characteristics of the Christian:

love -

goodness -

joy -

faithfulness -

peace -

gentleness -

forbearance -

self-control -

kindness -

The Fruit of the Spirit is an indicator of spiritual growth! (v. 22)

- A. Live in step with the Holy Spirit! (v. 25)
- B. Living in step with the Holy Spirit starves sin and cultivates Christ-likeness! (vv. 24-25)



Growth Groups are small groups of people that meet together in area homes during the week. During the current session, groups are learning about the Holy Spirit by discussing the questions below:

PREPARE: If you have the *Forgotten God* book, please read chapter 6 before your group meets this week.

WATCH: *Forgotten God DVD* for session 6 (about 10 minutes).

1. The video poses an important question: If you were absolutely, 100 percent submitted to the will of God at this moment, what do you think He might ask you to do?

READ: Romans 7:18 and 8:1-13. Daily considering and pursuing the Spirit's leading in our lives is crucial. In Romans 7:18, Paul discusses the impossibility of obedience in the flesh. This is a hopeless situation. But what is impossible in Romans 7 is made possible in Romans 8. What makes the difference? The Holy Spirit. According to Romans 8, the difference between trying and failing, and truly obeying God has everything to do with following the Spirit's leading.

2. In verses 5-8, Paul talks about the difference between the mind set on the flesh and the mind set on the Spirit. Think about this difference. Give an example of what each type of person looks like.

3. Look at verses 9-13. What things does Paul mention that set the Spirit-filled person apart?

4. What do you think it means to "by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body" (v. 13)?

READ: Romans 8:4, Galatians 5:16 & 25. The concept of walking is so basic that perhaps you've never considered what walking entails. Think about how simple it is: You don't have to know exactly where you're going; it doesn't require any planning; all you have to do is put one foot in front of the other. Really, the only way to walk is one step at a time.

5. Think about the analogy of walking. Practically, what would it mean for you to walk by the Spirit in your daily life?

READ: *The Spirit who raised Christ from the dead is not someone we can just call on when we want a little extra power in our lives. Jesus Christ did not die in order to follow us. He died and rose again so that we could forget everything else and follow Him to the cross, to true Life.* (Forgotten God, 122) If you add the Spirit to your life, you're not open to change; you just want to enhance what you're already doing. This is not what the Spirit came to do. On the other hand, if you begin following the Spirit's leading in your life, you will find yourself changing. The Spirit may prompt you to let go of things that were once important to you. He may even call you to give up some good things in your life, at least for a time, in order to accomplish His purposes in and through you. **DISCUSS the difference between adding the Spirit to your life and actually following Him minute by minute.**

READ: Sometimes we get the impression that being Spirit-filled doesn't require continued action. It's important to recognize that being filled with the Spirit is not a one-time act. When we put our faith in Christ, the Holy Spirit begins living within us, and we are sealed in Him (Eph. 1:13). That will never change. Yet even those who have received the Spirit of God are called to be filled with the Spirit (Eph. 5:18). Being filled with the Spirit is really a lifelong process. The Holy Spirit will be working in us continually until the day we leave this earth.

READ: 2 Corinthians 3:18. The implication is that this is not an event; it's an ongoing relationship in which the Spirit continues to work in us to make us the people He wants us to be.

6. Though we might wish that being Spirit-filled were as easy as an event, what are the benefits of maintaining an ongoing relationship with the Holy Spirit?

PRAY: Spend some time together in prayer. Ask God what He wants you to do -- not in five years, but right now, today. Pray for strength to follow the Spirit's leading in whatever He may be calling you to do.