



# **Christian Faith Fellowship**

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- We are not a perfect church**
- We are not a perfect people**
- We are here because we know we need God's help and He has provided this help through Jesus Christ our Lord!**



CFF is called to:

**Radiate the love of Christ**

**Reach the Lost and the Saved in order to**

**Restore them into fully mature followers of Christ**

## Accountability Questions

- **Did you spend 5 minutes a day at least 5 days last week reading the Bible?**
- **Did you share a God story with a non-believer this week?**
- **Did you spend time alone with God this week (With no personal agenda)?**
- **Do you know what the Holy Spirit is saying to you?**
- **Are you giving as God has asked?**

- The scriptures clearly teach us that once we receive Christ as our Savior we are new creations!

**2 Corinthians 5** 17 This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

- We have received a life makeover... made new!
- This new life that has been given is not simply a stamp on our life that God only sees – it is a transformation of who we were to who we have become – Different –the new you that everyone sees!

- Therefore, we begin to live our lives differently - we don't make decisions the same – we don't react to things the same – we don't do the same things because we are new...
- We are unable to make these changes on our own and this is why we are told over and over again throughout the New Testament that the difference in us is caused by the Holy Spirit living in us!
- We who have received Christ are not the same people we once were...

## Romans 8

5 Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit. 6 So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace.

- Here is a key element - we are challenged with our thinking – our mind... ‘who’ or ‘what’ controls my mind?

## Romans 12

1 And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. 2 Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

- A complete transformation of the mind... No longer selfish thinking – it's not about 'me'...
- In the past all of my decisions were based on how I could benefit... how I viewed 'my desires' was how you could benefit me – what could you do for me or what could I get you to do for me!
- The sinful drive is 'all about me'... the love of God is 'meeting the needs of those around me'
- A complete transformation that requires a 'rebooting of the brain process'... "Dave 2.0"

## Romans 8

7 For the sinful nature is always hostile to God. It never did obey God's laws, and it never will. 8 That's why those who are still under the control of their sinful nature can never please God. 9 But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you. (And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them do not belong to him at all.) 10 And Christ lives within you, so even though your body will die because of sin, the Spirit gives you life

because you have been made right with God. 11 The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you.

- This new life is given by God and the power to live this new life is given by God... our part is learning to follow His lead!
- We have a new leader... it's not us – it is the Holy Spirit!

## Galatians 5

16 So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. 17 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. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions. 18 But when you are directed by the Spirit, you are not under obligation to the law of Moses. 19 When you follow the desires of your sinful nature,

the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, 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.

- Everyone in this room KNOWS the life we lived when we were in charge -we lived in this exact way – BUT – that kind of living will not allow you into heaven!!! Therefore there must be a change!

22 But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things! 24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. 25 Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives. 26 Let us not become conceited, or provoke one another, or be jealous of one another.

- When the Holy Spirit is put in charge there is a transformation of my life that happens!
- This transformation begins in the mind and the processing of the life I live!
- I am new and therefore I must live new... I AM NOT WHO I WAS – therefore I must not live like I did!
- This new life is possible ONLY because of the power of God living in me through the surrender to the Holy Spirit's direction!
- There will be 2 choices of direction in my mind... which will I follow?

## Matthew 4

1 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted there by the devil. 2 For forty days and forty nights he fasted and became very hungry. 3 During that time the devil came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become loaves of bread.”

5 Then the devil took him to the holy city, Jerusalem, to the highest point of the Temple, 6 and said, “If you are the Son of God, jump off!

8 Next the devil took him to the peak of a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. 9 “I will give it all to you,” he said, “if you will kneel down and worship me.”

- Did Jesus actually go to these places with the devil or were the temptations in His mind?
- I personally believe it would have been ‘easy’ for Jesus to resist the temptations if the devil was there present with Him but if they were in the mind – like ours are ... it would have been much more of a real challenge of decision!

## Hebrews 4

14 So then, since we have a great High Priest who has entered heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to what we believe. 15 This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin. 16 So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.

- He faced what we face... and lived victorious! This victorious living is now made possible for us!

## Action Steps

- **Have you been made new?**
- **Who or what is controlling your mind?**
- **The new life requires new choices which require obedience to the Holy Spirit – how are you seeing this new life in action throughout the week?**
- **Who are you following when the 2 thoughts come flooding into your mind?**