

Sunday, November 17, 2024

1 Timothy 4:13, “Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching.

Title: Three Hindrances to the Holy Spirit

Series: Life in the Spirit ... 4

Text: 1 Corinthians 3:1–4; Ephesians 4:29–32;
1 Thessalonians 5:16 - 19

Purpose: I want to INFORM my congregation about THREE subtle (delicately complex and understated) personal hinderances to Life in the Spirit.

Introduction:

Two weeks ago the devotional was entitled Ministry of the Holy Spirit:

~ 1) The Ministry of the Holy Spirit – “IN”; 2) The Ministry of the Holy Spirit – “WITH”; 3) The Ministry of the Holy Spirit – “UPON”

~ There are many things (secret sins) that can be present in the life of a believer that hinder the work of the Holy Spirit. There are, however, three hinderances that are so subtle we often do not recognize them!

~ Hinderances – a thing that provides resistance, delay, or destruction to something or someone.

1. Be Aware of CARNALITY:

~ 1 Corinthians 3:1 – 4, “*But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. (2) I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready, (3) for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you are you not of the flesh and behaving in a human way? (4) For when one says, “I follow Paul,” and another, “I follow Apollos,” are you not being merely human?*”

~ “In the New Testament the words rendered “carnal” are derived from ‘sarks’ (G4560), “flesh.” This refers to the flesh as opposed to ‘pneuma,’ “spirit.” And denotes, in an ethical sense, mere human nature, the lower side of man as apart from the Divine influence, and therefore estranged from God and prone to sin.”

~ What is MY DIET?

1 Corinthians 3:2; Hebrews 5:11 – 6:3; 1 Peter 2:1 – 3, “*So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. (2) Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation—(3) if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.*”

~ What is MY LOVE LEVEL?

1 Corinthians 13:1 – 13

~ What are MY BUILDING MATERIALS?

1 Corinthians 3:10 - 16

2. Be Aware of GRIEVING the Holy Spirit:

~ Ephesians 4:29 - 32

~ Watch or COMMUNICATION:

James 1:26, “*If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person’s religion is worthless.*” Compare James 3:1 – 12

~ Danger of BITTERNESS:

Hebrews 12:15, “*See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no “root of bitterness” springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled;*”

~ Ephesians 4:31 notice the progression that can develop if we do not deal with bitterness, “Let all bitterness and wrath (“boiling up”) and anger (“the natural disposition”) and clamor (“outcry”) and slander (“speech injurious, to another’s good name”) be put away from you, along with all malice (“malignity, ill-will, desire to injure”).

~ Two ways to cut off the flow of God’s grace to us; bitterness and going back to the law (Galatians 5:4), “*You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace.*”

3. Be Aware of QUENCHING the Holy Spirit:

~ 1 Thessalonians 5:16 – 19, “*Rejoice always, (17) pray without ceasing, (18) give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. (19) Do not quench the Spirit.*”

~ vs. 16, “*Rejoice*” is G5463, chairō: literal meaning is to be “favorably disposed to God’s grace (G5485 charis). See Nehemiah 8:10 and Galatians 5:22

~ vs. 17, “*without ceasing*” is used 4 times in the New Testament and means without intermission. That is a regular habit, ‘not on again and off again.’

~ vs. 18, “*give thanks*” Revelation 11:17, “*saying, “we give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, who is and who was, for you have taken your great power and begun to reign.”*”

~ vs. 19, “*quench*” – to extinguish, to suppress, stifle

Conclusion:

Ephesians 4:17 - 24