

Walking in the Spirit, Part I

Galatians 5:7-26

Welcome back. What a joy it is to be studying together. Today we begin to discover what it means to walk in the Spirit. Something we (us) as Christians hear about --- talk about --- learn about and hopefully successfully achieve. You see, walking in the Spirit is one of the most poorly understood concepts. Why do I say that? Well, let's read our text for today.

Galatians 5:7-26

1) What stands out to you here?

I want to start by saying that the book of Galatians is really a sharp reproof, an encouragement of course as well, but a stern warning.

- "You ran well. Who hindered you..." (Gal. 5:7)
- "I marvel ... you are turning away..." (Gal. 1:6)
- "O foolish Galatians who has bewitched you..." (Gal. 3:1)
- Why return to "weak and beggarly elements..." (Gal. 4:9)

You see the first step in learning to walk in the Spirit is learning what is spiritual and what is flesh.

Galatians 5:13-14

Again, spiritual and worldly called out... Through love serve one another... One another means everyone... I say often it is easy to find fault, but can you say these verses testify to that... With all our super Christian spiritual knowledge, we can really destroy others, even if it is just in our minds and homes.

2) How do Christians devour one another?

Galatians 5:16-18

OK, to the meat of the study!

3) If a new Christian asked you ..., "How do I walk in the Spirit?" ... how would you answer?

By the way, if you are here now, listening --- *the Holy Spirit directed you here.*

So, the first step to walk in the Spirit is confessed sin. Let's pray.

In Discipleship Class we just went over repentance!

The second step is believing in that prayer, that I am forgiven, I am born again, and that the Spirit dwells within me.

Let's do an exercise. Think of the one thing you keep taking back....

Galatians 3:2-5

You take it back because you are right.

You can't make it right. You never could and never will be able to.

4) What is confidence in the flesh?

That could certainly hinder you.

The main lesson I want you to take away today is that you were born of the Spirit. You can lead a Spirit led life.

A for instance.... I thought I was going to write a study on fruit. I had mulled it around for a week, looking for the angle God would have me use. It never came, so I prayed, opened the bible and began to write. The Spirit provided us a four part study... and we will not get to *fruit* until Part 3!

There is a lesson there as well.

II Corinthians 5:1-7

Spirit as a guarantee.

5) Where do you need God's direction? (Personal question)

===== Holy Spirit Exercise =====

===== Prayer =====

Next Tuesday Bible Study - "Walking in the Spirit Part II"