

How to Walk in the Spirit

Message 05 of the series "The Third Person"

A. God wants the Holy Spirit to fill your life.

"Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do. Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit..." Ephesians 5:17-18 (NLT)

1. You walk in the Spirit when you let the Holy Spirit guide your life.

"So I say, 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." Galatians 5:16-18 (NLT)

2. Either the Spirit or your sinful nature guides your life.... and the results are very clear.

"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 5:19-23 (NLT)

B. Walking in the Spirit requires a practical response, not an emotional or mystical experience.

1. Your mind and thoughts determine if you are following the Spirit or your sinful nature.

"Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit. So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace." Romans 8:5-6 (NLT)

Note: We are transformed by renewing our minds. "Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect." Romans 12:2 (NLT)

- a. Exchange your old thoughts for the Spirit's new thoughts.

"With the Lord's authority I say this: Live no longer as the Gentiles do, for they are hopelessly confused. Their minds are full of darkness; they wander far from the life God gives because they have closed their minds and hardened their hearts against him... Since you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from him, throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes." Ephesians 4:17-18,21-23 (NLT)

- b. Let the realities of heaven change your perspective.

"Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God."
Colossians 3:1-3 (NLT)

- c. Turn your thoughts into actions.

"And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. Keep putting into practice all you learned and received from me— everything you heard from me and saw me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you."
Philippians 4:8-9 (NLT)

Life Application: You must follow the Spirit's leading in every part of your life. "Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives." Galatians 5:25 (NLT)

Quotes:

“The Spirit is the first power we practically experience, but the last power we come to understand.”
– *Oswald Chambers*

“Trying to do the Lord’s work in your own strength is the most confusing, exhausting, and tedious of all work. But when you are filled with the Holy Spirit, then the ministry of Jesus just flows out of you.”
–*Corrie Ten Boom*

“The church becomes irrelevant when it becomes purely a human creation. We are not all we were made to be when everything in our lives and churches can be explained apart from the work and presence of the Spirit of God.”
–*Francis Chan*

“The Holy Spirit illuminates the minds of people, makes us yearn for God, and takes spiritual truth and makes it understandable to us.”
–*Billy Graham*

Connect Group Questions:

At Centerpoint we discuss discipleship in terms of “pathways”. The first pathway is learning how to love God.

There are 4 steps in this pathway:

- **Surrender** (to God). Read Proverbs 3:5-6. Do you think that surrender is an issue in today’s society? How would you describe surrender to God?
- **Listen** (to God’s Word). Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17. Do you believe that God speaks directly to each of His children? What are some things God has revealed to you in the past?
- **Pray** (alignment). Read Matthew 26:36-45. How do you see Jesus aligning with God through prayer?
- **Obey** (God’s direction). Read James 1:22. What is the importance of putting what God has told you into action?

What is the Holy Spirit’s role in each of these steps of the first pathway?

- Surrender? (Ephesians 4:23)
- Listen? (John 14:26)
- Pray? (Romans 8:26)
- Obey? (Galatians 5:16-17)

How can the Holy Spirit help you walk the first pathway?