

A. Believers are Commanded to "Walk in the Spirit"

Galatians 5:16–26 (NIV) *So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.*

- Gal 3 – having begun **BY THE SPIRIT** are you now being perfected **by the Law?**
- **REFLECT:** Christians... having begun by the Spirit – REGENERATION – are you now living apart from the Spirit? Living for yourself?

The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

Consider the Apostolic Command: Ephesians 5:18 (ESV) *And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be (being) filled with the Spirit,*

James 4:17 (ESV) *So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.*

1 Thessalonians 5:19 (ESV) Do not quench the Spirit.

STOP: Give space to CONFESS grieving the Spirit through sin, neglect, selfish living. Humbly ask for Him to give each one of us a FRESH FILLING and give Him your, "YES." (That's it!)

B. The Holy Spirits Role in the Life of Believers

A Summary of the Spirit's Work

| Phase | Goal | Result |
|----------------|------------------|------------------------------------|
| Regeneration | New Life | You are a New Creation. |
| Justification | New Standing | You have Peace with God. |
| Adoption | New Relationship | You can Know God. |
| Sanctification | New Character | You produce Fruit and Joy. |
| Empowerment | New Mission | You have Power for Witness. |

1. **Regeneration & Justification: Salvation** (Before) Draws us to God, convicts us of sin, judgment, righteousness, (At) regenerates us, births us into God's family, seals us, empowers us to life as NEW creations. (*Jn 3:5-8, 6:44, 16:8-13; Tit 3:5; Gal 6:15*)
2. **Adoption: The Holy Spirit draws us close to Jesus & the family of believers (the Church):**
 - a. **TWO PRIMARY ways we see this! LOVE for GOD – LOVE for the CHURCH (Spiritual Family) FELLOWSHIP with other believers: 1 Corinthians 12:13–14 (ESV)** *For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.* ¹⁴ *For the body does not consist of one member but of many.*
 - i. Lack of LOVE for the Church shows LACK of the Spirit's filling.
 - b. **Fellowship with other believers** (2 Cor 12, Eph 4-6; Acts 2:42-47)
 - c. **Fellowship with the Spirit** (2 Cor 13:14)
 - d. **Hunger for God's Word & Truth** (Jn 14:26, 16:13)
 - e. **Motivates Prayer** (Rom 8:26; Jude 20)
 - f. **Pours LOVE into our hearts, so we can LOVE Him** (Rom 5:5)
 - g. **Romans 5:3–5 (ESV)** *Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.*

THE SPIRIT DOES THIS IN COOPERATION WITH US (Keep in STEP with the Spirit) Galatians 5:21 (NIV)
Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit...

3. **Sanctification: The Holy Spirit produces Christ-like CHARACTER & FRUIT in our lives!**
 - **Love:** sacrificially – unconditionally – EVEN our enemies!
 - **Joy** – the ability to have JOY, even in the midst of SUFFERING!
 - **PEACE:** Peace with God that flows to peacemaking with others:
 - **John 14:17 (ESV)** *even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.*
 - **John 14:21 (ESV)** *Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.*
 - **John 14:26–27 (ESV)** *But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.*
 - **Patience** – Same word used for being “steadfast”. KEY to love & forgiveness!
 - **Kindness & Gentleness** – “gentle caring, concern for others” “integrity”. Truth in Love.
 - **Romans 2:4 (NIV)** *Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?*

- **1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)** But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,
- **Goodness: uprightness of heart and life – we DO good deeds! Ephesians 5:9–10 (NIV)**⁹ (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth)¹⁰ and find out what pleases the Lord.
- **FAITHFULNESS:** Faithfulness to God & others (NOT saving faith), loyalty, dependability, fidelity, holding to truth, etc. STANDING AGAINST THE TIDE OF CULTURE – STAND FOR TRUTH
- **SELF-CONTROL:** Controlling our impulses & Submitting to the Spirit. ***Galatians 5:16–17 (NIV)*** *So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh.*
 - **This is MISSING from our culture!** “do whatever makes you happy”
 - **For example:** sex before marriage, denying homosexual impulses, over-indulgence on food (gluttony), using ALL of our free time for ourselves > serving God’s Kingdom.
 - **Matthew 16:24 (ESV)** *Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.*
- **IMPORTANT:** *These fruits are often thought of as FEELINGS believers FEEL all the time – NOT THE CASE!! Other than JOY – which is exuberant happiness that is born in a believer through UNDERSTANDING GOD’s LOVE- these are all ACTIONS & BEHAVIORS that Believers DO as they “Walk by the Spirit”*

4. **Sanctification: Forms us Relationally to Love & Submit: Ephesians 5:18–21 (ESV)** And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart,²⁰ giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,²¹ submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ....

1. **Fellowship together** → singing, thanksgiving, worship, with EACH OTHER!
 1. **1 Corinthians 14:26 (ESV)** What then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up.
 2. **Hebrews 10:25 (ESV)** not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.
 3. **WARNING: Satan works OVERTIME to destroy this! The UNITY & LOVE OF BELIEVERS is the greatest present testimony and witness to the World!**
 4. **John 13:34–35 (ESV)** *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”*
2. **Marriage → Husband & Wife: Ephesians 5:21–27 (ESV)**²¹ submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.²² Wives, **submit (not in original text)** to your own husbands, as to the Lord.²³ For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior...²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,²⁶ that he might sanctify her, having

cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,²⁷ so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

1. **MARRIAGE IS SUPPOSED TO REFLECT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN JESUS & THE CHURCH!!**
2. **Ephesians 5:32–33 (ESV)** *This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.*

C. Weekly Application Steps:

- **Adoption:** How can you make space for the Spirit to draw you into deeper love for Jesus & the Church (other believers)? E.g. time in the Word, prayer, small group, church service, etc.
- **Sanctification:** Memorize Galatians 5:22-26. Ask the Spirit which “fruit” He desires to grow in your life?
- **Sanctification:** Fellowship with other believers → Are you meeting with other believers regularly? E.g. serving, small group, services, community
- **Sanctification:** Marriage → Does your marriage reflect Jesus’ love for the Church? And, the Church’s love for Jesus?