

Living in the Spirit

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Scripture

For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love. For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." But if you are always biting and devouring one another, watch out! Beware of destroying one another.

So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions. -- Galatians 5:13-17 (NLT)

Takeaways

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Discussion Questions

1. What's the most important thing you want to take away from the message this weekend? What's the one thing you need to focus on this week?
2. When were some times in your life that you followed the leading of the Holy Spirit? What's the difference between walking in the flesh and walking in the Spirit?
3. When, recently, have you felt the Holy Spirit leading you? What positive fruit has been produced by following that leading?

Next Step

Ask God to give you a heightened awareness and sensitivity to the Holy Spirit. Pray that God will help you leave behind your old life and follow the direction of the Spirit. Ask for ears to hear God's voice. Ask for eyes to see what God wants you to do. Continually empty yourself out and ask God to fill the emptiness with his presence.

The Other Lunch Challenge

Take someone to lunch who has a different view of religion, politics, sports, sexual orientation, race, abortion, climate change, immigration, gun control, the death penalty. Invite an evangelical Christian, liberal Christian, atheist ... anyone who is on the other side from you. It could be someone of a different race or religion too.

The purpose is not to convince them of anything or to defend anything you believe, but to get to know them, and why they believe as they do. Share personal life experiences, and talk about your families, and seek to know who they are behind the issues. The purpose is making a connection.

And don't forget to buy their lunch.

Then share your story with us at MiddletownChristian.org/hearmystory or on social media with the hashtag #mcchearmystory.

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Group Life @ Middletown

If you are interested in taking part in a sermon-based discussion group or other small group, visit middletownchristian.org or contact Tracey Spann, tspann@middletownchristian.org to learn more.

Middletown Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

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