

Life Church Handout for August 25, 2013

The Gospel - Accept No Substitutes (Part 14)

- **Read the Passage: Galatians 5:16-26**
- **Main Idea**
 - Live by the Spirit so that you avoid the sinful behavior that comes from self-direction.
- **What does this mean?**
 - Galatians 5:16-18
 - "Live by the Spirit" means live by listening to the Spirit. - Romans 8:5
 - The Spirit resists our sinful tendencies.
 - Two trees in the Garden of Eden: the tree of life, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil - Genesis 2:1-17; 3
 - Eternal life (life of the coming age as opposed to the present age) - knowing the Father and Jesus. - John 17:1-3
 - The flesh is that aspect of your life that operates independently from God. The part of you that doesn't "phone home".
 - If you don't listen to the Spirit, you're listening to your flesh. Left to its own devices, your flesh will reinforce habits that make it harder for God to use you.
 - Galatians 5:19-26 (will be explored later).
- **Is it True? Do I believe it?**
 - Yes - this agrees with Romans 8:1-16
 - Yes - this agrees with John 14, 16
- **Purpose of the Sermon (what listeners should do)**
 - Understand what this teaches us about the work of the Holy Spirit.
 - Listen to the Holy Spirit.
- **Understand what this teaches us about the work of the Holy Spirit.**
 - Followers of Jesus need to listen to the Holy Spirit - Romans 8:5
 - The Holy Spirit teaches us all things and reminds us of what Jesus said. - John 14:26
 - The Holy Spirit guides us into all truth. - John 16:13
 - The Holy Spirit is a deposit guaranteeing what is to come. - Eph 1:1-14
 - We are given the Holy Spirit at the beginning of our new life in Christ.
 - Many Christians fail to take advantage of the opportunity to hear from God directly.
 - Analogy - "Tarrying for the Holy Ghost" - "Thank God I don't have to do that again!"
 - The Holy Spirit is a stream of living water - stay thirsty! - John 7:37-39
- **Listen to the Holy Spirit.**
 - Read the Word so the Holy Spirit will have something to work with.
 - Pray
 - Listen - Develop a lifestyle of listening.

- God rewards those who diligently seek him. - Hebrews 11:1-6
- **Group Activities / Questions**
 - Take 5 minutes to listen to the Holy Spirit. Write down what he tells you.
 - Did he speak to you? Share it with the group if appropriate.
 - In what other ways or at what other times has he spoken to you? Discuss.
 - How's your Bible reading? Has it helped you hear the Holy Spirit? Discuss.
 - How is your prayer life? Do you take time to listen?
 - Take another 5 minutes to listen to the Holy Spirit.
 - Did he say anything? Will you set aside time to listen this week? Discuss.

Life Church Mission Statement

Our mission is to teach people:

to enjoy knowing Jesus without fear, inadequacy, guilt, or shame,
 to follow him together as his family,
 to function together as his body,
 and to work together to expand his kingdom.

Understanding The Bible

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Here, for your convenience, are the Bible references for today's sermon at Life Church. We use mostly the New International Version (NIV) of the Bible so that you can read it in modern English. You may have been accustomed to reading or hearing the King James Version of the Bible, which uses older English (with words like "thee" , "thou", "thine", "believeth", etc.). Don't be alarmed - the passages are really from the Bible!

The Bible was originally written in three ancient languages: Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. None of the people in the Bible, and none of the people who God used to write it spoke English. In fact, English did not even exist as a language when the Bible was written. The King James Version, first published in 1611, was a translation of the Bible from it's original languages into the every day English that people used back then - almost 400 years ago! They didn't just speak that way in church - they spoke that way with everyone. The King James Version was "modernized" in 1769, but, even so, English has certainly changed a lot since then! **We believe that if you're reading an English translation of the Bible it ought to be up to date - written in the English you speak every day. God wants you to understand his Word so that you can put it into practice!**