

First Baptist Church Smiths Falls

May 5, 2019 - Communion Sunday

Scripture: Galatians 5:16-26 New International Version (NIV)
16 So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. 19 The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; 20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions 21 and 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. 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. 24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. 26 Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

Congregational Prayer: "Our Father"

Our Father, Which Art In Heaven, Hallowed Be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom Come. Thy Will Be Done, On Earth As It Is In Heaven. Give Us This Day, Our Daily Bread, And Forgive Us Our Trespases, As We Forgive Those Who Trespass Against Us. And Lead Us Not Into Temptation, But Deliver Us From Evil. For Thine Is The Kingdom, The Power And The Glory. Forever And Ever. Amen

Message: "Prayer 16: Prayer Strategies 2"

Introduction:

- A little while ago I told you the story about a friend of mine from Kitchener, the Rev. Dale Hoch, who, as a young man, met some young people when he and some tough motorcycle henchman bikers drove into town, and how the Holy Spirit did indeed stop these big bikers from hurting the two young people who met them, inviting them instead to come to a Christian rally. I have another story from Dale that is so

remarkable, and that is how he came to Christ. Dale said that he came into a Church and was instantly surrounded by people. He thought at first are going to kick them out, but then they reached out to him, and invited him in with great joy. Dale went on to say that during the service he felt so compelled to give his heart to the Lord Jesus Christ, but even when the pastor did an altar call, Dale could not make himself say yes to Christ. Remarkably, a young man, compelled by the Holy Spirit, stood up, looked right at Dale, walked a number of aisles over to him, and asked Dale if he wanted to go forward to accept Christ. When Dale got to the front there was a man and woman that the pastor addressed first. The pastor looked at the man, put his hand onto the man's forehead, said, "In the name of Jesus..." And with that the man fell to the ground. After the same thing happened to the woman standing directly beside Dale, he was terrified. There he was in his motorcycle leathers, long hair and looking battle scarred from his years as a motorcycle henchman, and he said to himself, "There is no way I'm going to go down." The pastor first asked Dale some questions about Christ, and Dale identified that he wanted to have Jesus is the Saviour. And with that, the pastor put his hand on to Dale's forehead, and before he knew it he was laying on the

ground. He said that he tried to get up. He tried to move. He said he tried to fight what was going on. But he also said that he couldn't do anything, just feel the peace of God all around him and through him.

- When I became a pastor 26 years ago I discovered that one of the things that they do not teach very well in seminary has to do with the Holy Spirit of God. The triune God of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, has been working with me to understand more more the enormous working of God's Holy Spirit. Today, as we prepare for this table of communion, as we look at our last in our three month study of our Battle Plan for Prayer, we want to talk about being prepared to pray, and also to look at Galatians chapter 5 to see what the Holy Spirit can give us when we are prayerfully walking with our God.

Part 1: The work of the Holy Spirit

- Prayer unleashes the Holy Spirit of God in our lives. Here are 7 things that the Holy Spirit of God can and will do for you:
 1. The Holy Spirit goes with, encourages, empowers and guides those who love Him (Acts 1:8).
 2. The Holy Spirit convicts people of their sinfulness and of God's coming judgement (John 16:7-8).

- 3. The Holy Spirit opens our eyes to the truth of the gospel and to whom Jesus really is (Matthew 16:16-17).
- 4. The Holy Spirit enables a person to trust Jesus as their Lord and Saviour (1 Corinthians 12:3).
- 5. The Holy Spirit saves, washes, regenerates, and renews a person's heart when they believe in Jesus Christ (John 3:5).
- 6. The Holy Spirit enters and seals the heart of the new believer (Ephesians 1:13-14).
- 7. The Holy Spirit encourages, empowers, and equips us to live the Christian life as the engine, the power plant, of the Christian life in believers (Ephesians 5:18 (filled continually, on an on-going basis)), giving us the fruit of the spirit (Galatians 5:22-24).
- All seven of these principles will help our walk with God, and will help us to pray for non-believers, for the ripe harvest field.

Part 2: Galatians 5 (p. 826)

- There are two choices, and two choices only in life. As we come to Communion, let me remind you that this table is for only one of the two groups of people: This table is for those who have said yes to Jesus, accepting Him as a personal Lord and Saviour, and want to walk with

Him. There is the other side, and Paul outlines the traps of not saying yes to Jesus, of being of the flesh of this world, in Galatians 5:19-21: *“The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; 20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions 21 and 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.”* Are these actions something that you could stand before a Holy God and be proud of in your life?

- Let me tell you that the first option, the best option, is to give your heart to Christ Jesus as Lord and Saviour, and to walk in His holy ways, striving to be the best you can, to pray to the living God, to read His holy Word, and attend the Church of Jesus Christ, and to love one another as Christ loves us. It comes with a prayer of release to God, asking Jesus into your heart, and asking His Holy Spirit to guide and direct you in your life for today and for forever more. And what do you get for this: Let's go back to Galatians 5:22-23: *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control.”* Can you imagine living a life of these great things! Is this not what every person in the world wants? These

are gifts of the Spirit of God. They will come to you through prayer as you give yourself to the Lord, and as you walk and talk with Him in your everyday life.

Part 3: P.R.A.Y. for Prayer:

- Please allow me to wrap up our three months of the Battle plan for Prayer, and to help us prepare for this table of remembrance by giving you an acronym to help you to PRAY for the lost in your life to be saved:
- P - Paralysis of Satan: 2 Corinthians 4:4 tells us that the god of this world has blinded people to not understand the Good News of Jesus Christ. But Jesus told the parable of a strong man being in control of his house (he will guard the house until a stronger man comes along (Mark 3:27)). God will bind the enemy. God will open the eyes of unbelievers as Satan is bound.
- R - Repentant Heart: Not a hardened heart of resistance, but an open heart (Ezekiel 36:26). 2 Timothy 2:24-26 reminds us that God, and God alone, grants repentance. Pray that your non-believing friends and family can be delivered from the enemy. Pray that when they hear the Gospel that they will respond knowing how lost they are, and that Christ

died for them to save them.

- A - An open door: Give an opportunity for the gospel to be shared (Colossians 4:3). God can work in circumstances and open closed door (Philip from Acts 8:26-40). Pray that people would be opened to the gospel.
- Y - Yourself (your own witness): Pray that God will give you the words to say, will help you represent The Lord well. Pray that God will help you to open hearts so that others will want to hear what The Lord has to say through you. Pray for boldness, courage and the ability to share His News. Ephesians 6:18-20 has the Apostle Paul asking for boldness - to be able to open his mouth "and make known the mystery of the gospel."
- PRAY for your friends and family to receive the fruit you have been given in Jesus Christ the Lord through His Holy Spirit.

Conclusion:

- The Rev Dale Hoch was driving his motorcycle through Orangeville in late October of last year (2018) when a driver missed a stop sign. 5 weeks later, he died of His injuries. But when he died, he had the Lord in his life, and so he stepped into the other great gift of God available for believers - he stepped into eternal life with Jesus, his Lord and His

friend.

- Today, please give your heart to the Lord. Today, please pray for the Lord to take over your life, and please pray to the Living God to become the Lord of others and the things of this world. Today, live your life for Jesus, lead by His Holy Spirit into the fruit of God's spirit in you life. It's going to be a battle and God calls us to fight with prayers, but the victory is won in Christ Jesus.