

Under the Influence

When a person moves through the New Testament, he or she cannot escape the contrast of living “by the flesh” versus “by the Spirit.” The old person, the lost person, the worldly person, the sinful person, the dead person, the false-self is portrayed as one who lives “by the flesh” (the NIV calls this the *sinful nature*). The new person, the saved person, the Kingdom person, the holy person, the born again person, the true-self is one who lives “by the Spirit.”

From John the Baptizer promising that Jesus would baptize us in the Spirit to the emboldened disciples after Pentecost, from Jesus finding strength through the Spirit during His temptation to the promises of the Fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5 and the Spirit-filled life in Romans 8, one must come to see the reality that the Spirit-filled life is the Christian life.

Let us live under the influence of the Spirit and be our true-selves, as God intended us to be from before the beginning of time. Let us put to death the false-self of sin, which is controlled by the ungodly influences of the World, of the flesh, of pride, of selfishness, of fear, of lies and lusts.

Paul encourages us in this when he says: *“Do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is. Do not get drunk on wine.... Instead, be filled with the Spirit.”*

(Ephesians 5:17-18)

In other words, don’t be controlled by the flesh, the sinful nature, the false-self. Instead, be controlled by the Spirit of the Living God who is in you!

As we continue into a new year of seeking to live in God for the blessing of the World, we must move through life under the influence of the Spirit. With all of life’s pressures and struggles, we could easily give our thoughts, our behaviors, our words, our bodies, over to the influence of the “sinful nature.” Don’t get drunk on wine. Don’t run to food, or sex, or shopping, or anger, or fear, or pride when the going gets rough. Rather, walk in the Spirit! Live under His influence! Abide in His love and power!

May the Counselor, the Spirit of Truth, guide our lives and bring our Father glory in what we think, do, say, and in how we live. Be your true-self by living under the influence of the Spirit.

“For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.”

(Romans 8:5-6)

Prayer

Father, may the thoughts of my mind, the motivations of my heart, the words of my mouth, and the influence of my actions be shaped and guided by the Holy Spirit. And may my life bring you glory and others blessing as I walk with Jesus through this life. Help me, Father, to live as Jesus did... no, help me to live in Him even now. In my ever-present Savior’s name I pray, Amen.

Scott

Adapted from SpiritFire!