

The Christian's Racecourse

Defeating the enemy within—the flesh

“Ye shall be free indeed”

- I.** Spiritual freedom comes:
 1. While becoming a slave to Christ as Head of the Body (1 Cor. 6:20; 7:23; Rom. 6:16-19, 22 *cf.* Jn. 8:32-33, 36).
 2. After presenting the body to God (Rom. 12:1).
 3. As a result of ordering one's lifestyle (Gal. 5:16).
 4. While maintaining the Scriptural balance between divine enabling and human responsibility.
 5. All sin or righteous action begins with thoughts in the mind.
- II.** The filling ministry of the Holy Spirit: (Eph. 5:18).
 1. Is not like Old Testament filling.
 2. Is not like transitional filling (Acts chapter 2 till 13:9).
 - i. Different word.
 - ii. Different ministry—temporary control of a limited task.
 3. Is described as in opposition to a work of the flesh (Gal. 5:21).
 4. Is also described as a strong desire (Gal. 5:17).
 5. “The passive voice is limited to the action of the verb.”
- III.** The context of Ephesians 5:18. There is a contrast between actions resulting from the Spirit to actions resulting from the flesh.
 1. Acting as born ones belonging to God is counter to acting unrighteous (vv. 1-7, 9).
 2. Spiritual light is contrary to spiritual darkness (v. 8).
 3. Spiritual Christians cannot share in common works of darkness (v. 11-12).
 4. Carnal Christians are to wake up and stand up out from among dead ones (v. 14).
 5. We are to order our lifestyle carefully, redeeming the time (v. 14-15).
 6. The Christian is to comprehend these relationships (v. 17).
- IV.** Spirit filling is available for Christians who have a correct family relationship, order their lifestyle to please God, and comprehend the Lord's will (Eph. 5:17).