

Winning the War Within

Galatians 5:16-25

- I. The battle we can win (Galatians 5:16-18)
 - A. To overcome our sin nature we must live constantly dependent on the power of the Holy Spirit (5:16).
 - B. Our sin nature will constantly be at war with the promptings of the Holy Spirit in us (5:17).
 - C. By yielding to the Holy Spirit, real righteousness grows in us – apart from rules (5:18).
- II. The life we choose to live (Galatians 5:19-26)
 - A. A person who yields to the sinful nature faces the continual consequences and bondages of sin (5:19-21)
 - The Actions of the Sinful Nature
 - B. A believer who yields to the Holy Spirit enjoys a life of godly character and good relationships (5:21-23)
 - The Fruit of the Spirit
 - C. We can win the war with our sinful nature because of the power of the Cross and the Holy Spirit (5:24-26).

The Process of Spiritual Victory

1. **Realize I'm forgiven** – Overcoming **guilt** (Colossians 2:13-14)
 - God's love and grace for me as His child are unconditional!
 - I will always struggle with sin, but I'm forgiven as I grow.
2. **Realize I'm made new** – Overcoming **helplessness** (Gal 5:24)
 - I have a new nature that desires to grow and please God.
 - I have a new source of power – the Holy Spirit.
3. **Choose to do right** – Taking **responsibility** (Gal. 5:16, 18, 25)
 - I can make choices that please God as I continually depend on the Spirit's power within me.

