

**18 August 2013** – Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost/LITS #6.

**Readings:** Jeremiah 23:23–29; Galatians 5:13-25; Luke 12:49–56.

**Theme:** *Step by step* - Galatians 5:25, “Since we live by the Spirit, let us **keep in step** with the Spirit.”

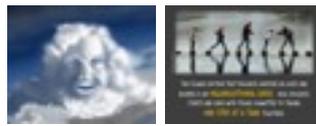


**INTRO:** Jesus steps in... “Brides and grooms are no longer waltzing their way into married life... Hooman Ebadi said he could teach couples a basic routine in three lessons...”



## **I. STEP #1: “Forget About His Will for Your Life!”**

“You doubt God has a sense of humour? Show Him your plans.”



**Hebrews 11:8**, “By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.”

**Francis Chan**, “My hope is that instead of searching for ‘God’s will for my life,’ each of us would learn to seek hard after ‘the Spirit’s leading in my life today.’ May we learn to pray for an open and willing heart, to surrender to the Spirit’s leading with that friend, child, spouse, circumstance, or decision in our lives right now.”



## **II. STEP #2: LET GO OF THE PAST.**

**Isaiah 43:18-19**, “Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.”



### A. SIN (the sinful nature).

**Galatians 5:24**, “Those who belong to Christ Jesus have **crucified the flesh** (*the sinful nature*) with its passions and desires.”



### B. SINNING (sinful thinking and behaviour).

**Galatians 5:16, 19-21**, “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.”

**Francis Chan**, “Some people encounter Jesus and say, ‘Sweet! Jesus, do you want to join the party of my life with this sin, that addiction, this destructive relationship, and we’ll just coexist together?’ But repentance means saying, ‘Sweet Jesus, You are the best thing that has ever happened to me! I want to turn from all the sin and selfishness that rules me. I want to let it go and walk with you. Only You. You are my life now. Help me to walk away from the enslaving, worthless things in life.’” (p. 124).



## III.STEP #3: SAY “YES” TO NEW LIFE TODAY!

### A. To Jesus (not “Jesus plus...”).

**John 14:6**, “Jesus answered, “**I am** the way and the truth and **the life**. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

**Francis Chan**, “You don’t need the Holy Spirit if you are merely seeking to live a semi-moral life and attend church regularly... You only need the Holy Spirit’s guidance and help if you truly want to follow the Way of Jesus Christ. You only need Him if you desire to ‘obey everything’ he commanded and to teach others to do the same.”



## **B. To the Holy Spirit.**

### **1. To His presence.**

**Luke 11:13**, “If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, **how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!**” cf. Gal.5:22.



### **2. To His leading.**

**Galatians 5:25**, “Since we live by the Spirit, let us **keep in step with the Spirit.**” Cf. REPENTANCE – an ongoing process. Day by day...

**Francis Chan**, “The crux of it, I believe, is realizing that being filled with the Spirit is not a one-time act. As we read in Galatians about the Spirit and the flesh, walking in the Spirit implies **an ongoing relationship**. Being filled with the Spirit is not limited to the day we first meet Christ. Instead, throughout Scripture we read of a relationship that calls us into **an active pursuit of the Spirit.**”



**CONCLUSION:** “Let us keep in step with the Spirit,” step by step.  
In Jesus’ name, Amen. – Pastor Aldi ☺