Sermon Notes: “Living & Walking by the Spirit”

Introduction: (Galatians 5:24-25)

Point One: Living by the Spirit: Our New Life

Point Two: Walking by the Spirit: Our Daily Direction (Galatians 5:16-17, Romans 7:18, 8:7, Ezekiel 36:26-27)

Point Three: How to Walk in the Spirit: Practical Steps

Point Four: The Result: A Life that Reflects Christ

The Messenger

Weekly Newsletter of Whiteland Church of Christ
Loving God / Loving People

The Lord’s Day, January 11, 2026

Order of Worship

Greeting: Rex DeFord
Scripture Reading: Clinton Nalley (Galatians 5:24-25)
Worship Leader: George Hewitt
Communion: Rodney Dowell
Sermon: Ronnie Hewitt
(Living & Walking by the Spirit)
Announcements / Prayer: Stan Davis

During Sermon

Nursery: Debbie Smith (Sub: Hanna Redden)
Pre-K & K: Gina Sowder & Edie Short
1st-3rd Grade Bible Hour: Crystal Miller

Schedule of Services

Bible Studies: Sunday 9:30am & 5:00pm / Wednesday 7pm
Worship: Sunday 10:30am

Connect with Us

Church Office	(317) 535-1627
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Social Media:	www.Facebook.com/WhitelandCOC
	www.Instagram.com/WhitelandCOC
	www.Instagram.com/WhitelandCOC_Youth
	www.X.com/@Whiteland_COC
Online Worship:	www.YouTube.com/@WhitelandCOC

Mail In Contributions

Whiteland Church of Christ / PO Box 85 / Whiteland, IN 46184

Leadership

Elders
Stan Davis (317) 507-1936 / Ed Tichenor (317) 412-2416
Minister
Ronnie Hewitt (317) 966-2029

Welcome

Thank you for being with us today. We hope you find your time here to be a source of renewal, hope, and belonging.

Recent Prayer Requests

Ashton Hewitt had his post-op appointment. He was given the okay to start weight bearing and therapy. **Virginia Short** is at Otterbein Rehab, room 20. **Barb Surber** is receiving therapy at University Heights Rehab. She is in room 811. **Eric Trostle** is dealing with elevated liver enzymes, cholesterol, and high sugar levels. **Charles Speer** (friend of Ronnie & Angie, blood cancer and is receiving infusion treatments).

Long Term Concerns

Gavin Brooks (son of Keith Huesman's friend, heart issues), **Tammy Bartels** (Amy's sister, breast biopsy), **Juanita Brunnemer** (shut-in), **Susie Crecelous** (GayLee's friend, bone cancer & lupus), **Eddie Culin** (Wiwczaroski's friend, cancer), **Karen DeFord** (hip deterioration, will have surgery on February 26th), **Tonya Dowell** (health issues), **Nancy Duncan** (Rodney Dowell's sister, needs kidney transplant), **Pam Dowty** (Ronnie Sutton's sister, Parkinson's), **Robert Ewing** (GayLee's nephew, bone & liver cancer), **Gloria** (friend of Hagan's, kidney & heart issues), **Moe Handy** (shut-in), **Rex Hembree** (Della's brother, lung issues), **Angie Hewitt** (looking for employment), **Jamie Jones** (Hagan's nephew, coronary artery bypass & kidney transplant list), **Martin Julian** (shut-in), **Neil Kent** (David's brother, lung cancer), **Pam Lasiter** (Lougene's daughter, ongoing health issues), **Sharon Lasiter** (hospice), **Lynn** (aunt of Lonnie & Sonya's daughter-in-law, breast & spine cancer), **Clayton Marrott** (intestinal issues), **Pat Martin** (Amy Wiwczaroski's dad, Parkinson's), **Leah Raker** (Kent's great-granddaughter, Rett syndrome), **Anthony Ross** (Gay Logsdon's nephew, dialysis), **Heather Schmidt** (Amy Wiwczaroski's cousin, chemo), **Tim Scott** (Cindy Strope's brother, palsy), **Benny Stephens** (oxygen), **Gayle Stephens** (cancer, tumor is shrinking with treatment), **Vonnie Stonebraker** (Sowder's neighbor, palliative care), **GayLee Sutton** (wet macular degeneration), **Blanche Taylor** (shut-in), **Delbert Vibbert** (Lougene's nephew, COPD), **Mary Walton** (Regina Anderson's mom, shut-in), **Tiffany Waskom** (Crystal Miller's co-worker, immunotherapy for cancer), **John West** (Dawn Elliott's friend, cancer), **Wanda Weaver** (kidney disease & lupus), **Heather Wiwczaroski** (Eric's sister-in-law, recovering from spine surgery), **Jimmy Wooten** (Lougene's son, Parkinson's); **Kevin & Mary Wooten** (Lougene's son & daughter-in-law, Kevin - Cardiac Amyloidosis, chemo; Mary - Alzheimer's),

Missions

Jason & Devan Pierce (Resident Missionary @ Freed-Hardeman University); **Caleb Pierce** (Student @ Bear Valley Bible Institute); **Steve & Renee Gaudreau** (India Missions); **Shults-Lewis Child & Family Services**

How do I become a Christian?

Hear the Word (Romans 10:17) / Believe the Word (John 20:31, Acts 16:31) / Repent of your sins (Luke 13:5, 15:7) / Confess Jesus to others (Matthew 10:32-33) / Be Baptized in the name of Jesus for salvation (1Peter 3:21, Romans 6:4-5, Acts 2:37-38)

Upcoming Events

Celebrations This Week

Birthday

12th Angie McDaniel; **13th** Deegan Littleton
16th Theodore Day; **17th** Tori Smith

Birthday Party

Theodore Day's 1st birthday party will be Saturday, here in the Fellowship Hall, from 11-2pm. Everyone is invited, but please RSVP to Sarah at 765-745-0055.

Financial Peace University

The next Financial Peace class will begin Monday, January 19th and will run for 9 weeks. For more information, please contact Eric or Amy Wiwczaroski.

Men's Prayer Breakfast

The next prayer breakfast for the men is planned for Saturday, January 24th at 9am in the fellowship hall.

Area Wide Singing & Chili Supper

Our annual singing is planned for Saturday, January 31st at 5pm. We are inviting sister congregations to join us. We need some help making chili and desserts, as well as bringing condiments for the chili. If you can assist with any of these items, please sign up on the Involvement Board in the foyer.

Assistance Needed

We are looking for a couple more people to assist in the sound booth during worship services. If you are willing to help with this, please see George.

Read Through the Bible

There are daily Bible reading schedules on the table at the back of the auditorium.

Cleaning Crew - January 11-17 (Team 1)

Finance Record for 2025

Weekly Budget: $3,503.22 Last Week's Offering: $7,270.00

Attendance

Sunday: AM Bible Study (33); Worship (65); PM Bible Study (13)
Wednesday Bible Study (14)

Daily Bible Reading Plan

Sunday, January 11	Genesis 32-34
Monday, January 12	Genesis 35-37
Tuesday, January 13	Genesis 38-40
Wednesday, January 14	Genesis 41-42
Thursday, January 15	Genesis 43-45
Friday, January 16	Genesis 46-47
Saturday, January 17	Genesis 48-50

Faith Applied: Where Scripture Meets Daily Life

(www.Facebook.com/faithappliedddaily)

Spiritual Discernment: Wolves in Sheep's Clothing

Jesus ends the Sermon on the Mount by alerting His followers to the dangers that exists, and encourages them to exercise spiritual discernment. Not every danger roars. Not every threat announces itself. Some dangers smile. Some dangers quote Scripture. Some dangers look like friends.

Jesus says, "*Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves*" (Matthew 7:15, NASB). He does not say if they come. He says they "come." And they come dressed like us. His words serve as a message about discernment, protection, and spiritual vigilance. It's a call to examine voices, influences, and even our own hearts.

Jesus begins with a single word: "*Beware.*" Not "be curious," not "be open-minded," not "be tolerant," but "Beware." A wolf in sheep's clothing is not a wolf pretending to be a wolf. It is a wolf pretending to be safe. Jesus is describing people who use spiritual language, quote Scripture, appear gentle and harmless, sound convincing, and blend in with the flock. But beneath the wool is hunger – a desire to devour, mislead, distort, and destroy.

If wolves can look like sheep, then how do we tell the difference? Jesus gives us the test. Matthew 7:16-18 says, "*You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes, nor figs from thistles, are they? So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit.*"

Jesus shifts from animals to agriculture. From wolves to trees. Why? Because fruit never lies. A tree cannot fake its fruit, a teacher can fake language, a leader can fake charisma, but fruit cannot be faked.

Fruit is the visible evidence of invisible roots. If you want to know what kind of tree you're looking at, don't stare at the bark – look at the orchard around it. What grows in the lives of those who follow this person? Peace or confusion? Holiness or compromise? Unity or division? Christlikeness or self-centeredness?

Jesus doesn't treat these wolves as a minor issue. A wolf destroys the flock. A diseased tree infects the orchard. A false teacher poisons the soul. So what we do with this warning? He wants us to be discerning. Examine the fruit. Jesus repeats Himself: "*You will know them by their fruits.*" Not by their clothing. Not by their charisma. Not by their eloquence. Not by their platform. You will know them by their fruit.

How do we show discernment? Examine the Message: Does it align with Scripture? Examine the Lifestyle: Is there humility, holiness, or accountability? Examine the Impact: Does this teaching produce spiritual maturity? Does it promote confusion, compromise, and division? Examine Your Own Heart: Wolves deceive, but sometimes we prefer the comfortable lie over the uncomfortable truth. Discernment begins with honesty before God.

I leave you with this: The safest sheep are not the strongest or the fastest; nor are they necessarily the most experienced. The safest sheep are the ones closest to the Shepherd; because the One who warned us is also the One who protects us. Stay close to Jesus. Stay rooted in Scripture. Stay surrounded by a godly group of people. Stay alert and be discerning. "Beware!"