
WALKING BY THE
SPIRIT

Galatians 5.16-26

BOOK THEME

Justification by Faith Alone

BOOK KEY VERSE

GALATIANS 2:16

nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified.

Outline of Galatians

1-2

PERSONAL

Justification
by Faith
Defended

3-4

DOCTRINAL

Justification
by Faith
Explained

5-6

PRATICAL

Justification
by Faith
Applied

LESSON KEY VERSE

GALATIANS 5:25

If we live by the Spirit,
let us also walk by the Spirit.

LESSON THEME

After Paul has explained that the source of salvation is the work of the Spirit, Paul now explains that the source of sanctification is through the work of the Spirit. The Spirit's work is obvious in each believer's life, and walking by the Spirit allows the believer to overcome sinful desires and live in lives that honor the Lord.

Outline of Galatians 5:16–26

- I. The Conflict of the Flesh and the Spirit (16–18)
- II. The Evidence of Fleshly Deeds (19–21)
- III. The Evidence of Spiritual Fruit (22–23)
- IV. The Call to Walk by the Spirit (24–26)

The Flow of Paul's Argument

13 For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

14 For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF."

15 But if you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

GALATIANS

5:16–26

5

QUESTIONS TO EVALUATE
YOUR SPIRITUAL WALK

5 Questions to Evaluate Your Spiritual Walk

1. What does it mean to walk by the Spirit?
2. What does the battle between the flesh and the Spirit look like?
3. What is the connection of the flesh with the Law?
4. How can I tell if I am walking in the flesh or in the Spirit?
5. How should I respond to Paul's teaching?

1. What does it mean to Walk by the Spirit?

16 But I say, walk by the Spirit,

18 if you are led by the Spirit

25 If we live by the Spirit

Elsewhere Paul admonishes believers to walk by and live in the spirit God's word applied by God's spirit energizes or empowers the Christian to do so the chief characteristic of one's salvation as subsequent sanctification is an ongoing, habitual, growing obedience to God's word that is empowered by the indwelling Holy Spirit, who controls the lifestyle of a true Christian.

2. What does the battle between the flesh and Spirit look like?

A. What is the flesh?

B. What are the desires of the flesh?

C. What are the things that I may not do as I please?

3. What is the connection between the flesh and the Law?

Walk by the Spirit

you will not carry out the desire of the flesh

led by the Spirit

you are not under Law

Type of Christian	Have Life if...	Powered by...
Legalism	Live by the Law	The flesh
Antinomianism	Live by Freedom (from the Law)	The flesh
Biblical Christianity	Live by the Spirit	The Spirit

4. How can I tell if I am walking in the flesh or in the Spirit?

**IT'S
EVIDENT!**



IT'S
EVIDENT!



4. How can I tell if I am walking in the flesh or in the Spirit?

A. What is the difference between deeds and fruit?

B. How can we categorize these lists?

All in all, quite a list. It includes social sin and sexual sin, sins of both the body and the soul, sins common among “Christian as well as pagans. Paul ends his catalogue with “things like these” to show that he could keep going. But his point has less to do with any particular sin than it does with the entire lifestyle that these acts of flesh represent. The only thing the sinful nature can produce is unchaste, unholy, uncharitable, and undisciplined life. This is plain for all to see. The sinfulness of the sinful nature is so obvious to be self-evident, partly because we have committed so many of these deadly deeds ourselves. The Puritan William Perkins said this list of vices is a mirror to reveal the corruption of our own hearts.”

5. How should I respond to Paul's teaching?

- 1) Consider if you truly “belong to Christ” (v 24)
 - a) If so, then you have already crucified the flesh (v 24)
 - b) If so, you no now live by faith in the Son of God (2.20)

5. How should I respond to Paul's teaching?

2) Walk by the Spirit (v 25)

- a) be under the constant, moment-by-moment direction, control, and guidance of the spirit.
- b) daily choose to live by the spirit, while recognizing that the spirit empowers you to live a life pleasing to God.

Max Anders

1. Pray to God and ask him to illuminate our minds to truth, empower us to change, convict us of sin, and place godly desires in us.
2. Read the scriptures so that the Holy Spirit has something to work with in illuminating, convicting, empowering, and changing us.

3. Live by faith, meaning we believe the truth we understand, maintain faith in God's promises, acknowledge God's complete goodness, and accept the fact that everything he asks of us is so he can give something good to us and or keep some harm from us.

4. Obey him. Our faith is manifested by obedience. If we believe God, we obey him. If we do not obey him, it is because we do not believe him. We trust and obey. As we do these things we walk in and live by the spirit.

To say that the verses of this section are relevant for our era is an understatement. The text challenges the church to recover its role of establishing standards of behavior for its members in a world that has lost its guidelines and boundaries. At the same time, the Christian Church must not attempt to do so from a pedestal of superiority, fearful reaction, or self-preservation. Clearly, Christians have been called to live by and for the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who leads each person by the Spirit. Only in this way can Christians experience the characteristics of the spirit and exhibit them in daily life.

Gerald Borchert