

Walking Well Into A New Year

(Insights from Romans 8:1-8)

Pastor Bob Johnson, Grace Point Church, January 14th, 2018

Two Chapters Meant To Go Together:

- 7: the Gospel does and doesn't solve our sin problem.
- 8: C _____ is replaced with C _____.

Two Parts: God's & Ours For a Fruitful 2018:

- **God's Part: sending His S _____ and S _____.**
(Romans 8:1-4, John 14:15-17)
- **Our Part: _____ Christ and _____ according to the Spirit.**
(Romans 10:9, John 1:12, Romans 8:4-8)

Walking according to the Spirit ...

- **is prompted by ...** **v5**
(Colossians 3:1-2, Philippians 4:8-9, 2 Corinthians 10:5)

We need to _____.
(Ephesians 1:13-14, John 14:26)

W _____ more. (Romans 10:17)

W _____ less. (Philippians 4:6-7)

- **produces ...** **v6**
(Galatians 5:16-17, 22-23)
- **is practiced ...** **v7-8**
(1 Corinthians 12:13, Ephesians 1:13, 5:15-18)

In Ephesians 5:18, "Be filled" is

- **P _____** (for all of us)
- **P _____** (repeated action)
- **P _____** (something done to us)

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This Week's Discussion Guide:

Welcome to our first week of our first small group season for 2018! This is week 1 of what we're calling "GPC's Six Week Challenge". Hopefully after six weeks, we will see the benefits of meeting together and keep going. In this season or quarter, we will meet for 11 weeks with the last week being the week of March 25th, the week before Easter. (Yes - Easter is on April Fool's Day this year :)

At GPC, our small groups are where we move from 'believers' to 'belongers'. May we receive lots of encouragement and support and deepening friendships as we meet together to pray, support and study God's Word together.

To Help Get us Going:

Bob put a sponge into a bucket of water to make a point about how to walk according to the Spirit. Speaking of being in water, (how's that for a transition) when were you in water (intentionally or accidentally) lately or a few years back that is one of your enjoyable or not so enjoyable memories?

What is something about yourself that you are pretty sure no one else knows about you?

After hearing some insights on the Holy Spirit this past Sunday, as you look back on your Christian journey, has your understanding of the Holy Spirit changed? If so, explain.

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention or raised a question for you or challenged you?

DIGGING DEEPER:

1. We heard the last two Sundays how difficult it is to try to live the Christian life on our own strength rather than relying on the Holy Spirit and the power he provides. What do the following verses teach us about relying on the Holy Spirit's power rather than our own?

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

Zechariah 4:6

Galatians 2:20

Relying on God's power does not mean we give up personal responsibility to make good choices to live the Christian life.

What are some ways we can balance relying on God's power while still maintaining personal responsibility?

2. Life works best when we stay tuned into the Spirit and stop living for our old self. What motivations can you find in the following passages to help keep you consistently tuning into the Spirit and not living according to your sinful nature?

Galatians 6:7-8

Hebrews 12:7-11

2 Corinthians 5:9-10

Which of these do you find most motivating to you?
Which is least motivating?

3. When we are seeking to hear from God, it is important to make sure that it is His voice we are hearing rather than our own thoughts or someone else's ideas. What can help us discern whether or not a prompting is from God?

God speaks through a variety of ways including: through the Bible (2 Timothy 3:16), a 'still small voice' (1 Kings 19:12, John 16:13), other people (2 Timothy 2:21), dreams and visions (Joel 2:28, Acts 2:17, Daniel 7:1).

Can you think of a time you knew God was prompting you to do something your old self would definitely have not prompted you to do?

What was it?

How did you know it was from God?

How did you respond?

What was the result after you followed God's leading?

4. To help us tune in to God's voice, Bob encouraged us to 'Word more' and 'Worry less'. Worry is like ear wax! That is a bit gross but true. Worry distracts us and shifts our focus away from hearing from God. From Philippians 4:6-7 and possibly other verses or thoughts, what has or can help you worry less in 2018?

Looking Forward:

This last section is based on passages like the one below.

But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. 23 For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. 24 You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. 25 But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.

James 1:22-25 (NLT)

Let's all take a few minutes to silently pray and reflect back on this last week's message and what we discussed in our group. As we reflect, let's all pray and ask God for a specific application that He might prompt us to live out this week.

To help us as we reflect, here are some possible applications to get us thinking ...

- One application might be to follow through with something God has already spoken to you about. What is it? When do you plan to follow through?
- Psalm 119:18 says, "Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law." One application might be to decide on a reading plan and read the Bible regularly in 2018 and pray asking God to speak to you as you read.
- Knowing God encourages fellowship, one application might be to decide to be part of a small group (like this one :) for the next few months and build it into your busy schedule.
- Knowing God desires us to pray for ourselves and for others, decide to write down the prayer requests you hear in your group and pray for each other throughout the week.

Speaking of prayer, before you wrap up, be sure to pray that God would help us build strong friendships this season as we meet together.