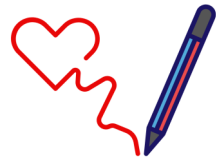


FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



My Greatest Enemy

In our weekly church staff meeting, the first thing on the agenda is sharing the Word of God and reflection. At one of these devotion sessions, Pastor Gladys asked the question, "Who hindered you from obeying the truth?" (Galatians 5:7). As for me, the greatest enemy that hinders me from living out the truth is myself. The 'me' factor is still very much alive, and attempts to dominate the truth of God.

The apostle Paul in Galatians 5:16-18 says, ***"But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law."***

The gratification of our flesh was our top priority before Jesus came into our lives. Not that we are bad people because we continually live under the control of the law. However, it does mean that there is an absence of God's intervention. As all of you already know, the purpose of the law is to highlight our sins, but it lacks the power to defeat sins.

That is why Paul urged the people to walk by the Spirit to curb the desires of the flesh. Similarly, Jesus told Nicodemus that ***"...unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God."*** (John 3:5). When one walks by the Spirit, one

will also bear the fruit of the Spirit, which is **"love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control."**

Are we displaying the fruit of the Spirit in our lives, or are we still walking in our flesh? No works of us can bear the fruit of the Spirit but only by the power of the Holy Spirit. We need a change of heart that only God can do it. Therefore, pray for one another if we see our brothers or sisters walking in the flesh. None of us is perfect, as we are all still works in progress. Our common denominator is that we are all under God's grace; as such, we also need to be gracious to one another.

We are answerable to God regarding what we build on God's foundation. That is for God to judge and for us to pray and encourage one another toward spiritual maturity. My greatest enemy is not my brothers and sisters in Christ but the gratification of my flesh. If we truly walk in the Spirit, we will receive love, joy, and peace amid the imperfections around us. Let us leave the judgement to our Lord when He returns.

Pastor Kelvin