

In Step with the Spirit

SUBSTANCE

Discernment - You have to be able to **see**



Matthew 6:19-24

The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness! "No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Mammon..."

Sanctification - You can't become like 2 opposite masters

"No one can serve two masters.



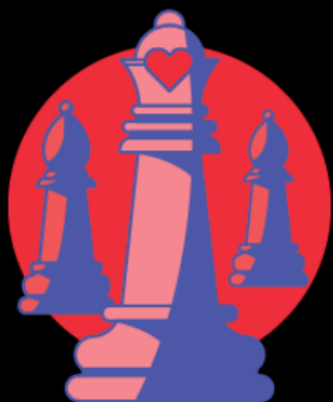
You cannot serve both God and Mammon..."

Serving life and death at the same time makes zombies.

1 John 2:15-17

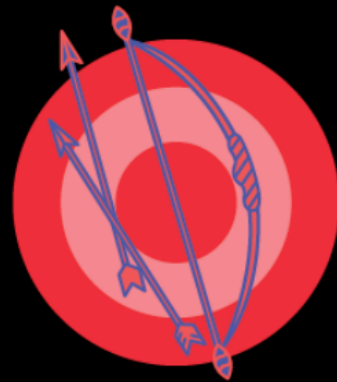
Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world—the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.

4 Marks of Substance



Self-Sacrificial Love

The Mind of Christ



Virtuous Freedom

In Step with the Spirit



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Self-Sacrificial Love

The Mind of Christ



Virtuous Freedom



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Keeping in step with the Spirit is:

Virtuously improvising the law of love through
the mind of Christ in the Spirit's power

OR

Doing the mind of Christ trusting in the Spirit's power

Goal in mind

Labor itself



Developed skill
and strength

Self-Sacrificial Love—Labor itself

Mind of Christ—Goal in mind

Virtuous Freedom—Developed
skill and strength

In Step with the Spirit—all the
decisions, choices, intuitions,
evaluations and improvisations
of doing the work in real time

1. It's not *that* mystical

Galatians 5: Use freedom to pursuing virtuous liberty—not fleshly license...

1. **Express faith through love**
— 5:13-16
2. **Longing for real righteousness**
— 5:5-6
3. **Responding to the Spirit's desires**
— 5:16-18
4. **Admit you know what you know**
— 5:18-19
5. **Kill the Flesh**
— 5:24
6. **Keep in step with the Spirit**
— 5:25-26

Galatians 6: ...applied in love to others in community.

1. **Humbly restoring Spiritual Failures**
— 6:1
2. **Taking weight from those who are weak** — 6:2-5
3. **Being generous with those who invest in you spiritually** — 6:6
4. **When God can't be mocked, the flesh can't deceive** — 6:7-8
5. **The Spirit brings a spiritual harvest**
— 6:9
6. **Sow seeds everywhere**
— 5:10

2. The Work of the Spirit is recognized by its quality—
by its fruit.

God's promise

How we ***ANTICIPATE*** the work of the Spirit

Virtue's fruits

How we ***RECOGNIZE*** the work of the Spirit

Matthew 7:15-18

Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit.

John 3:5-8

Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."

Galatians 5:16-25

So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the Flesh...The acts of the Flesh 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, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

3. Walking in the Spirit ***isn't the same***
as hearing God

John 10:3-5

"The watchman...calls his own sheep by name and leads them out...he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice."

John 10:16

"I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd."

John 10:25-28

Jesus answered, "I did tell you, but you do not believe. The miracles I do in my Father's name speak for me, but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me."

Galatians 5:16-25

So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the Flesh. For the Flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the Flesh. 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.

Romans 8:5-10

Those who live according to the Flesh have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind set on the Flesh is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the Flesh cannot please God. You, however, are controlled not by the Flesh but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness.

Why does this matter?

1. Doesn't dramatically and dangerously narrow walking in the Spirit to hearing God
2. Listening for God's voice narrowly can confuse your self-knowledge and stunt your overall spiritual and moral maturity
3. Because focusing on hearing God as primary can make you neurotic and confused, rather than encouraged and strengthened

2 Timothy 1:7

For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of sound judgment (literally "prudence").

4. Keeping in step with the Spirit is ***improvisational***

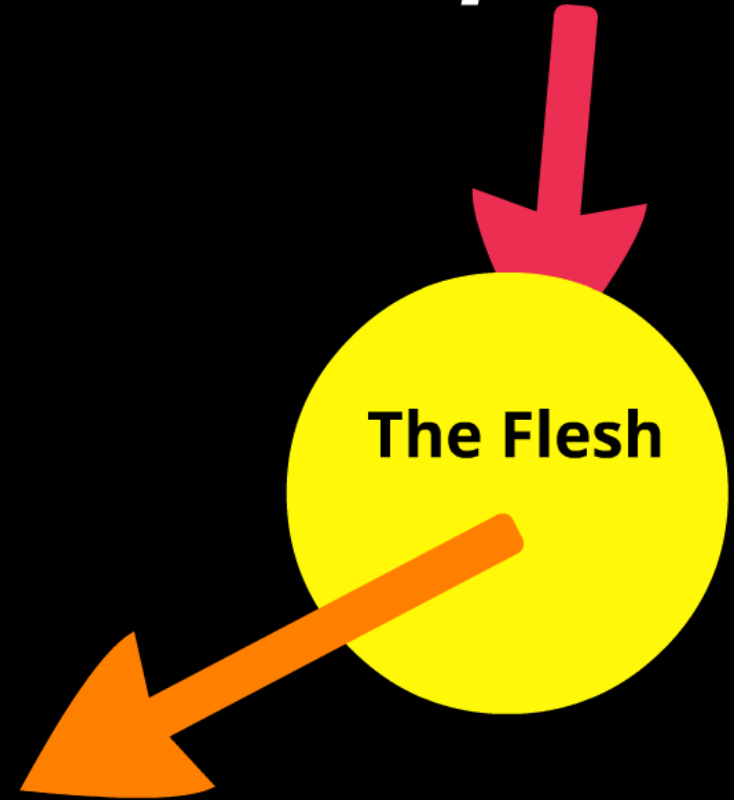
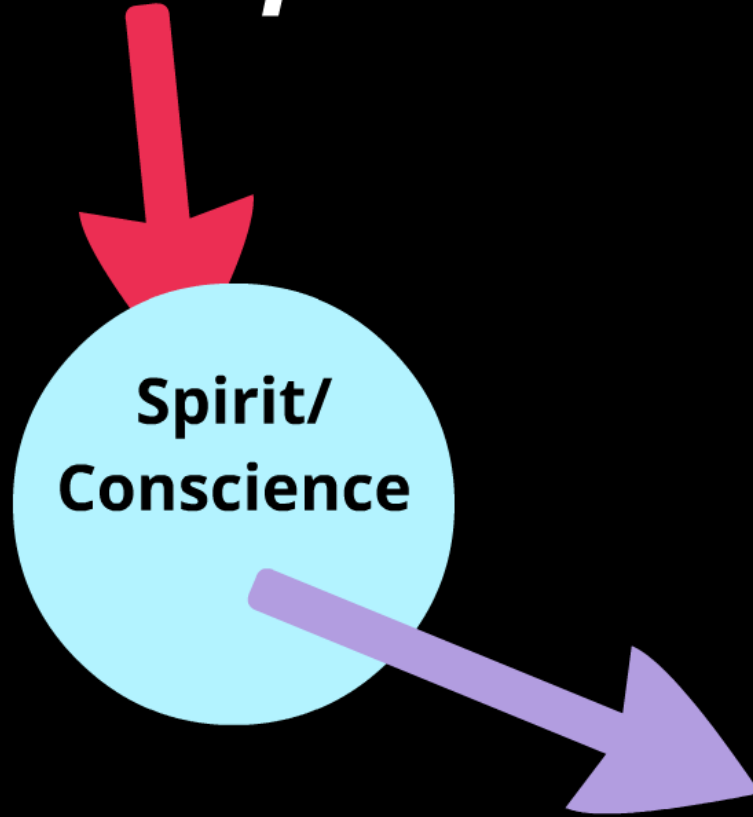
(free from the Law, living the law of the Spirit)

Romans 8:2, Galatians 6:2



The Spirit

Sin, temptation



Internal voice

5. The Spirit's main work is his ***empowering presence***

2 Peter 1:3 — His Divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us...

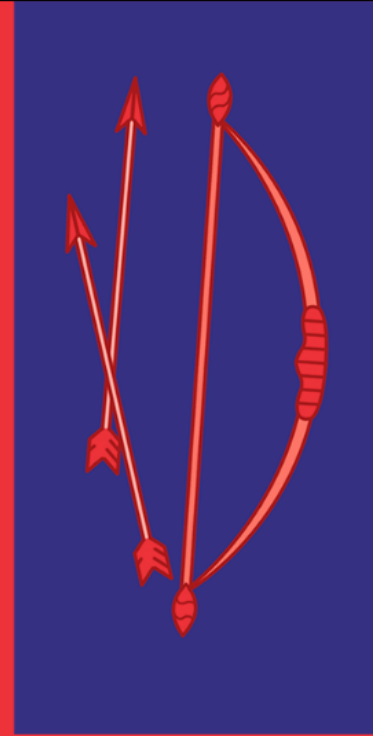
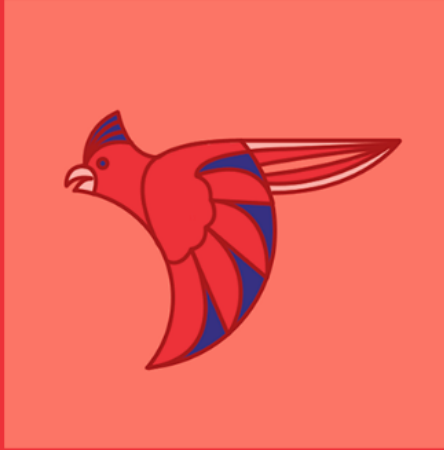
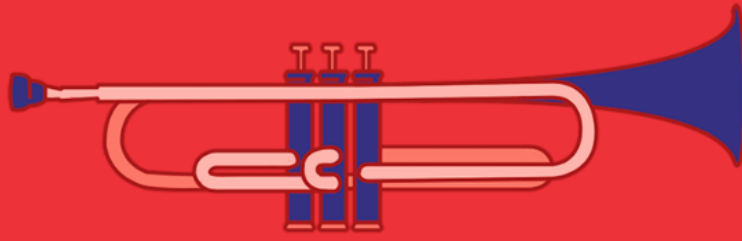
Romans 15:13-14

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. I myself am convinced, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, complete in knowledge and competent to instruct one another.

Um...Romans 3:1-20?

Romans 3:27

Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. On what principle? On that of observing the law? No, but on that of faith.



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