



Part 18

**Called to Be Possessed
by the Holy Spirit and
Addicted to Holiness**

Galatians 5:16

So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves.

Galatians 5:17a

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.

Galatians 5:17b

These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions.

Galatians 5:18

But when you are directed by the Spirit, you are not under obligation to the law of Moses.

Galatians 5:19

When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures,

Galatians 5:20

idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling,
jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish
ambition, dissension, division,

Galatians 5:21

envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

Galatians 5:22

But the Holy Spirit produces this kind
of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace,
patience, kindness, goodness,
faithfulness,

Galatians 5:23

gentleness, and self-control. There is
no law against these things!

Galatians 5:24

Those who belong to Christ Jesus
have nailed the passions and desires
of their sinful nature to his cross and
crucified them there.

Galatians 5:25

Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives.

Galatians 5:26

Let us not become conceited,
or provoke one another, or be jealous
of one another.

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Possession and Addiction

Principle #1

The Holy Spirit's possession (indwelling) of a believer in Jesus Christ should be just as radical in nature and appearance as the demon possession of a non-believer.

Luke 1:13

**But the angel said, “Don’t be afraid,
Zechariah! God has heard your prayer.
Your wife, Elizabeth, will give you a
son, and you are to name him John.**

Luke 1:14

**You will have great joy and gladness,
and many will rejoice at his birth,
for he will be great in the eyes
of the Lord.**

Luke 1:15

He must never touch wine or other alcoholic drinks. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even before his birth.

Matthew 1:18

This is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 1:19

**Joseph, to whom she was engaged,
was a righteous man and did not want
to disgrace her publicly, so he decided
to break the engagement quietly.**

Matthew 1:20

As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream.

“Joseph, son of David,” the angel said, “do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit.

Principle #1

The Holy Spirit's possession (indwelling) of a believer in Jesus Christ should be just as radical in nature and appearance as the demon possession of a non-believer.

Principle #2

In principle, an addiction to holiness should function very similarly to what an addiction to substances, behaviors, sins, and evil look like.

The Addict

- **Feels different and has become someone else (under the influence).**
- **Is preoccupied with their addiction.**
- **Always wants and needs more.**
- **Has lost control of themselves.**
- **Is not deterred by negative results.**

The Addict

The addict thinks things, feels things, says things, and/or does things that they wouldn't normally, ordinarily, or willingly do to appease their cravings.

The Addict

The addict's tolerance levels for the substance or behavior they are addicted to increases over time despite the fact that they are giving in more and more to their cravings, they are no longer getting as "high."

The Addict

In some ways, fully functioning addicts become experts or connoisseurs on the subject of their addiction.

They become familiar with different techniques, types, sources, purities, qualities, and possibilities.



1968 Shelby Mustang GT500KR w/428 Cobra Jet Engine

Taboo Addictions

- **Workaholic**
- **Abusing Others**
- **Pornography**
- **Besetting Sins (the temptation and sin which we almost always give in to)**

CATEGORIES OF SUD SYMPTOMS

Symptoms of substance use disorders in the DSM 5 fall into four categories: 1) impaired control; 2) social problems; 3) risky use, and 4) physical dependence.

Impaired Control

Using more of a substance or more often than intended

Wanting to cut down or stop using but not being able to

Social Problems

Neglecting responsibilities and relationships

Giving up activities they used to care about because of their substance use

Inability to complete tasks at home, school or work

Risky Use

Using in risky settings

Continued use despite known problems

Physical Dependence

Needing more of the substance to get the same effect (tolerance)

Having withdrawal symptoms when a substance isn't used

Principle #2

In principle, an addiction to holiness should function very similarly to what an addiction to substances, behaviors, sins, and evil look like.

Principle #3

**Being possessed by the Holy Spirit
can prevent you from being possessed
by anything else at the same time.**

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Principle #3

Being possessed by the Holy Spirit can prevent you from being possessed by anything else at the same time.

Principle #4

Too many of us have allowed ourselves to become addicted to this life instead of His life (Luke 8).

The 3 Bad Soils

The Footpath

The Rocks

The Thorns

The 3 Enemies of the Gospel

The Devil

The World

The Flesh

The Footpath – The Devil

**They hear God's message of salvation
but the Devil, the father of lies,
swoops in and snatches the truth from
their hearts, thereby preventing them
from having continued belief.**

The Rocks – The World

They hear and receive God's message of salvation with joy, but because they are not deeply rooted in God's Word, they believe for a while but then they fall away.

The Thorns – The Flesh

They hear God's message of salvation but their continued focus on the cares, riches, and pleasures of this life prevents them from maturing in their belief. As a result, they do not produce spiritual fruit.

Principle #4

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Too many of us have allowed ourselves to become addicted to this life instead of His life (Luke 8).

Principle #5

Spiritual maturity and sanctification (the process of becoming more and more like Christ) requires an ever-growing possession by the Holy Spirit and an ever-growing addiction to Holiness.

Questions

- **Who or what have you given yourself to?**
- **Who or what have you allowed to possess you?**

Questions

- Is your current addiction(s) hurting you or helping you?
- Is it hurting your family or helping them?
- Is it good for God's Kingdom or is it actively trying to tear it down?

Questions

- **Who are you going to be open and honest with regarding your addiction?**
- **Who are you going to ask to pray for you?**
- **Who are you going to ask to help keep you accountable?**

Questions

- **What will you start doing now (while you wait for spiritual transformation) to put up healthy boundaries around you so as to significantly limit and, if possible, eliminate the temptations to give in to your addiction?**

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