

GROWING STRONG

WHO'S ON THE THRONE?

Galatians 5:16-26

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*But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out
the desire of the flesh. Galatians 5:16*

Why is living a victorious Christian life so hard to do?

1. There is an ongoing, internal battle for control.

A. Before you receive Christ, you are dominated by the flesh.

*For those who are according to the flesh and are controlled by its
unholy desires set their minds on and pursue those things which
gratify the flesh ... Romans 8:5 AMP*

B. When you receive Christ, the Holy Spirit enters your life.

*In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the
gospel of your salvation--having also believed, you were
sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise.
Ephesians 1:13*

C. After you receive Christ, the internal battle begins.

*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. Galatians 5:17*

1. The flesh wants to gratify self.

2. The Spirit wants to glorify Christ.

2. There is the problem of the pleasures of sin.

A. When the flesh is in control, there is temporary pleasure.

B. When the flesh is in control, there is lasting pain.

3. There is the well-traveled, wrong way to victory.

A. Many try to live the Christian life in the flesh.

Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. Romans 8:8

B. Many try to will power their way to victory.

4. There is only one way to walk in victory.

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. Galatians 5:16

A. It is impossible to win without the Spirit.

B. It is essential to surrender to the Spirit.

*If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.
Galatians 5:25*

C. It is wonderful to experience the Spirit.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. Galatians 5:22-23

Who do you want on the throne?