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## Calvary Church: Coordinated Curriculum 2007-2008

### Romans: The Transforming Power of the Righteousness of God

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#### Interlude: Life in the Spirit

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#### Definition of Spiritual Formation

Spiritual formation is . . .

1. Life shaping or forming or transforming process
  - ◆ Transforming, not simply adding or subtracting
  - ◆ Inside out
2. By the work of the Holy Spirit
  - ◆ Through His presence and power
3. By the will of Father—purpose
  - ◆ His purposeful initiative
4. To conform us to the image of the Son
  - ◆ The product/process is an incremental (lifelong) but all-encompassing (comprehensive) change of our whole being (restoration and renewal through regeneration)
  - ◆ So it is a process and a goal
5. By our surrender to Him for the sake of others in the context of community
  - Our response through submission and humility leading to obedience
  - ◆ Our response to the work of the Spirit, will of the Father and character of the Son is conscious humility demonstrated by the obedience of submission (fruit of the Spirit)
  - ◆ For the sake of others through outreach and ministry with a focus on reproduction
  - ◆ This transformed life is not a life of isolation but of interdependence
6. With the goal of giving maximum glory to the Father—result
  - ◆ So the motivation for Spiritual Transformation is much bigger than me—it is about how I serve the Lord. It is the active demonstration of the great commandment and great commission for His worship.

*Spiritual formation is the life transforming work of the Holy Spirit by the will of the Father to conform us to the image of the Son by our surrender to Him for the sake of others in the context of community with the goal of giving maximum glory to the Father.*

#### Summary

It is the purpose of God the Father, through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit to produce a transformation of our whole being into the image of the Son for the sake of others to the praise of His glory.

#### The Life in the Spirit

Freedom from Sin and Law      Romans 6  
 Personal inability to overcome sin      Romans 7  
     No amount of will power  
     No amount of wanting  
 Power in the Spirit      Romans 8  
     Our identify as children of God  
     Our identity as co-heirs with Christ

God's purpose is our transformation  
 God's promise is our glorification

## Be Filled

Ephesians 5:15-21 “be being kept filled by the Spirit”

There are four commands given to the believer in his relationship to the Holy Spirit. “Be filled” is one of them. The filling is accomplished by a **yieldedness** of the believer to the will of God, through which the Holy Spirit **controls** the believer and is the divine resource which empowers the believer for sanctification, which also results in service.

**Yielding Control to be Empowered to Live for Christ.**

When a believer is filled, he is not getting more of the Spirit but is giving himself up (the Spirit is getting more of him). Filling is not related to maturity. A new believer can be filled if he is yielded—it is related to our willingness, our surrender, which will affect the Spirit’s ability to help us grow.

Illustration: Strong drink (being drunk) controls the individual and causes him to do and think in ways that are abnormal to him.

## Walk

Galatians 5:16-26 “by means of the Spirit be walking”

Walking by the Spirit is a conscious determination to **continually** be yielded to (unbroken reliance) or **depending** on the Holy Spirit for the power to obey God, which will free the believer from the control of the flesh and the reigning power of sin and will produce the fruit of the Spirit.

In other words, walking by the Spirit is **continually depending on the Spirit for the power to obey God.**

Filling brings the control of the Spirit. Walking maintains that control. What we are trying to accomplish in our lives is **Unbrokenfellowship** with the Lord.

Living/Walking by the Spirit is not how to avoid sin, but how to do what is right. It is learning to live **moment-by-moment** in dependency on and sensitive to the prompting of the Holy Spirit.

But what is it that we do that does not relinquish our control to the Holy Spirit? What do we do to steal back the control from the Spirit? (Grieve and Quench the Spirit)

## The Grieving of the Spirit

Ephesians 4:25-32

One of the two negative commandments, what a believer is not to do in his relationship to the Spirit, is grieve the Spirit. Grieving the Holy Spirit occurs when a believer **sins**, not allowing the Spirit to control. More specifically, when a believer sins in his **relationship** and speech with others, (especially other believers) thereby causing disunity, this grieves the Holy Spirit. This is evidence of the control of the flesh breaking the unity of the Body.

The believer regains his proper fellowship after he has sinned and grieved the Holy Spirit through confession and re-yielding his life (1 John 1:9)

## Do not Quench

1 Thessalonians 5:12-22

Another negative commandment, what a believer is not to do in his relationship to the Spirit, is quench the Spirit. Quenching the Spirit is a conscious **rebellion** (despise v.20) against the revealed will of God, His **Word**, and thereby resisting the prompting of the Holy Spirit. The way to regain fellowship is again to confess and yield.

The context reveals that it also is a relational sin.

Yielding is choosing to do God's will even before we know what it is.

*All four imperatives are given in the context of relationship. Which reminds us that, life in the Spirit includes life within the Body.*