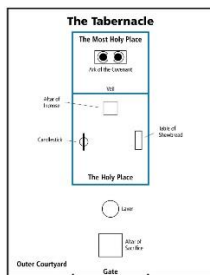




In the Old Covenant God made with the Jews, the Holy Spirit of God dwelled with the Jews in the temple in Jerusalem. The temple was the place God designated in His law to meet with Jews.



God designed the temple to have three parts.



The Holy of Holies was the hot spot of God's presence on earth. It was the most sacred place on earth.



There were times on mount Sinai, in the tabernacle of Moses in the Wilderness, and in the temple of Solomon in Jerusalem that God manifested His presence with fire.



In the new covenant, the followers of Jesus are the hot spot of God's presence on earth. The Holy Spirit came with fire. We are the temple of the Holy Spirit.

If this is the gospel of Jesus Christ than why are so many members of the church of Jesus Christ habitually doing what God forbids in His Word?

Why are so many members of the church of Jesus Christ habitually neglecting what God commands us to do in His Word?

Gal 5:16-25

16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.

18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness,

20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies,

21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

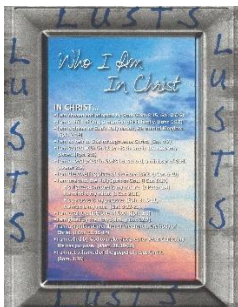
23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

24 And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

NKJV

Paul identified the problem as the lusts of the flesh.



The word lusts are a translation of the Word epithumia (ep-ee-thoo-mee'-ah); a longing (especially for what is forbidden): It is also translated concupiscence, desire, lust (after).

The flesh is our body as opposed to our soul and our spirit. It is the frame that we live in. David Needham calls it our earth suit.

Within our flesh there are perverted desires, lusts that God never intended for mankind to have.

These lusts in our frame include the...

- Desire for personal revenge
- Desire for power over others
- Desire to have our way
- Desire to use perverted means to satisfy our sexual desires
- Desire to be praised by men
- Desire to be our own God
- Desire to create our own gods
- Desire to escape responsibility

These perverted lusts are so powerful that they can cause us to become like unreasoning animals or creatures of instinct. (2 Peter 2:12; Jude 10).

2 Peter 2:12

12 But these men blaspheme in matters they do not understand. They are like brute beasts, creatures of instinct, born only to be caught and destroyed, and like beasts they too will perish.

NIV

The fulfillment of these perverted desires seems reasonable to us.

It appears to us that...

- Satisfying these perverted desires is the best way to meet the emotional needs we all have in our soul.
- Satisfying these perverted desires is just. Something that will make the world a better place. Something that we deserve or that we are entitled to.
- Satisfying these perverted desires is worth it. It can seem to us that satisfying these perverted desires is worth any sacrifice we have to make to fulfill them.

We can always find people that will support the fulfillment of our perverted desires.

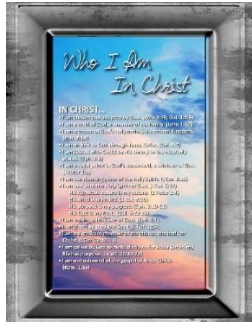
We can form clubs with them; create social movements with them; form new religions with them; form communities with them.

As we follow these perverted desires we end up in bondage and a slave to sin.

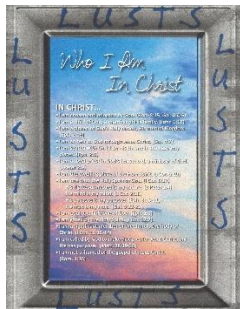
Romans 6:16

16 Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?

NKJV



If you receive Jesus, you become the temple of the Holy Spirit.



But you still live in the same earth suit or the same frame.

God has given you what you need to overcome the flesh and its perverted desires. Through the gospel of Jesus Christ God has provided everything we need for life and Godliness.

2 Peter 1:2-4

2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord,
3 as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,
4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

NKJV

But it is a war of competing lusts!

Gal 5:16-17

16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.

In Galatians 5:16 the apostle Paul told the church their part in overcoming the flesh and its desires. He said walk in the Spirit in verse 16 and again in verse 25.

How do you walk in the Spirit?

1. To walk in the Spirit, we must believe we are born again by the Spirit.

We must believe we are dead to sin and alive to God.

Rom 6:1-11

1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?

2 Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?

3 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?

4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

5 For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection,

6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.

7 For he who has died has been freed from sin.

8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him,

9 knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him.

10 For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God.

11 Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2. To walk in the Spirit, we must yield to the Spirit.

Romans 6:12-19

12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.

13 And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.

14 For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

15 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not!

16 Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?

17 But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered.

18 And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

19 I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness.

Romans 8:12-17

12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors — not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.

13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."

16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

17 and if children, then heirs — heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

NKJV

Rom 12:1-2

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

NKJV

Paul said to walk in the Spirit is to be led by the Spirit (Gal. 5:18).

To be led by the Spirit we must yield our members to the Spirit.

3. To walk in the Spirit, we must know the mind of the Spirit.

Rom 8:1-11

1 There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

3 For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh,

4 that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

5 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, the things of the Spirit.

6 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.

8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

10 And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

NKJV

To walk by the Spirit, we must know the mind of the Spirit. Paul called this being spiritually minded. (Romans 8:6)

To know the mind of the Spirit, we need to be connected to...

- The Word of God (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
- The church of God (Hebrews 3:13)
- The purpose of God (Matthew 4:19; Matthew 28:19-20)

We must join the Holy Spirit where He is working to know His mind.

The Holy Spirit is working through the Word of God in the church of God to accomplish the purpose of God!

He is not interested in revealing His mind to anyone that is not willing to join Him where He is working. If you are going to be led by the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit must be your Lord!

We can either live our life walking in the flesh and fulfilling its desires or we can live our life walking in the Spirit and fulfilling His desires.

If you are living your life walking in the flesh and fulfilling its desires, how is that working out for you? How has that worked out for you?

It is not easy to walk in the Spirit. Besides the resistance of the flesh and its desires, we will be persecuted.

2 Timothy 3:12

12 Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

NKJV

Because it is not easy, you must have faith that it will be worth it all when we see Jesus. Listen to what Paul said...

Romans 8:18

18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

NKJV

It will work out for us!

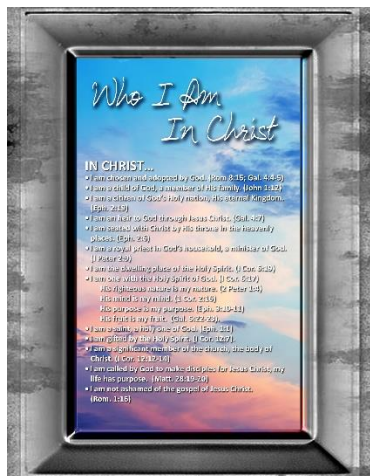
Also, as Paul said, we are not in debt to our flesh. (Romans 8:12). We are in debt to Jesus Christ! We owe Jesus a debt of love that we can never repay. For all of eternity we will be saying...

Revelation 5:12-13

12....."Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!"

13 And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: "Blessing and honor and glory and power Be to Him who sits on the throne, And to the Lamb, forever and ever!"

NKJV



Will you receive the gospel of Jesus Christ?

Will you walk in the Spirit?