



Why and How Pastors Fall Speaker: Jeff Thompson

Our “flesh” is our physical body.

Our “spirit” is our immaterial, eternal, true nature.

...“Truly I tell you, unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. Whatever is born of the flesh is flesh, and whatever is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be amazed that I told you that you must be born again. - John 3:5-7

...just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, in this way death spread to all people, because all sinned. - Romans 5:12

...Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God...
- 1 Corinthians 15:50

...when you were dead in trespasses and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, he made you alive with him and forgave us all our trespasses. - Colossians 2:13

This is how we know that we remain in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. - 1 John 4:13

...if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, then he who raised Christ from the dead will also bring your mortal bodies to life through his Spirit who lives in you. - Romans 8:11

...those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit have their minds set on the things of the Spirit. Now the mindset of the flesh is death, but the mindset of the Spirit is life and peace. The mindset of the flesh is hostile to God because it does not submit to God's law. Indeed, it is unable to do so. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. You, however, are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to him. Now if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. - Romans 8:5-10

The Flesh vs. The Spirit:

- We are born with dead _____ and a dead _____.
- Jesus brings our spirit to life by giving us His spirit.
- Christians live in a state of conflict between the flesh and the spirit.
- The flesh desires selfish, earthly pleasures while the spirit desires the abundant life found only in God.

I say, then, walk by the Spirit and you will certainly not carry out the desire of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is against the Spirit, and the Spirit desires what is against the flesh; these are opposed to each other, so that you don't do what you want. Now the works of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, moral impurity, promiscuity, idolatry, sorcery, hatreds, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambitions, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and anything similar... ..But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control... Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.
- Galatians 5:16-17, 19-25

Remain in me, and I in you. Just as a branch is unable to produce fruit by itself unless it remains on the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without me. - John 15:4-5

_____ is the key to
victorious living.

Motivators for Choosing the Spirit over the Flesh:

- Love for God.

"Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and don't do the things I say?"

- Luke 6:46

- _____ in God's _____.

- Experience.

- _____ of the Lord.

"Sanctification" is the lifelong work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer to make them more like Jesus.

The evidence of a person's walk with the Lord is who they are in their _____.

Every believer needs loving, biblical _____ in their lives.

Participation in a _____ and Biblical _____ provide additional layers of accountability for pastors.

Growing in Christlikeness means seeing your own sinfulness with increasing clarity resulting in increasing humility.

Let us walk with decency, as in the daytime: not in carousing and drunkenness; not in sexual impurity and promiscuity; not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh to gratify its desires.

- Romans 13:13-14

Can a man embrace fire and his clothes not be burned?

- Proverbs 6:27

The time to build up your _____ is when there's a _____ in the fighting.

How Most Affairs Happen:

If there's any type of physical attraction, an emotional connection will naturally progress toward a physical connection over repeated interactions, if left unchecked.

Another layer of protection is a _____ congregation and church culture.

The qualifications for elders/pastors are detailed in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9.

Pastors do not have greater access to God than any other genuine Christian.

There is one body and one Spirit - just as you were called to one hope at your calling - one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.
- Ephesians 4:4-6

Pastors do not serve as a bridge between congregants and God.

...there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus... - 1 Timothy 2:5

And he himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, to build up the body of Christ, until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of God's Son, growing into maturity with a stature measured by Christ's fullness. Then we will no longer be little children, tossed by the waves and blown around by every wind of teaching, by human cunning with cleverness in the techniques of deceit. But speaking the truth in love, let us grow in every way into him who is the head - Christ. From him the whole body, fitted and knit together by every supporting ligament, promotes the growth of the body for building itself up in love by the proper working of each individual part. - Ephesians 4:11-16