

## LIVING LIFE AS IT WAS MEANT TO BE!

### GHOST STORIES #5

Pastor Dennis Clanton

Woodland Church

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*“Let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won’t be doing what your sinful nature craves. The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions. But when you are directed by the Spirit, you are not under obligation to the law of Moses. When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God. But The Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!” (Galatians 5:16–23, NLT)*

**God doesn’t love me because I’m loveable but because He is love.**

*“God is love.” (1 John 4:8, NLT)*

*“We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love. God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them. And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect. So we will not be afraid on the day of judgment, but we can face him with confidence because we live like Jesus here in this world.”*

*(1 John 4:16–17, NLT)*

*“God is Spirit.” (John 4:24, NLT)*

### The Fruit of the Spirit

#### 1. Love is unconditional.

*“God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him.” (1 John 4:9, NLT)*

#### 2. Joy is contented.

*“I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and difficulties for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.” (2 Corinthians 12:10, GN)*

*“Jesus replied, “But even more blessed are all who hear the word of God and put it into practice.”” (Luke 11:28, NLT)*

**3. Peace is a new heart that celebrates God’s love.**

*“Before you know it, a sense of God’s wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. It’s wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life.” (Philippians 4:7, Message)*

**4. Patience keeps going to the end.**

*“Puts up with anything, Trusts God always, Always looks for the best, Never looks back, But keeps going to the end.” (1 Corinthians 13:7, Message)*

**5. Kindness is available to others.**

*“We prove ourselves by our purity, our understanding, our patience, our kindness, by the Holy Spirit within us, and by our sincere love.” (2 Corinthians 6:6, NLT)*

**6. Goodness is a commitment to excellence.**

*“You can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.” (1 Peter 2:9, NLT)*

**7. Faithfulness is committed to God’s will.**

*“We proudly tell God’s other churches about your endurance and faithfulness in all the persecutions and hardships you are suffering.” (2 Thessalonians 1:4, NLT)*

*[John’s friends] “made me very happy by telling me about your faithfulness and that you are living according to the truth.” (3 John 3, NLT)*

**8. Gentleness is power under control.**

*“Preach the word of God. Be prepared, whether the time is favorable or not. Patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching.” (2 Timothy 4:2, NLT)*

**9. Self-Control is a life that reflects Jesus.**

*“Better to be patient than powerful; better to have self-control than to conquer a city.” (Proverbs 16:32, NLT)*

## GROWTHWORK

1. Commit my life to Christ.

*“Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me. “Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.”*  
(John 15:4–5, NLT)

2. Attend Discovering Spiritual Maturity.
  - a. Get to know Jesus better.
  - b. Learn to love Jesus more and more.
  - c. Imitate Jesus daily.
3. Allow the Holy Spirit to have all of me.