

GALATIANS

NO OTHER GOSPEL

Galatians 5:16-26

Keeping in Step With the Holy Spirit

Quick Review

- Those who trust in Christ have been set free.
- The Galatians were in danger of wasting that Freedom, by veering off in one of two directions.
 - 1) False teaching was pressuring the Galatians into following the Law (Bondage) in order to be sure of being right with God.
 - 2) Squandering their Freedom in serving only their sinful desires instead of through serving others in love.
- God's Spirit gives us the Power to walk in the Spirit when we let Him lead us. Life in the Spirit bears powerful and positive Fruit in a Christian's life.

~Source: <https://www.bibleref.com/Galatians/5/Galatians-5-16.html>

Galatians 5:16-26

“Keep in Step with the Spirit”

16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

19 Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, 21 envy,^[a] drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do^[b] such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. 24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. 26 Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

Today's Key Points

- The Believer has been Set Free, given New Life and is a New Creation.
- There is a ***battle raging*** within: The Holy Spirit vs. The Flesh.
- We Must Choose Which will Rule Our Life.
- It is Possible to Have Peace with God!

Where We've Been...

- ✓ We used to be dead in our sins. Totally unable to save ourselves.
- ✓ We were rebelling against God. We were God's enemies.
- ✓ God, being Loving, Merciful and Just, Sent His Only Son, Jesus to Die in our place so that Our Relationship with God can be Forever Reconciled. (***Unmerited Intervention of God's Spirit in Our Lives***).
- ✓ Christians are New Creations.
- ✓ Christians are in-dwelt by the Holy Spirit.
- ✓ Christians have Peace with God.
- ✓ The Battle with God is Over for the Christian.

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Where we are now...

- Now, the Christian Battles Within, Led by the Holy Spirit.
- Spirit vs. Flesh
- 16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these **are opposed to each other**, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.

Where we are now...

- “When Paul speaks of sarx he means all that man is and is capable of as a sinful human being apart from the unmerited intervention of God’s Spirit in his life... It came to mean man as a fallen being **whose desires even at best originate from sin and are stained by it**. Thus sarx came to mean **all the evil that man is and is capable of** apart from the intervention of God’s grace in his life.” (Boice)
- The antidote to the flesh is not found in the law, but in the Spirit — “**if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law**” ...because you fulfill the will of God through the inner influence of the Holy Spirit instead of the outer influence of the law of God.
- This effectively “writes” the law of God on our hearts, inside of us. This is the great work of the New Covenant, promised in the Old Testament: “**I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people**” (Jeremiah 31:33).

~Source: https://www.blueletterbible.org/comm/guzik_david/study-guide/galatians/galatians-5.cfm

Where we are now...

“Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to His cross and crucified them there.”

~Galatians 5:24, NLT

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Crucified is an important word; it speaks of many things:

It reminds us of what Jesus did for us on the cross.

It reminds us that we are called to take up our cross and follow Him (Matthew 16:24).

It reminds us that the death of the flesh is often painful.

It reminds us that our flesh must be dealt with decisively.

Those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh: This speaks of something that the believer does, being directed and empowered by the Spirit of God. It was not and is not the sovereign, “unilateral” work of God.

~Source: https://www.blueletterbible.org/comm/guzik_david/study-guide/galatians/galatians-5.cfm

Where we are now...

“Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to His cross and crucified them there.”

~Galatians 5:24, NLT

“Please notice that the ‘crucifixion’ of the flesh described here is something that is done not to us but by us... Galatians 5:24 does not teach the same truth as Galatians 2:20 or Romans 6:6. In those verses we are told that by faith-union with Christ ‘we have been crucified with him’. But here it is we who have taken action.” (Stott)

“The verb is in the active voice and points rather to what the believer has himself done and must continue to regard as being done.” (Boice)

In Jesus Christ, you can live above the passions and desires of your flesh. The resources are there in Jesus. Look to Him. See your life in Him. If you are one of those who are Christ’s, then you belong to Him — not to this world, not to yourself, and not to your passions and desires.

~Source: https://www.blueletterbible.org/comm/guzik_david/study-guide/galatians/galatians-5.cfm

When the Flesh is in Control

- Sexual immorality
- Impurity
- Sensuality
- Idolatry
- Sorcery
- Enmity
- Strife
- Jealousy
- Fits of anger
- Rivalries
- Dissensions, divisions
- Envy
- Drunkenness
- Orgies
- and things like these.

When the Spirit is in Control

- Love
- Joy
- Peace
- Patience
- Kindness
- Goodness
- Faithfulness
- Gentleness
- Self-control

When the Spirit is in Control

- “These aren’t the gifts of the Spirit, which are distributed on an individual basis by the will of the Spirit; this is something for every Christian.”
- “It may be significant that the word fruit is singular; Paul is not speaking of a series of fruits that would be shared around, so that one believer has one, another believer has another. Rather he is referring to a cluster, such that all the qualities are to be manifested in each believer.” (Morris)

When the Spirit is in Control

Significantly, it is the fruit of the Spirit contrasted with the works of the flesh.

Works are works, and fruit is fruit. The Spirit has one work to do in all of us.

Fruit has several important characteristics:

Fruit isn't achieved by striving, but is birthed by abiding.

Fruit is fragile.

Fruit reproduces itself.

Fruit is attractive.

Fruit nourishes.

When the Spirit is in Control

- Love
- Joy
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What Does It Mean to Walk in the Spirit?

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“This is the heart and soul of understanding the process of sanctification and the living of our Christian lives.”

~John MacArthur

What does it Mean to Walk in the Spirit?

- A “walk” in the Bible is often a metaphor for practical daily living.
- The Christian life is a journey, and we are to walk it—we are to make **consistent forward progress**.
- The **biblical norm for all believers is that they walk in the Spirit**: “If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit” (Galatians 5:25, KJV; cf. Romans 8:14).
- The Spirit gave us life in the new birth (John 3:6), and we must continue to live, day by day, in the Spirit.
- To walk in the Spirit means that **we yield** to His control, **we follow** His lead, and **we allow** Him to exert His influence over us. To walk in the Spirit is the **opposite** of resisting Him or grieving Him (Ephesians 4:30).

~Source: <https://www.gotquestions.org/Spirit-walk.html>

What Else does it Mean to Walk in the Spirit?

- To walk in the Spirit is to be filled with the Spirit, and some results of the Spirit's filling are **thankfulness, singing, and joy** (Ephesians 5:18–20; Colossians 3:16).
- Those who walk in the Spirit **follow the Spirit's lead**. They “let the word of Christ dwell in [them] richly” (Colossians 3:16, ESV), and the Spirit uses the Word of God “for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness” (2 Timothy 3:16).
- Their whole way of life is lived according to the rule of the gospel, as the Spirit moves them toward obedience. When we walk in the Spirit, we find that the sinful appetites of the flesh have no more dominion over us.

~Source: <https://www.gotquestions.org/Spirit-walk.html>

How Do We Keep in Step with the Spirit?

- Believers have the indwelling Spirit of Christ, the Comforter, Who proceeds from the Father (John 15:26).
- The Holy Spirit assists believers in prayer (Jude 1:20),
- “intercedes for God’s people in accordance with the will of God” (Romans 8:27).
- He also leads the believer into righteousness (Galatians 5:16–18),
- Produces His fruit in those yielded to Him (Galatians 5:22–23).
Believers are to submit to the will of God and walk in the Spirit.

~Source: <https://www.gotquestions.org/Spirit-walk.html>

Those who walk in the Spirit:

Are united with Him and are bear the fruit the Spirit produces.

- Walk in love.
- Walk in joy.
- Walk in peace. (Philippians 4:6).
- Walk in patience.
- Walk in kindness.
- Walk in goodness, holiness.
- Walk in faithfulness.
- Walk in gentleness .
- Walk in self-control—they display moderation, constraint, and the ability to say “no” to the flesh.

~Source: <https://www.gotquestions.org/Spirit-walk.html>

The Fruit of the Spirit is Love

- The fruit of the Spirit is love: It is fitting that love be the first mentioned, because it encompasses all of the following. It may even be said that the following eight terms are just describing what love in action looks like. “It would have been enough to mention only the single fruit of love, for love embraces all the fruits of the Spirit.” (Luther)
- Agape describes a different kind of love. It is a love more of decision than of the spontaneous heart; as much a matter of the mind than the heart, because it chooses to love the undeserving. “Agape has to do with the mind: it is not simply an emotion which rises unbidden in our hearts; it is a principle by which we deliberately live.” (Barclay)
- “When you wax indignant because you have been badly treated, and you think of returning evil for evil, remember this text, ‘The fruit of the Spirit is love.’ ‘Ah,’ you say, ‘it was shameful!’ Of course it was: and therefore do not imitate it: do not render railing for railing, but contrariwise blessing, for ‘the fruit of the Spirit is love.’” (Spurgeon)

The Big Idea...

- “The Spirit has given you life. Now let Him direct your steps.”
- “If the Spirit is the source of our life, let the Spirit also direct its course.”

~Revised English Bible

What Does It Mean to Walk in the Spirit?

“This is the heart and soul of understanding the process of sanctification and the living of our Christian lives.”

~John MacArthur

We Need a Model of Walking in the Spirit!

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- Jesus was a Sanctified Person. The Perfect Model of Sanctification.
- John 17:17: Jesus prays for all Believers of All Time, “Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.”
- John 17:19, Jesus continues. “For their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth.”
- The Word of God is the means by which God will answer the prayer of Jesus and sanctify His people, throughout Church History.

What is Sanctification?

- Perfect sanctification is perfect obedience out of love to God's holy will as revealed in His Word.
- It is perfect conformity to Scripture.
- Scripture is the revealed character of God.
- So it is perfect conformity to the character of God, and manifest particularly in Jesus Christ.

~Source: John MacArthur

Sanctification is a Work of the Holy Spirit in the Life of a Believer.

- The Spirit sets Himself against the **desires of the flesh** and leads the Believer into **righteousness** (Galatians 5:16–18).
- The works of the flesh become less evident, and the Fruit of the Spirit becomes more evident (Galatians 5:19–26).
- Believers are commanded to “**be filled with the Spirit**” (Ephesians 5:18), which means they are to yield themselves to the Spirit’s full control.

Of all the Gifts given to mankind by God, the Greatest is the Presence of the Holy Spirit.

- ✓ Jesus told the disciples that He would send the Spirit into the world to “**will convict the world regarding sin, and righteousness, and judgment**” (John 16:8, NASB).
- ✓ The Holy Spirit takes up permanent residence in the hearts of believers (Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 12:13).
- ✓ Enables us to understand and interpret God’s Word (John 16:13); He reveals to our minds the whole counsel of God as it relates to worship, doctrine, and Christian living.
- ✓ The Spirit convinces us of Christ’s deity and incarnation, His being the Messiah, His suffering and death, His resurrection and ascension, His exaltation at the right hand of God, and His role as the judge of all. He gives glory to Christ in all things (John 16:14; John 15:26; 1 Corinthians 12:3).

~Source: <https://www.gotquestions.org/what-does-the-Holy-Spirit-do.html>

Galatians 5:26

“Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.”

- A warning! Some will become **conceited** in their own walk in the Spirit. When a child of God is finally walking in the Spirit — then Satan tempts him to be **conceited** about it. Soon, he is sure that he is almost always right and everyone else is wrong. Leading to damaged relationships with other Christians and a fall into self-righteousness.
- “To be **conceited**, to be sure that we are always right (even if that means that other people are always wrong!) is a perennial temptation to believers... It is easy to assume that because we are Christ’s we will always say and do the right thing. Paul is warning his readers that believers can be too confident that they are right in what they are contemplating.” (Morris)

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- **Provoking** one another: When we are **conceited** — always sure we are right, always confident in our opinions and perceptions — it definitely provokes other people. It will rub them the wrong way and be the source of many conflicts.
- When we are conceited, we also are open to the sin of **envy**. If we know someone is more right, or more successful than we are, we resent it and **envy** them.

~Source: https://www.blueletterbible.org/comm/guzik_david/study-guide/galatians/galatians-5.cfm

How Does All This Apply To My Life?

- ✓ “Am I living my life in submission to the Holy Spirit as a habitual practice?”
- ✓ Do I take time for regular self-examination, by asking God to reveal areas I my life which need His healing and to bring about any internal changes needed.
- ✓ Are there *any* fleshly passions and desires in my life that need to be nailed to the cross and repented of?
- ✓ What Spirit-caused fruit is happening in my life?
- ✓ Will I yield to the Spirit today?
- ✓ Have I thanked the Holy Spirit for His work in my life today?

Galatians 5:16-26

Keeping in Step With the Holy Spirit

GALATIANS

NO OTHER GOSPEL

“Crucified”

Gal 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Rom 6:6

We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.

Gal 5:24

And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.