

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT

Lutheran Laymen's League

District Convention Bible Study

St. John's Lutheran Church

Red Bud, Illinois

"Live by the Spirit"

Introduction: Psalm 51:10-12 *A psalm of David. When the prophet Nathan came to him after David had committed adultery with Bathsheba.*

P: Create in me a pure heart, O God, **C: and renew a steadfast spirit within me.**

P: Do not cast me from Your presence **C: or take Your Holy Spirit from me.**

P: Restore to me the joy of Your salvation **C: and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.**

ALL: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Ezekiel 37:11-14 ¹¹ Then He said to me: "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.' ¹² Therefore prophesy and say to them: 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: O My people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³ Then you, My people, will know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. ¹⁴ I will put My Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the LORD have spoken, and I have done it, declares the LORD.' "

What does it mean to live and not just to exist? _____

In what "land" do we now "live by the Spirit"? _____

John 14:25-27 ²⁵"All this I have spoken while still with you. ²⁶But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. ²⁷Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

What promise does Jesus give to His followers? _____

What two things will the Spirit do for us? _____

What condition of life do we live in because we have the Holy Spirit? _____

John 16:12-15 ¹²"I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. ¹³But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on His own; He will speak only what He hears, and He will tell you what is yet to come. ¹⁴He will bring glory to Me by taking from what is Mine and making it known to you. ¹⁵All that belongs to the Father is Mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is Mine and make it known to you."

What are the "jobs" of the Spirit? _____

Galatians 5:16-26 ¹⁶So I say, **live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.** ¹⁷For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. ¹⁸But **if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law.** ¹⁹The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; ²⁰idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions ²¹and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit

the kingdom of God. ²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. ²⁴Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. ²⁵Since we live by the Spirit, **let us keep in step with the Spirit.** ²⁶**Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.**

Paul's Defense of Gospel Freedom:

What are examples of "instant gratification" in our culture today? _____

What does "fruit of the Spirit" mean? _____

What image does "keep in step with the Spirit" remind us of? _____

What happens among us when we are not "in step with the Spirit"? _____

Romans 8:1-26 ¹Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, ²because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. ³For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so He condemned sin in sinful man, ⁴in order that **the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.** ⁵Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. ⁶The mind of sinful man¹ is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; ⁷the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. ⁸Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.

⁹**You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you.** And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness. ¹¹And if the **Spirit of Him who raised Jesus** from the dead is living in you, **He who raised Christ** from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through **His Spirit**, who lives in you.

¹²Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation—but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. ¹³For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, ¹⁴because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by Him we cry, "Abba, Father." ¹⁶The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. ¹⁷Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in His sufferings in order that we may also share in His glory.

¹⁸I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. ¹⁹The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. ²⁰For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. ²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ²³Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

²⁶**In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.**

Paul's Outline in his letter to the Romans: Chapters 6-8 "Sanctification"

How are the requirements of the law fully met in us as we live according to the Spirit?

We may not know how to pray, but the Holy Spirit is our prayer translator!

1 Corinthians 3:16-17 ¹⁶Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? ¹⁷If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is sacred, and you are that temple.

What does this mean for how we care for our bodies? _____

1 Corinthians 6:18-20 ¹⁸Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. ¹⁹Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; ²⁰you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.

When did the Holy Spirit make our bodies his temple? _____

At what price were we bought? _____

Ephesians 4:29-32 ²⁹Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. ³⁰And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ³²Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

How were we sealed? _____ **What is the 'day of redemption'?** _____

How do we show that we are "sealed by the Holy Spirit"? _____

Conclusion: Psalm 143:7-10

P: Answer me quickly, O LORD; my spirit fails.

C: Do not hide Your face from me or I will be like those who go down to the pit.

P: Let the morning bring me word of Your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in You.

C: Show me the way I should go, for to You I lift up my soul.

P: Rescue me from my enemies, O LORD,

C: for I hide myself in You.

P: Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God;

C: may Your good Spirit lead me on level ground.

ALL: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen