

Walking in the Spirit Part 2. Believed to be originally typed November 1992. Originally one document. Unsure if this was ever shared with SCF*

Obeying God's Commandments

a). Loving Him.

The first and foremost commandment.

Matthew 22 verse 37

And He said to him, "YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND." This is the great and foremost commandment.

b). Loving Your Neighbour.

Who is my neighbour?

Luke 10 verse 27-37

And he answered, "YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND; AND YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF." 28 And He said to him, "You have answered correctly; DO THIS AND YOU WILL LIVE." 29 But wishing to justify himself, he said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" 30 Jesus replied and said, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among robbers, and they stripped him and beat him, and went away leaving him half dead. 31 And by chance a priest was going down on that road, and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. 32 Likewise a Levite also, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a Samaritan, who was on a journey, came upon him; and when he saw him, he felt compassion, 34 and came to him and bandaged up his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them; and he put him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn and took care of him. 35 On the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper and said, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I return I will repay you.' 36 Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the robbers' hands?"

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37 And he said, "The one who showed mercy toward him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do the same."

What Kind of Love?

1 John 23 Verse 1-2

See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. 2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.

We are children of God, not yet like Him, but we have the love of God poured into our hearts.

Romans 5 verse 3-5

And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; 4 and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; 5 and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

1 John 3 verse 16

We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

This is agape, sacrificial love.

Romans 5 verse 8

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

To walk in the Spirit is to love God and one another with His love.

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The Sin of Withholding.

Proverbs 3:27-28

Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it. 28 Do not say to your neighbor, "Go, and come back, and tomorrow I will give it," when you have it with you.

Remember who your neighbour is?

To Whom do all Things Belong?

1 Corinthians 3 verse 21-23

So then let no one boast in men. For all things belong to you, 22 Whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or things present or things to come; all things belong to you, 23 and you belong to Christ; and Christ belongs to God.

We cannot take credit or claim that anything belongs to us unless we see that all we have is Christ's! That is to say me, my family, my home, all my possessions, all my gifts and abilities belong to Him.

Ephesians 4 verse 1-3

Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, 3 being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Paul describes himself as a prisoner of the Lord.

Romans 12 verse 1

Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

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To walk in the spirit is to present yourself to Him in adoration and reverence so that you are refined by the refiners fire.

Malachi 3 verse 1-2

"Behold, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, He is coming," says the LORD of hosts. 2 "But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap.

If you withhold in any one area you are not walking in the Holy Spirit. Present your gifts to the body of Christ.

1 Corinthians 12 verse 7

But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

1 Corinthians 14 verse 12

So also you, since you are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek to abound for the edification of the church.

1 Corinthians 7 verse 3-5

The husband must fulfill his duty to his wife, and likewise also the wife to her husband. 4 The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does; and likewise also the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. 5 Stop depriving one another, except by agreement for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer, and come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

Husbands and wives present your bodies to one another. You have no choice in the matter (verse 3-4). This is the picture of marriage between Christ and His Bride. A giving of each other freely in the holy law of true love.

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Finance – Do not Withhold Your Money From God.

Can we afford not to tithe? We could go to prison for stealing!

Malachi 3 verse 8-10

"Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, 'How have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings. 9 You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing Me, the whole nation of you! 10 Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this," says the LORD of hosts, "if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows.

See the generosity of the churches in Macedonia, below.

2 Corinthians 8 verse 1-5

Now, brethren, we wish to make known to you the grace of God which has been given in the churches of Macedonia, 2 that in a great ordeal of affliction their abundance of joy and their deep poverty overflowed in the wealth of their liberality. 3 For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability, they gave of their own accord, 4 begging us with much urging for the favor of participation in the support of the saints, 5 and this, not as we had expected, but they first gave themselves to the Lord and to us by the will of God.

They gave although afflicted and in poverty. The work of the ministry was therefore completed. The people proved their spoken expression of love towards God by obedience in tithes and offerings. The Bible, God's Word, teaches that as we sow sparingly that is how we will reap and not only that, He wants us to be cheerful about it.

2 Corinthians 9 verse 6-7

Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

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7 Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Giving is part of our worship, the Bride has to be willing if she is to be fulfilled. We, the Church, are the Bride of Jesus. God seeks those who will worship Him with their whole *lives*.

John 4 verse 23-24

But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers.

24 God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

To worship in spirit and in truth with all things includes your money and supports the Gospel that is to be shared in our area of our nation.

The Cost of Giving - The (Be) Attitudes of Giving

Luke 6 verse 27-38

"But I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. 29 Whoever hits you on the cheek, offer him the other also; and whoever takes away your coat, do not withhold your shirt from him either. 30 Give to everyone who asks of you, and whoever takes away what is yours, do not demand it back. 31 Treat others the same way you want them to treat you. 32 If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. 33 If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. 34 If you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners in order to receive back the same amount.

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35 But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men. 36 Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

37 Do not judge, and you will not be judged; and do not condemn, and you will not be condemned; pardon, and you will be pardoned. 38 Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure - pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return."

These are the words of Jesus. We are to be a people of the spirit, not merely debaters or arguers of truth. We can admit the truth of the Gospel yet never be embarrassed or challenged by its implications. As someone once said *after all is said and done, there's plenty said but little done!* Sounds a bit like politics to me. You may argue about tithing and offerings being the Law and for us now to live by grace, yet Jesus came to fulfill the Law, that we are to obey all the commandments and so teach others through His grace.

Matthew 5 verse 17-19

"Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. 18 For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished. 19 Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

2 Timothy 3 verse 16-17

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

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King Saul was a man who withheld from God. He only obeyed in part and built a monument to himself. For the part that he had got right he thought that he had been obedient, but God pointed out to him through the prophet Samuel that God was not pleased with him, because he had not done *all* that He required.

1 Samuel 15 verse 1-3

Then Samuel said to Saul, "The LORD sent me to anoint you as king over His people, over Israel; now therefore, listen to the words of the LORD. 2 Thus says the LORD of hosts, 'I will punish Amalek for what he did to Israel, how he set himself against him on the way while he was coming up from Egypt. 3 Now go and strike Amalek and utterly destroy all that he has, and do not spare him; but put to death both man and woman, child and infant, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.'"

This is what was required of Saul.

1 Samuel 15 verse 8-11

He captured Agag the king of the Amalekites alive, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword. 9 But Saul and the people spared Agag and the best of the sheep, the oxen, the fatlings, the lambs, and all that was good, and were not willing to destroy them utterly; but everything despised and worthless, that they utterly destroyed. 10 Then the word of the LORD came to Samuel, saying, 11 I regret that I have made Saul king, for he has turned back from following Me and has not carried out My commands." And Samuel was distressed and cried out to the LORD all night.

This is what Saul did.

1 Samuel 15 verse 12-14

12 Samuel rose early in the morning to meet Saul; and it was told Samuel, saying, "Saul came to Carmel, and behold, he set up a monument for himself, then turned and proceeded on down to Gilgal."

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13 Samuel came to Saul, and Saul said to him, "Blessed are you of the LORD! I have carried out the command of the LORD." 14 But Samuel said, "What then is this bleating of the sheep in my ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?"
This is what Samuel found.

1 Samuel 15 verse 16-19

16 Then Samuel said to Saul, "Wait, and let me tell you what the LORD said to me last night." And he said to him, "Speak!" 17 Samuel said, "Is it not true, though you were little in your own eyes, you were made the head of the tribes of Israel? And the LORD anointed you king over Israel, 18 And the LORD sent you on a mission, and said, 'Go and utterly destroy the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are exterminated.' 19 Why then did you not obey the voice of the LORD, but rushed upon the spoil and did what was evil in the sight of the LORD?"

This is what Samuel told Saul.

It is easy for us to build monuments of pride over our obedient areas but the Holy Spirit wants to refine or sanctify us totally. Let us walk in the Spirit and therefore the light.

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