

Living The Christian Life Series
Lesson 19 – Developing the Biblical Techniques and the Crowns That
Accompany Them - Part 2

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Series Text: Romans 12:1 *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*

Applicational Text: II Timothy 4:7-8: *I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the Righteous Judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing.'*

Introduction:

In our current series titled, Living The Christian Life, we have identified four biblical techniques for living the Christian Life effectively. These four techniques are associated with four crowns that will be awarded at the Judgment Seat of Christ following the Rapture of the Church. We have identified them as:

- Developing The Spirit Controlled Life - The Crown of Righteousness
- Developing Spiritual Maturity - The Crown of Glory
- Developing the Faith/Rest Life - The Crown of Life
- Developing Effective Stewardship - The Crown Joy

In our study last time we briefly reviewed all four of these and made a distinction between the “Diadem Crown” and the four “Stephanos Crowns.” There are two words in the Greek New Testament that are translated by the word “crown.” The word “diadem” and the word “stephanos.” The use of these two words is technical and specific. The “diadem” is the crown of authority worn by rulers while the “stephanos “ is an award presented for achievement. Believers of the “Church Age” are given a “diadem” at salvation because we are going to rule and reign with Christ throughout the Millennial Reign of Christ and then in the New Heaven and the New Earth for Eternity.

The “stephanos Crowns,” given for achievement and awarded at the “Judgment Seat of Christ,” following the “Rapture” of the Church are given as an acknowledgement of how well we developed these four basic techniques as we lived out our designed lives here upon the earth..

The Crown of Righteousness you receive at the Judgment Seat of Christ will be in proportion to your living the Spirit Controlled Life.

I. Spirituality and Carnality:

We must also make a distinction between Spirituality and Carnality. Spirituality and carnality are exclusive and therefore are absolutes. At any given moment you are either controlled by the Holy Spirit and are spiritual, or you are controlled by the old sin nature and are carnal. That is why we are commanded in Ephesians 5:18 to be filled (controlled by) the Holy Spirit.

In I Corinthians 3:1-3 Paul said,

And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, [even] as unto babes in Christ.

I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able [to bear it], neither yet now are ye able.

For ye are yet carnal: for whereas [there is] among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?

When we are out of fellowship, we are not able to understand the things of God, not able to understand Scripture or its application to your life. But when we are in fellowship, the Holy Spirit controls our lives, and we are able to understand the things of God.

I Corinthians 2:14-16 says,

But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know [them], because they are spiritually discerned.

But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.

According to Galatians 5:19-22, when you are carnal your Old Sin Nature is in control of your life and the result is Fornication, Uncleaness, Lasciviousness, Idolatry, Witchcraft, Hatred, Variance, Emulations, Wrath, Strife, Seditions, Heresies, Envyings, Murders, Drunkenness, Revellings, and such like. But, when you are spiritual the Holy Spirit is in control and the fruit of the Spirit is evident - Love, Joy, Peace, Long-Suffering, Gentleness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Meekness, and self-control.

So, the crown of righteousness is to be awarded on the basis of our being filled or controlled by the Holy Spirit which enables us to maintain the course God has assigned us to run. Therefore, it is important for us to keep our sins confessed to God.

The Bible teaches that we are believer-priests and are to make our confession directly to God and do not need to go through any other mediator other than Jesus Christ.

II. Indwelling Versus Filling of The Holy Spirit

In order to develop the spirit-controlled life we must understand the distinction between the Indwelling of the Holy Spirit, which is permanent and the Filling of The Holy Spirit which is conditional.

I Corinthians 2:12-14

12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

In order to understand and apply the things God has prepared for those who love Him we must have both the indwelling and the filling of the Holy Spirit and must be able to make a distinction between the two.

We have seen in our previous studies that:

1. Man is born body and soul, but God is Spirit and those who worship Him must worship Him in Spirit and truth.
2. The Born-Again Believer receives a spirit when he places his faith in Jesus Christ - he is born spiritually.
3. The spirit we receive is not from this world system but is from the source of God - it is a birth from above
4. The spirit is given to us so we can understand the things that are given to us in grace.
5. The apostles did not teach man's wisdom with their words, but taught the wisdom of God.
6. The apostles teachings came from the source of the spirit, comparing spiritual things to spiritual things.
7. The teachings of the apostles were considered moronic by the secular world.

8. The teaching of the apostles were designed to help us understand the things God has prepared for them that love Him.

So, Let's look at the doctrine of the Indwelling and the Filling of the Holy Spirit.

A. There is a distinction between the “Indwelling” and the “Filling” of the Holy Spirit:

1. The “Indwelling” of the Holy Spirit is permanent.

John 14:16-17 says,

16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever; 17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

The “Indwelling” begins at the moment of salvation:

Galatians 3:2

This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

Galatians 4:6

And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.

Romans 5:5

And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

Romans 8:8-9

8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. 9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

2. The “Filling” of the Holy Spirit is temporal, conditional, and must be done habitually.

Ephesians 5:18

And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit.

B. At any point in our lives we are either Spiritual (controlled by the Holy Spirit) or Carnal (with unconfused sin in our life).

I Corinthians 3:1-3

1 And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. 2 I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. 3 For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and division, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?

C. Filled by the Holy Spirit means to be controlled by the Holy Spirit.

The word “filled” is translated from the Greek word, “**pleroouthe**” and it means **saturated to the point of control**. The emphasis of the word is on control. It means to be under the full influence or control of the Holy Spirit.

D. Sin Grieves the Holy Spirit:

Ephesians 4:30

And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

E. Human Good quenches His power in us.

I Thessalonians 5:19

Quench not the Spirit.

F. Therefore it follows that the hindrance to the Filling of The Holy Spirit is an unconfessed sin in the Believer’s life. Sin is to be confessed.

I John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

The Confession of Sin of sin results in the Holy Spirit having control of us and motivating and producing His fruit in us.

G. The Spirit Controlled Life Results in Christ being glorified in the Believer’s life because the Fruit of The Spirit is Produced, which is the character of Christ.

Galatians 5:22-23

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

H. Nothing good is produced in the life of the Believer apart from the filling of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 8:8

So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

Galatians 3:2-3

2 This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? 3 Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?

I. The Issue In Spirituality is Imitation:

1. The Believer Controlled by The Spirit Imitates Christ.

Ephesians 5:1-2

1 Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; 2 And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling savour.

2. The Believer Not Controlled by The Spirit Imitates The Unbeliever.

I John 1:6

6 If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:

I Corinthians 3:1-3

1 And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. 2 I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. 3 For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and division, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?

J. Some Results of Being Controlled By The Spirit:

Become imitators of Christ (John 16:14; II Corinthians 3:3; Philippians 1:20; Galatians 4:19)

Have Perception of The Word (John 14:26; 16:12; I Corinthians 2:9-16)

Become Witnesses (Acts 8:1)

Have Spiritual Guidance (Romans 8:14; Ephesians 5:16-18)

Have Spiritual Assurance (Romans 8:14-6; Galatians 4:5-6)

Experience True Worship (Philippians 3.3; John 4:24)

Be Effective in Prayer (Ephesians 6:18; Psalms 66:18)

Assist Others (Galatians 6:1)

Produce the Fruit of The Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23)

Conclusion:

Next week we will investigate the mechanics of developing the Spiritual controlled life and embellishing your Crown of Righteousness.

But it begins at Salvation:

- **For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God...**
- **The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life...**
- **With the heart man believes unto righteousness...**
- **But with the mouth confession is made unto salvation...**
- **For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved!**

Walk In The Spirit And Wear The Crown of Righteousness