

“Who’s Pedaling?”

Gal. 5:16

Hi, I'm Crawford Loritts with a Legacy Moment.

Some years ago on a family vacation, Karen and I rented a tandem bicycle, one of those bicycles built for two. We had a great time! I sat up front and did the steering, and of course Karen sat behind me. Her job was to pedal in sync with me, and my responsibility was to pedal and steer. We rode all over the beach and all over this small town. We did it together, and as long as she pedaled in rhythm and sync with me, we had a marvelous time.

Overcoming sin in the Christian life is kind of like riding a bicycle built for two: you just can't do it yourself. Have you been struggling with sin in your own personal life, where you've been coming to God and confessing, but you're taking two steps forward and three steps back? Maybe the reason you're not making it is because *you* are trying to overcome it—like you're sitting in the back seat by yourself, and there's nobody up front to steer and help you pedal.

That's the job of the Holy Spirit. In Galatians chapter 5, verse 16, there's a refreshing, liberating declaration. Listen to these words; “But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.”

Doesn't that first line intrigue you? Listen to it, “Walk by the Spirit.” You walk, not by your spirit, but by the Holy Spirit. Again, walking is our part, that's our step of obedience. “By the Spirit” is God's part. That's what He does. It's submission to the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Here's what I want you to remember today. Our sinful impulses are powerful, and overcoming them takes our cooperation with and yielded-ness to the Holy Spirit. Get in the back seat and allow Him to steer you to safety.