



REDEFINED

A New Creation In Christ

“Walking the Walk”

Galatians 5:16-26

Walk by the Spirit that we now live by through our faith in Jesus (16-26)

Standing firm in our faith doesn't mean staying stationary in the our faith. It also doesn't mean that temptation ends in our lives. As a result, God commands believers to live life by the Spirit. If God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ really does give the believer new life — filled with the Holy Spirit, forgiven of sin, and free to live for God — then God's call is for the believer to stay in step with the Spirit in his/her life. In other words, Paul is telling the Galatian believers that they must live their lives every day by faith and not by sight. Living by the Spirit requires faith. It's life lived on God's terms by God's power. It's the surrendered life that allows the power of the Holy Spirit to guide and to direct. It's the prayerful life that recognizes dependence on God for decisions day-to-day. It's the only life that makes sense! If God gives us new life in the Spirit through faith, then why would we not live it!

1. God's command in Gal. 5:16 is that we “walk by the Spirit.” What does He mean by “walk.” What does this apply to in our lives? What does walking by the Spirit protect us from?
2. What do we have to *know* in order to be able to “walk *by the Spirit*?”
3. How do we know the Spirit in order to know how to live by the Spirit?
4. How can someone grow in their knowledge of the Spirit and in their ability to discern the Holy Spirit?

Walking by the Spirit allows us to distinguish the flesh from the Spirit in our lives (17-23)

As the Galatians heard Paul's call to walk by the Spirit, one obvious question might have been “what does that look like in our lives?” How does a believer know that he/she is walking by the Spirit? God's Word answers this question. With the very presence of the Spirit of God in our hearts, believers have the gift of discernment through God's Word in seeing the difference between the flesh and the Spirit in our lives. Paul tells the believers that the works of the flesh are obvious. The flesh is all of the motives and actions in our lives that go against God's Word for our lives. From envy to fits of anger to sexual immorality, the flesh leads to selfish behavior that destroys rather than builds-up. On the other hand, the works of the Spirit are also obvious for the believer, including the motives and actions in our lives against which there is no law! From patience to gentleness to love, there's no law against the work of the Spirit because it leads to selfless behavior that builds-up. The key to walking by the Spirit is being led by the Spirit, which means being surrendered to, attentive to, and guided by the Holy Spirit in our lives.

1. Share some testimonies about the experience of what Paul talks about in Gal. 5:17.
2. Read Gal. 5:19-21. God says that those who do such things will not inherit the Kingdom of God. What does He mean by “do” or “practice” such things? Do you know individuals whose lives are identified by such things? What are the implications of this truth in their lives? Pray for them.

3. Read Gal. 5:18. What does it mean to be led? What does it take to be led by the Spirit? Are you led by the Spirit in your life?
4. Read Gal. 5:22-23. Why are these things called “fruits” of the Spirit rather than “gifts” of the Spirit? How are these things grown in the life of a believer?

Walking by the Spirit means crucifying the desires of our flesh in order to live by the Spirit in our lives (24-26)

A true surrender by faith to Jesus Christ doesn't just allow for the believer to hear and to follow the Holy Spirit, but for those who are of Christ — or “those who belong to Christ...” as the English Standard Version translates the text — another important thing happens in their lives. Those in Christ have crucified the flesh and its desires! In other words, through faith in Jesus Christ a fatal blow has been dealt to the power of sin in the believer's life. The flesh has been mortally wounded, which means that its ability to conquer is gone. Its strength to attack is decreasing. These are wonderful truths about the reality of God's grace at work in the life of the believer. So how should the believer respond to this victory over the flesh that God's accomplishes through faith in Jesus? The answer is clear: Stay in step with the Spirit! Don't revive what's been crucified; instead, pursue the One who gives you new life. Pursue God, trusting and following Him in faith in order to live by the Spirit in life.

1. Read Gal. 5:24. What the implications of belonging to Jesus? What has already happened in the life of a person who belongs to Jesus? Share testimonies in the group about this experience and process in life.
2. Read Gal. 5:25. The assumption is that believers are living by the Spirit. What does this mean? What happens in our lives through God's grace when we put our faith in Jesus Christ?
3. God's expectation is that the believer will stay in step with the Spirit in his/her life. What are some struggles or difficulties in doing this? What are some keys from God's Word for staying in step with the Spirit?
4. Read Gal. 5:26. Why did Paul say this at this point in his letter? What does it remind us that is critical to understanding how we can walk by the Spirit?