

“Walk” with “Walk in the Spirit” is a word that literally means, “follow in the steps of” or “go in good order” after your Saviour and Captain Jesus Christ, as a good soldier of the cross. This is very much part of walking in the Spirit, seeking in all things in every area of life with your whole being to reflect Christ the Saviour and His Word and way in all you think, do, and say. Will you always remember and reflect this, dear friends? What a calling a Christian has, and again, it is so impossible on your own, but the text doesn’t call for it on our own but it says, “*If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.*”

Walk in the Spirit yes, in the way of rejoicing in Christ the Saviour, relying on Christ the Saviour, reflecting Christ the Saviour, and last yet, though not least, recruiting for Christ the Saviour. God’s people are called to be lights in the world, testifying of Jesus Christ and the only gospel message as we are given opportunity. How true in this regard what someone once wrote to a Christian, “You are personally responsible to see to it that a certain recruiting influence proceeds from the Church.” This means both in doctrine and in life we are not to live bringing shame to God’s cause but bringing respect for God’s cause, and we each are to help as God enables us and gives us opportunity that God’s gospel cause prosper, and that many more come to hear and learn about Jesus Christ, the only Saviour. Is this what is evident in your life by the grace of God, beginning in your home even?

If we live in the Spirit let us also walk in the Spirit. What does it mean to walk in the Spirit? To walk in the Spirit means rejoicing in Christ the Saviour, relying on Christ the Saviour, reflecting Christ the Saviour, and recruiting for Christ the Saviour, yes, and going on that way more and more for as long as life shall last. So much damage is done when confessing Christians don’t and won’t so walk in the Spirit, while so much good to God’s glory and the extension of His church takes place when His people will and do walk in the Spirit as has been described. Will you walk in the Spirit? Amen.



WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO ‘WALK IN THE SPIRIT’?

In Galatians 5:25, the Apostle Paul writes, “*If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.*” I invite you think with me just on this question, “What does it mean to walk in the Spirit?” Very simply, in the light of all God’s Word, let me bring out it means at least four things. Walking in the Spirit involves rejoicing in the Saviour, relying on the Saviour, reflecting the Saviour, and recruiting for the Saviour.

Focusing on the last part of the verse, our first point is walking in the Spirit means daily, step by step, rejoicing in the Saviour in life. Maybe you respond by saying, ‘How does this fit with the text? The verse doesn’t mention the Saviour Christ Jesus at all, so why are you saying walking in the Spirit means rejoicing in the Saviour?’ The reason is, as Jesus Himself tells us in the Gospel of John, the Holy Spirit has been given from God the Father and Son to work here on earth, not to draw attention to Himself so much as always and again to point people and lead people through the Word in true faith to Jesus Christ. He is the one and only Saviour from sin and the one through Whom alone we are reconciled to God through His shed blood and perfect righteousness on behalf of sinners.

The Christian has so much reason to rejoice in the Saviour walking in the Spirit. Why? Because the Holy Spirit, initially and continually, shows through the Word what hopeless guilty depraved sinners we are in ourselves and He leads us to Christ Jesus, the crucified and risen Saviour. He shows us that in Christ alone is such fullness of salvation, sufficient for the complete cleansing and renewal of all who come to Him. In the book of Galatians the apostle Paul so labors to make clear to the church in Galatia to see in Christ Jesus and His Person and work all the basis of all their salvation, and their total single ground for full reconciliation with God and complete redemption from God from beginning to end! The whole letter to the Galatians is so Christ-exalting, gospel magnifying, grace emphasizing, and this is what the Holy Spirit is after all the time. Jesus Christ is the almighty, merciful, gracious, good-doing, forgiving, salvation-supplying Saviour for all who come to Him.

Are you trusting and following after Christ Jesus the Saviour, finding in Him all your salvation, all your hope of glory and true peace of mind and joy in heart? Whenever anyone truly believes in Christ Jesus as Saviour and

Hans Overduin, Radio Pastor

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Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee that it may be displayed because of the truth. (Psalm 60:4)

Lord, the Bible teaches us, that is the work of the Holy Spirit in a person's life. In I Corinthians 12:3 we read, "...that no man can say that Jesus is Lord, but by the Holy Ghost [Spirit]." God's true people are all those and only those who are born again by the Holy Spirit and His life renewing and quickening powers through God's Word finding fullness of salvation in Christ Jesus alone.

Walking in the Spirit means, among other things, rejoicing in the Saviour. Only the Christian has true and everlasting reason for so much rejoicing in this life and for always, even in the most difficult of situations, for Jesus saves, and He saves so completely, so freely, so gladly, so justly, and so eternally. It is so inconsistent to be a confessing Christian and not be rejoicing in the Lord. It is normal for unbelievers to be miserably lacking in truly rejoicing here and now, for all unsaved people, as long as they so continue, just have no hope of any deliverance from sin. There is no escape at all from God's just and eternal wrath against them as long as they remain outside of Christ and live on without faith and repentance before Him. But if we live in the Spirit, led on in faith and repentance, let us also walk in the Spirit.

To walk in the Spirit means daily to rejoice in Christ the Saviour, and secondly, it surely means daily to rely on Christ the Saviour. Again, isn't this the whole thrust of the letter to the Galatians? Paul is instructing the believers in Galatia never to take their eyes off Christ as the source of all their justification and as the strength in all their sanctification. The Holy Spirit through the Word shows the believer that absolutely we are completely dependent on God Triune in becoming a Christian, and always we are completely dependent on God Triune continuing as a Christian and for thriving as a Christian. Without Christ Jesus as our Saviour, guiding us and upholding us every step of the way by His Word and Spirit, we could and we can do nothing. Jesus says in John 15:4&5, "*Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.*" And then Jesus adds in verse 5...."*for without me ye can do nothing.*"

The Christians in Galatia were falling into the age old problem ever since the fall into sin of somehow relying on themselves in the Christian faith and walk. They were thinking salvation with God must in some way also be dependent, even a little, on something of themselves or something in or about themselves, but that just is not so. In living the Christian life we must always be looking to Christ and drawing from Christ, and returning to Christ to receive out of His fullness in all our needs for body and soul, grace for grace, time after time, again and again. And this is the great wonder of the Christian faith as made known in the Bible and as brought home to the heart by the Holy Spirit. Then you learn Christ Jesus never turns away anyone who

comes to Him in repentance and faith with the cry for mercy and help, but He freely gives, again and again and again.

The setting of our text mentions what the believer is up against in the Christian life. We face the ungodly world and the ruthless Satan, and our greatest enemy is the lusts of the flesh by which Paul means the old sinful nature still which can so plague us and pursue us in wrong ways. Life here is and remains a spiritual battleground and every confessing Christian comes to experience and realize this soon enough. By ourselves no one can stand against our threefold spiritual foes successfully, but in and with the Lord, looking to Him and depending on Him in humility and prayer, having God's Word as our guide, we shall be more than conquerors through Him that loved us. As Paul writes in Galatians 5:16, "*This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.*"

To walk in the Spirit means to rely on Christ as your only Saviour and Lord, and coming to see daily more and more personally your own need for doing so, and having more and more desire for doing so, and finding peace in your life and fruit on your life only as you always do so. Is this how you are presently living? Being a true Christian isn't saying you are the best person out there and you live good enough to get to heaven, but rather it means you are admitting, and keep confessing, 'I am sinful and weak in myself, wayward and foolish, but God in Christ Jesus is my refuge and strength, and to Him I look and aim to depend on all my life long.' Isn't this the confession of every true believer? When a person is truly dependent on the Lord, and so walking in the Spirit, it is something that others just can't help but notice then.

To walk in the Spirit means, thirdly, also to reflect Christ the Saviour in all your life. Reflecting Him means to be a follower of Him and walking in His steps, being Christ-like in all your thoughts, words, and deeds. In the immediate context of our verse this is especially Paul's point here. Having listed the awful works of the flesh, detailing fifteen of those sinful miserable works, Paul then mentions the fruit of the Spirit, the nine graces of "*love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness [kindness], goodness, faith[fullness], meekness, temperance [self control]*" and then his exhortation is, 'Be showing not the works of the flesh, but the fruit of the Spirit, those Christ-like graces so perfectly seen in the Lord Jesus, our Saviour.

In Galatians 5 and 6 Paul mentions all kinds of practical ways for serving one another through love, and he warns against being hurtful and resentful in word or deed to anyone. To walk in the Spirit means to seek to be reflecting the Saviour in all our ways. Think of Jesus and the way He lived in perfect obedience to all God's commandments. In Galatians 5:18, Paul says, "*If ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law*", means here being no longer under the condemnation of God's law, but for the Christian the law still functions as a guide for holy living that is pleasing to God. The word for