

Walking In The Way Of Jesus; Let's Keep It Simple
Considering the path from the tomb to the world

Recap from last lesson: (Extra copies available from last week)

We have a steep learning curve but we have been given The Helper. We are not alone but we have to be intentional regarding our participation with The Helper, The Holy Spirit. Our faith must involve action steps. Two things to help:

⇒ **Yieldingness (some use the word, Yieldedness)**

- Yield/submit to the flesh/sin/temptation
- Yield/submit to the Holy Spirit/Jesus ways

This battle for yielding is nothing new and is part of our struggle for growth and change
Romans 6:15-18 NLT ¹⁵ *Well then, since God's grace has set us free from the law, does that mean we can go on sinning? Of course not!* ¹⁶ **Don't you realize that you become the slave of whatever you choose to obey? (To whom you yield)** *You can be a slave to sin, which leads to death, or you can choose to obey God, which leads to righteous living.* ¹⁷ *Thank God! Once you were slaves of sin, but now you wholeheartedly obey this teaching we have given you. (We can now wholeheartedly yield to the teaching of Jesus by the Holy Spirit)* ¹⁸ *Now you are free from your slavery to sin, and you have become slaves to righteous living.*

Ephesians 5:15-21 ESV ¹⁵ *Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise,* ¹⁶ *making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.* ¹⁷ *Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.* ¹⁸ **And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit,** ¹⁹ *addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart,* ²⁰ *giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,* ²¹ *submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.*

To What or Who are you yielding your life?

All of us are yielding to something or someone.

⇒ **Sensitivity**

Ephesians 4:1-16 is all about maintaining spiritual sensitivity.

Hebrews 3:8-15 NASB (1995) vs 8....**Do not harden your hearts as when they provoked me,**

Proverbs 4:23-27 NIV ²³ **Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.**

²⁴ *Keep your mouth free of perversity; keep corrupt talk far from your lips.*

²⁵ *Let your eyes look straight ahead; fix your gaze directly before you.*

²⁶ *Give careful thought to the paths for your feet and be steadfast in all your ways.*

²⁷ *Do not turn to the right or the left; keep your foot from evil.*

Guard your heart, mind, and eyes to live with spiritual sensitivity.

We are striving to be a balanced church.....a balanced family that is full of the Holy Spirit. **We are all still human beings wrapped in flesh living in a carnal world but through the forgiveness made available from Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection....we have the Holy Spirit upon spiritual birth.**

Why do we struggle with “Yielding” to God?

- **Control**
- **Trust**
- **Time**

We don't make time to get to know God. We don't learn to enjoy His presence. We must make time for the Word of God and dialogue (prayer) which promotes yielding and spiritual sensitivity.

Why do we struggle with maintaining “Spiritual Sensitivity”?

The above-mentioned reasons. It all fits together and is inter-related.

We live in such a complicated world.

Let's learn to keep it simple.

Oil change illustration to make the point of keeping things simple or complicating things.

Oil pan laying between the tool chest and the table with an oil filter wrench with a 5/8” wrench (Chevrolet) and a 3/4” wrench.

It's this kind of how we approach a ton of things, especially with God.

It's a design that should be simple and yet we want to unbolt the engine from the motor mounts, disconnect the transmission, and remove the oil pan.

Or we try to come up with some special, more difficult way that we label as our own like boring a hole in the oil pan after removal to engineer a tube on the side in order to change the oil.

Because we refuse to yield to God, we often make things harder on ourselves.

How many of us have done damage to ourselves and others because we feel like the path is too easy? It can't be that easy?

God wants to add so much to our lives. He wants our good. He wants the best for us. He is the best for us. The most excellent relationship we can ever have and for eternity.

He is worthy of our yielding and we must learn the voice of the Holy Spirit to exalt Jesus.

Let's keep it simple: Trust God today. For the very first time as Lord or returning to Him again?