

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: O Holy Spirit, God of all, your word reminds us not to grieve you -- to fall into those behaviors which bring dishonor and sadness to you. As the bringer of faith in Christ and as the comforter promised by our Savior, we ask for your mercy and grace. Forgive us for being led by others than you. Forgive us for being "out of step" with your will. Lead us now. Heal us now. Bring us again to the love and grace of God our Father. Amen.

Scripture Readings

October 19, 2008

Ezekiel 37:7-14

So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to it, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe into these slain, that they may live.'" So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army. Then he said to me: "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.' Therefore prophesy and say to them: 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: O my people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. Then you, my people, will know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the LORD have spoken, and I have done it, declares the LORD.'"

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God!

Galatians 5:16-25

So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law. The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God!

John 16:5-15

"Now I am going to him who sent me, yet none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' Because I have said these things, you are filled with grief. But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned. "I have

much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. All that belongs to the Father mi is ne. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you.

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon Outline • October 19, 2008
Conditions For Growth • Part 3
"Passionate Spirituality"

Introduction

"What does this mean...?!"

Part 1: What's "spirituality?"

Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit." Galatians 5:25

- _____ . (Ezekiel 37)
- _____ .
- _____ .
- _____ .

Part 2: What about the "passionate" part?

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires."
Galatians 5:22-24

- _____ .
- _____ .
- _____ .
- _____ .

Answers to Sermon Outline: filled by the Spirit, live by the Spirit, led by the Spirit, in step with the Spirit, genuine, transcendent, contagious, pervasive

THE BENEDICTION

Leader: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

People: And the people took the blessing and held it in their hearts.

Leader: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!