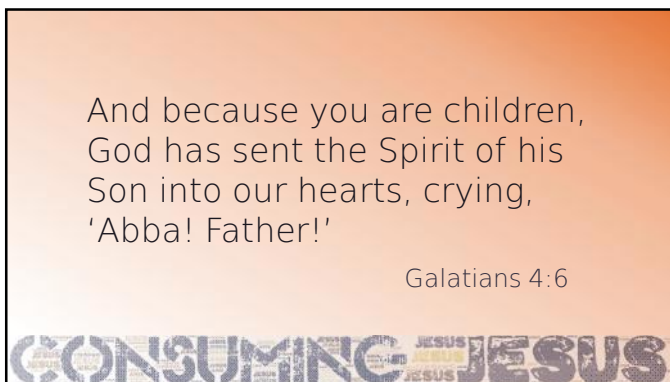




The glorious liberty of the children of God is not the happy fluttering of a butterfly from one attractive flower to another. It is joyous, but it is also radical, hard, and absolute... Giving us our burden, God launches us into an unsuspected adventure, a conflict, which is finally that of freedom.

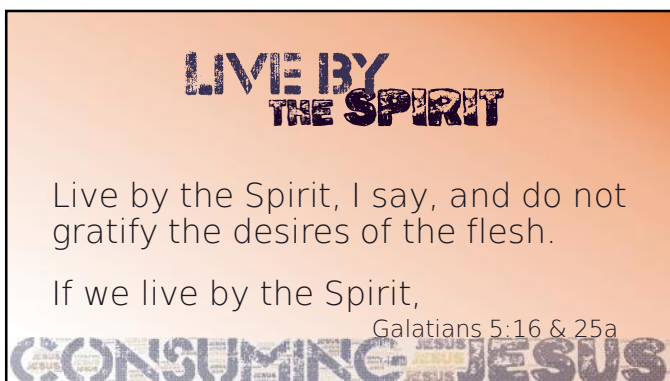
Jacques Ellul



THE SPIRIT

In Galatians 5:16-26

1. Live/walk by the Spirit (v16)
2. Flesh ... opposed to the Spirit (v17)
3. What the Spirit desires (v17)
4. Led by the Spirit (v18)
5. Fruit of the Spirit (v22)
6. Live by the Spirit (v25)
7. Be guided by the Spirit (v25)



LIVE

1. Walk (v16) – move, roam – follow a course of life or conduct
2. Live (v25) – breath, act, create – to exercise the function of life – to be possessed of vitality

IN OUR DAY TO DAY

- Everyday existence
- Be open to the Spirit's presence
- Live in relationship with Jesus in our everyday experience

CONSUMING JESUS

HOW?

- Word, prayer, praise
- A dialogue of conversation with the Divine family

CONSUMING JESUS

What makes the flesh so destructive is that it can become the norm by which people's lives are lived. This world, with its measures of success and its rewards for hard work, absorbs all their interests and demands their full attention. There is no openness to God's activity, to the presence of the Spirit, to the life of the new age. The sum of things consists of what can be seen, handled, tasted – or bought.

Charles B. Cousar

CONSUMING JESUS

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things.

Galatians 5:22-23

CONSUMING JESUS

ONE FRUIT, EIGHT DIMENSIONS

- One fruit: Love
- "Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;" (1 Corinthians 13:4-5)

CONSUMING JESUS

- "Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony." (Colossians 3:14)

CONSUMING JESUS

TRIADS OF CHARACTERISTICS

1. Godward:
 - love (agape)
 - joy (not bound to circumstances)
 - peace (shalom)

CONSUMING JESUS

TRIADS OF CHARACTERISTICS

2. Outward:
 - patience (tolerance, long-suffering)
 - kindness (sweet, mellow; opposite to fits of anger)
 - goodness/generosity (opposed to miserly spirit)

CONSUMING JESUS

TRIADS OF CHARACTERISTICS

3. Inward:
 - faithful/reliable (persevering, constant)
 - gentleness (humility, meekness)
 - self-control (discipline)

CONSUMING JESUS

GUIDED BY
THE SPIRIT

Galatians 5:24-26

CONSUMING JESUS

And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, competing against one another, envying one another.

Galatians 5:24-26

CONSUMING JESUS

CRUCIFIED THE FLESH

- A strong 'no' to our self-centred ego
- "belong to Christ" – a new Christ-centred mind

CONSUMING JESUS

GUIDED BY THE SPIRIT

- 'guided' – NRSV;
- 'keep in step with' – NIV
- To follow in line with, a military term
- Be in step with the Spirit's leadership

CONSUMING JESUS

- As opposed to in-fighting within the community (v26)
- Competing with one another, envying one another
- 8 of the 15 items of the flesh (v19-21) have to do with conflict in the community

CONSUMING JESUS

The Spirit is always *surprise*. When we least suspect it, He is breathing in us. He awakens us, recreates a forgotten appetite, stirs up a lost hunger and thirst, gifts us with an energy, a facility, a freedom and "unites us to the Lord to make with Him one Spirit" (1 Corinthians 6:17).

Edward J. Farrell

CONSUMING JESUS