

Renewal

“Day by day we are being renewed”



Hempfield UMC / September 17, 2017

Live by the Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is the same Spirit that was in Jesus Christ and can now reside within us. Life in the Spirit is radically different from the life we are used to. By the Spirit, we no longer live by the ways of this world, but live now by the ways of God. This requires us to say "no" to our former ways and "yes" to the new patterns of the kingdom of God.

1. The Spirit of Truth

In the upper room, Jesus spoke to his disciples about his departure and about the coming of the Holy Spirit. He explained that the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth.

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. (John 14:15-17)

Ever since the time of Adam and Eve, human beings have attempted to spin the truth. Through Jesus Christ and the coming of the Holy Spirit, God again offers truth to us. Living by the Spirit means that we invite God’s truth into every area of our lives, not merely our religious life.

Decide to what degree you want the Spirit of Truth.

2. Cultivating the Desires of the Spirit

The Holy Spirit desires the things that God desires. When we invite the Spirit to reside within us, these desires begin to take root in our soul. They then begin to displace the old desires of the flesh. Paul talks about this in Galatians 5.

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. (Galatians 5:16-18)

When we don’t recognize and welcome the Holy Spirit to do his work within us, our religious life degenerates into sin management. New desires we attempt to dispel only return in greater strength. Yet by the Spirit we can allow new desires to reside within us.

Invite the Spirit to give you new desires that displace the old.

3. *Pick Some Fruit*

It was the picking of fruit by Adam and Eve that got us into this mess in the first place. God now offers us the new fruit of his Spirit:

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.
(Galatians 5:22-23)



So pick some new fruit!
Circle one or more and ask God to cause it to grow within you!

Questions *for reflection or group discussion:*

What is your favorite fruit of the Spirit and why?

Where do you see truth-spin in our world today?

Can you see this same truth-avoidance in yourself?

What do you think would happen if God spoke truth to you?

Is there a new desire God wants to grow within you?



Your Notes *what God is saying to you:*
