

# WILDERNESS WANDERERS v POSSESSING PEOPLE

**General Introduction** – Just as Israel went from being “wilderness wanderers” to “possessing people”, God desires that we first change our mentality (mind set), then our very landscape. What an exciting time! Please pay very close attention to each word in this prophetic series as they all fit together to make one word. Then determine to embrace, obey and possess! Finally, hold onto your hats – it’s going to be a fun ride. ☺

*Deuteronomy 2:3(NASB) / Joshua 3:3b(NIV) – “YOU HAVE CIRCLED THIS MOUNTAIN LONG ENOUGH. NOW TURN NORTH. / “...YOU HAVE NEVER BEEN THIS WAY BEFORE.”*

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## \*MESSAGE #10: FREEDOM

**Intro** – As I was reading my ONE YEAR BIBLE this past Thursday, I was especially taken by the N.T. passage for that day, Galatians 5:13-26, dealing with “freedom from our sinful nature” (flesh). As I was writing down thoughts the Lord was speaking to me from the passage, I heard him say that I had missed a very important characteristic of “possessing people”, relating to what I was reading. He had me go back to Joshua and search for it. I found it, and today’s piece God’s prophetic word to us deals with what I found.

*\*Joshua 5:2, 9a – “At that time the Lord told Joshua, ‘use knives of flint to make the Israelites a circumcised people again’ ... Then the Lord said, ‘Today I have rolled away the shame of your slavery ...’”*  
*\*Galatians 5:13 – “You have been called to live in freedom – not freedom to satisfy your sinful nature, but freedom to serve one another in love.”*

## \*UNDERSTANDING FREEDOM AND HOW TO WALK IN IT...

### 1. THE TWO NATURES WITH-IN US

*\* Gal 5:16 – “So I advise you to live according to your new life in the Holy Spirit. Then you won’t be doing what your **sinful nature** craves.”*

- SINFUL NATURE (FLESH) – BORN WITH THIS ONE
- SPIRIT NATURE – BORN AGAIN WITH THIS ONE

**Further Discussion:**

1. What two natures are with-in us after we are born again?

### 2. THE BATTLE WITH-IN – OPPOSING NATURES

*\* Gal 5:17 – “The old sinful nature loves to do evil, which is just **opposite** from what the Holy Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us the desires that are **opposite** from what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are **constantly fighting each other**, and your choices are never free from this **conflict**.”*

- THE STRUGGLE WITH-IN – CAN YOU RELATE?
- THE ONE YOU FEED WILL EVENTUALLY DOMINATE

**Further Discussion:**

2. Can you relate to this inward struggle? (Discuss, give examples)
3. Explain the second bullet. How did Pastor Rich illustrate this?

### **3. DESIRES & CHOICES**

\* **Gal 5:17** – “The old sinful nature loves to do evil, which is just opposite from what the Holy Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us the **desires** that are opposite from what the sinful nature **desires**. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, and your **choices** are never free from this conflict.”

\* **1 Cor 10:13** – “No temptation has seized you except what is **common to man**. And God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted **beyond what you can bear**. But when you are tempted, He will also **provide a way out** so that you can stand up under it.

\* **Rom 12:2b / 2 Cor 10:5c** – “be transformed by the **renewing of your mind**” ... “we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.”

\* **Hebrews 12:15a** – “See to it that no one **misses the grace of God...**”

\* **Phil 2:13** – “For **God works in you both to will and to do His good pleasure.**”

- **DESIRES: EVERYONE STRUGGLES WITH SOMETHING (COMMON TO MAN)**
- **CHOICES: BEGIN IN THE MIND WITH OUR THOUGHTS**  
“Sow a thought, reap an act ... sow an act, reap a habit ... sow a habit, reap a character ... sow a character, reap a destiny”
- **PROVIDED WITH A WAY OUT**
- **PROVIDED WITH GRACE AT TIME OF NEED**

**Further Discussion:**

4. **Why is it important to win the battle of our thoughts? Can you give an example?**
5. **Why is it important to look for the way out provided by God? Can you give an example?**
6. **What role does God’s grace provide in all of this?**

### **4. EVIL DESIRES > CHOICES/ACTIONS > CONSEQUENCES**

\* **Gal 5:19-21** – “When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, your lives will produce these evil results: sexual immorality, impure thoughts, eagerness for lustful pleasure, idolatry, participation in demonic activities, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, divisions, the feeling that everyone is wrong except those in your own little group, envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other kinds of sin. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.”

- **THOSE THOUGHTS (SEEDS) BECOME DESIRES (FERTILIZER) THAT BECOME CHOICES/ACTIONS (WEEDS) THAT ARE TOUGH TO GET RID OF**
- **MOST SERIOUS CONSEQUENCE: WON’T INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD**

**Further Discussion:**

7. **Discuss how “thoughts” (seeds) ultimately become “choices” (weeds).**
8. **Go over the list of actions (weeds) listed. Can you think of any others?**
9. **What is meant by: “will not inherit the Kingdom of God”?**

### **5. HOLY SPIRIT DESIRES > CHOICES/ACTIONS > CONSEQUENCES**

\* **Gal 5:22-23** – “But when the Holy Spirit controls our lives, He will produce this kind of fruit in us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.”

- **HOLY SPIRIT CONTROLLED THOUGHTS PRODUCE LUSCIOUS GRASS, FRUIT**

**Further Discussion:**

10. **How is this so much better for us and those around us?**

*Gal 5:24,25 – “ Those who belong to Christ have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to His cross and crucified them there ... let us follow the Holy Spirit’s leading in every part of our lives.”*