

Living as God's People

LESSON 4: LIVING AS GOD'S PEOPLE BY RELYING ON THE SPIRIT

BIG IDEA: God gives us His Spirit to guide and empower us to live in a way that pleases Him.

3. Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as becomes the followers of Christ?

I. Can I Obey God?

Depravity<----->Perfectionism

12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. PHILIPPIANS 2

- The Philippians were _____. Paul expected them to continue to be obedient. So can we.
• We are able to obey because _____ is at work in us so we want to obey.
• We are able to obey because God is at work in us so we _____ obey.
• We are responsible to be _____ in growing in grace.
• We are utterly _____ upon God for growth in grace.

Cheap Grace <----->Self-Righteousness

11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, 12 training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, 13 waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

TITUS 2

- Saving grace does more than bring _____ and _____.
• We still experience _____, and sinful _____.
• Saving grace brings the ability to _____ temptation and obey God in this life.
• Saving grace brings the _____ to do good instead of evil.

WE LIVE AS GOD'S PEOPLE BY JOINING DISCIPLINE AND GRACE BY _____

"A Christian soul has all that Christ has, for faith brings us at once all the blessings of Christ."
Martin Luther

II. How Can I Obey?

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. 3 For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, 4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ROMANS 8

- All who trust Jesus to save them are no longer _____.

Living as God's People

- The Law could not save us, because our 'flesh' or 'sinful nature' _____ obey it.
- But those who live by the _____ meet the requirements of the Law.

⁹You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ... ¹²So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. **ROMANS 8**

- We can either _____ on our abilities, or rely on _____ to guide and strengthen us by His Spirit.
- The Spirit helps us _____ doing evil, so we will live.
- The guiding and help of the Spirit is _____ that God has adopted us to be His children.

EXCURSIS: WHY DO WE STILL SIN?

1. _____/Not Yet _____

Already Completed:

Not Yet Completed:

2. Our Three _____

World:

Flesh:

Devil:

¹⁶But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷For 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. ... ²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ... ²⁵If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. ²⁶Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another. Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. ²Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. ³For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. **GALATIANS 5-6**

- God gives us His Spirit to _____ how we live and _____ to God and others.
- There is a very real _____ struggle between the _____ to obey and disobey.
- We are responsible to _____ the _____ of the Spirit toward obedience.
- Obedience is measured largely by how we _____ others.

Living as God's People

²⁰But that is not the way you learned Christ!— ²¹assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, ²²to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, ²³and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, ²⁴and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. **EPHESIANS 4**

- Life change begins by taking _____ the _____ way of life.
- The old way of life is _____ by the _____ of the sin/evil within us.
- We need our minds to be _____ - to understand who we are in Christ, and all God has promised us.
- Life change continues by putting _____ a _____ way of life, consistent with our new identity as Christians.

What is sanctification?

Sanctification is the work of God's free grace, whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God, and are enabled more and more to die unto sin, and live unto righteousness.

“God's love is stern, for it expresses holiness in the lover and seeks holiness for the beloved.”

J.I. PACKER

“Make no mistake”, He says, “if you let me, I will make you perfect. The moment you place yourself in My hands, that is what you are in for. Nothing less, or other, than that. ... Whatever suffering it may cost you in your earthly life, whatever inconceivable purification it may cost you after death, whatever it costs

Me, I will never rest, nor let you rest, until you are literally perfect- until My Father can say without reservation that He is well pleased with you, as He said He was well pleased with Me. This I can do and will do. But I will not do anything less.”

C.S. LEWIS in *Mere Christianity*

**LIVING AS GOD'S PEOPLE MEANS _____ LIKE JESUS WITH THE _____ OF
THE SPIRIT**

III. Basic Steps in Obedience

¹⁶Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. **JAMES 5**

- We must be _____ about our sin, with one _____.
- We must help one another by _____ for one another.

“You cannot be a Christian in isolation; you cannot grow by shutting yourself off from contact with fellow disciples; you cannot adequately receive the help God intends to give you, or properly share the love of Christ.”

SINCLAIR FERGUSON

“Spiritual growth means growing in love, and love can never function in a vacuum. It is with other Christians that our love and spiritual growth are both exercised and put to the test.”

SINCLAIR FERGUSON

⁶But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” ⁷Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹Be wretched and mourn and

Living as God's People

weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you. **JAMES 4**

- Grace is given only to the _____ - those who know they _____ God.
- Grace is not given to the _____ - those who try to make it on their own.

“The church was established as a place of grace, the one sanctuary where we should be free to honestly admit our weakness and failure. But in practice it's the place where we are most likely to hide our flaws from others.”

DAN ALLENDER

²³ And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. ²⁴ For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. ²⁵ For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself? **LUKE 9**

- Self-denial is _____ to following Jesus. We can't do what WE want to do.
- This is very _____, it feels like we are going to _____ when we make sacrifices.
- We will do this only when we _____ that Jesus' plan is better than our plan.

LIVING AS GOD'S PEOPLE MEANS _____ YOUR SIN, _____ FOR HELP & _____ TO JESUS' LEADERSHIP

“O to grace how great a debtor, daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee:
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.”

Robert Robinson- *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

PRACTICAL CONSEQUENCES:

- We live as God's people by _____ up to the ways we still fall short of obedience:

Confession

- We live as God's people by owning up to our _____ when facing temptation: **Humility**
- We live as God's people by asking God to _____ us by the Spirit to resist temptation:

Taking off

- We live as God's people by asking God to help us by the Spirit to _____ Jesus: **Putting On**
- We live as God's people by giving up our _____ so we can follow Jesus' agenda:

Submission