



11/24/25

I love how Tim showed us that no giant is too big for our God. Do you need to know that? I know I do. No matter what we face, God is bigger. You and I may be too small to fight the giant, but there is no rival too big for God. Amen!

*Blessings,
Jonna*

Galatians 5:16-26

"The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually... But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord" (Genesis 6:5, 8). Why did Noah find favor with the Lord? He was a righteous, blameless man who walked with God.

What was the difference between Noah and the other men? Noah walked with God, and they walked "in the flesh." Galatians 6 gives a clear distinction between the evidence of a heart set on God vs. a heart set on SELF... the flesh.

Galatians 5:16-17 says, "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." This is really talking about where I set my desires, feelings, and decisions... either on the Spirit or the flesh. I can't walk according to what pleases the Spirit of God AND the flesh at the same time. They completely clash. They want exact opposite things. Romans 8:7-8 says that the mind set on the flesh is hostile to God and cannot please Him.

The scary thing is that I am stuck with the flesh until God takes me home. I have both the flesh and the Spirit dwelling in me. I process the information of what's good in my mind. My heart processes the information and decides who to bow to based on my desires and feelings. It's a constant battle. My flesh wants what won't please God. My spirit wants what will please God. I have a minute by minute decision to make... which one will I let have control? My flesh or

the Spirit?

The more I grow in faith in Christ, the more I don't want to listen to my flesh. But I don't have the strength to crush the flesh within my own self because my own self IS the flesh. I must walk by the Spirit... follow the Spirit... listen to the Spirit... be led by the Spirit. He gives me the strength to overcome the flesh... one battle at a time.

Vs. 18 ~ "If I'm led by the Spirit, I'm not under the law." What does the law have to do with this fight between my spirit and my flesh? Trying to live by the law only makes me want to sin more. It either fuels pride in me, because I begin to think following rules makes me awesome, or it fuels me with shame, because I am unable to live up to the demands of the law. The answer is not to live by the law. Galatians 3:10 says, "All who rely on works of the law are under a curse." The answer is to walk by the Spirit and let Him lead me.

This is what made Noah righteous and blameless... He walked by the Spirit... He walked with God. What made the other men so evil is that they lived according to the flesh in direct opposition to the Lord.

Vs. 19-21 tell me what the evil men's works were like. They did these "works of the flesh" continually... with only evil in their hearts. Their opposition to God was obvious. While God blesses us with purity and sweet intimacy in marriage, they chose sexual immorality to the point of even taking women against their will. While God is completely pure, they celebrated impurity. They chose sensuality, idolatry, and sorcery... all things that are about lifting up SELF and putting something on the throne of their hearts rather than God.

All this evil stirs up fighting and hatred and jealousy and flipping out in anger and divisions. There is no peace in these flesh works. Peace only comes from the God of peace. God calls us to unity, not fighting for superior positions.

What happens when a person has all this hatred in his heart? He's miserable... so he looks for a way of escape... drunkenness and orgies and things like these. Nothing good comes from doing these things. The only inheritance that waits for those who do these things... who make this their practice... is eternal separation from God. They will never inherit the kingdom of God. They will never walk with God. Life without God is ultimately nothing but misery.

What is the evidence of those who are led by the Spirit? He grows His fruit in us... like what Jesus spoke of in John 15. When we are led by the Spirit, we abide with the Lord. He is the vine and we are the branches. The branch does not do works or make fruit. The branch bears fruit... the fruit of the Spirit. Vs. 22-23 tells me what it must have looked like for Noah to walk with God... what it looks like when I walk with God. The fruit He grows in me is love... not hate, joy... not despair, peace... not anxiety, patience... not irritability, kindness... not attack, goodness... cruelty, faithfulness... not inconsistency, gentleness... not harshness, self control... not seeking foolish pleasures.

These together make ONE fruit. If the Spirit is growing His fruit in me, He doesn't pick and choose which one of these I will have... He is growing all of them together as one fruit. That's partially how I can know if I'm muscling it. For example, if I have patience but not gentleness... that's not the fruit of the Spirit. It actually doesn't even make sense. How can these truly be separated? Love IS patient and kind. You can't be gentle or faithful without self control. They all go hand in hand.

"And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires." This is such a hard verse for me to understand. It doesn't seem like my flesh is crucified.... But it IS. It just doesn't know it's dead! Like a chicken with its head cut off. I know that my passions and desires have been crucified with the flesh, because I HATE when I do them. I find no pleasure in disobeying God. Usually, the moment I realize I've done something that is not in line with the Spirit, I have a lot of regret. This is one of those times it seems that God has declared over us what He is doing in us. He has declared that my passions and desires are dead through Jesus, and now He is transforming me one degree of glory to the next so that I no longer crave the things Jesus had to die for.

Through Jesus, I live by the Spirit. Romans 8:9 says that if I belong to Jesus, I live by the Spirit and He dwells in me. So... Galatians 6:25 tells me, "If I live by the Spirit, I need to keep in step with the Spirit." In other words, I need to walk where He's walking. Where is He NOT walking? He's not walking in pride or conceit. Why is the Holy Spirit not walking in pride or conceit? Because He's humble and gentle. Pride and conceit incite division, but the Holy Spirit encourages unity. If I am in step with the Spirit, I will be humble, because He is humble.

If I'm not in step with the Spirit, I will not be about unity, but I will provoke those I treat as less than me, and I will envy those I think have more than me. I will make it about comparison and position rather than unity and love. The Spirit is all about unity and love.

When I think about the life of walking with the flesh vs. the life of walking with the Spirit, there really is no comparison. The life of flesh seems to have payoff but ends in misery. The life of walking with the Spirit is absolute peace, contentment, community, family. It means humbling myself before the Lord, but what I gain in humbling myself is far superior to what I have in pride. Father, please remind me of that when I'm in "the moment." I truly want to live for you with everything I've got... and then I find myself in those moments of impatience or frustration. And instead of seeing them as an opportunity to lay more of my SELF down, I feel entitled to my feelings of frustration and my flesh fights to take over. Please help me to crush the flesh. It's a liar.

Noah walked with You. I pray that I will walk with You... walk by the Spirit... keep in step with the Spirit... and not run to the corrupt paths of the flesh. Amen.