

Walking In The Spirit

The Christian Walk - Part 3

Welcome back to Part 3 of The Christian Walk. It has been a great study so far. Last week we talked about walking as an example. Paul said in Philippians twice --- follow me --- follow us as examples.

Philippians 3:17 and 4:9

'Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern. '

'The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.'

Today, we hope to learn the mechanics of walking in the Spirit, and this always begins with prayer.

Galatians 5:16-26

1) How would you explain to a new believer "How" to walk in the Spirit?

From "Grace Notes"¹:

Walking in the Light vs. Walking in Darkness

Walking in the light is a term used specifically for the believer's execution of God's will, plan and purpose for the church age. The concept of walking in the light is found in Eph. 5:8, "You were once in darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Begin walking (peripatew) as children of light."

This command is a reference to experiential sanctification. Walking in the light is synonymous for the Christian way of life.

Just as walking in the darkness is incompatible with walking in light, so Christian degeneracy is incompatible with the plan of God.

Walking in the light is compatible with the status of being in the light. Walking in darkness is not compatible with the status of being in the light. A Christian walking in darkness is degenerate, whether moral, immoral or both.

The command to walk in the light means that God intends for a Christian to be filled with the Spirit and to learn the word of God under the filling of the Spirit.

The Lord Jesus is our precedent for walking in the light:

1 John 2:6, “The person who says he abides in Him, he himself ought to keep walking in the same manner as He walked.”

Our example for the Christian walk is the Lord Jesus Christ during His life on earth, not the walk of Old Testament believers.

Walking as children of light means we are to become spiritually mature believers.

*The power for walking comes from using the power of the Holy Spirit on the inside, **Gal. 5:16**, walk by means of the Spirit. This is a command to remain in fellowship with God the Holy Spirit. Being in fellowship is the only way we can execute God’s plan.*

Walking describes the purpose of living in the operational will of God to glorify God in the church age.

*We are commanded in **1 Thess. 2:12**, “so that you may walk in a manner worthy of God who elected you into His kingdom and glory.” This is a general reference to the fulfillment of the plan of God.*

Again, we notice that there is a difference between “walking in the Spirit” and “walking in the flesh”. The most common way of identifying where a person is in their walk is the fruit that is produced:

- Mental Attitude
- How We Treat Others
- How We Think of Others
- What We Believe About Ourselves
- Actions or Sins that Give Me Relief from the World’s Pressures.

II Corinthians 10:1-6

2) Do you ever feel like you just can’t change the way you think?

The key here is that we are in this flesh. We live in a world controlled by the flesh and surrounded by fleshly solutions, suggestions, cures and resolutions. Things we can see, touch, smell, feel ----- these are the things we are taught by peers, learn from experience, remember, and have believed (for a long time in some cases).

- So the first step in “Walking in the Spirit” is giving over control.

===== Prayer =====

- The second step is feeling the impression of the Spirit.

John 14:15-18

'If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.'

Walking in the Spirit is not natural to the normal human, so it must be learned and practiced.

- The third step is practicing changing your mind.

3) How does a person change their mind about something?

I Corinthians 2:6-16

Things inconsistent with walking in the Spirit - **Galatians 5:19-21**.

If you are struggling in any of these areas, first ask God the Holy Spirit to show you and empower you.

--- Examples---

4) Give me an example of a short prayer.....

II Corinthians 3:1-6

The Spirit wants to give you freedom, not beat you up with rules and laws that we break or have broken before.

Practice this ----- this week.

¹Grace Notes is a ministry of [Austin Bible Church](https://www.gracenotes.info/), Austin, TX; <https://www.gracenotes.info/>

