

Walk by the Spirit, Part 1

Galatians 5:16-26

Introduction

Walk by the Spirit: What? How? Why?

Why? (letter summary)

What?

Verse 16: *walk by the Spirit*

The phrase *walk by the Spirit* means “choose to _____ the Christian life in a _____ kind of way.”

By the Spirit means:

Walk by the _____ of the Spirit.

Walk _____ by the Spirit.

We must approach the Christian life depending entirely upon the Spirit of God for both power and direction.

Verse 25: *keep in step with the Spirit*

Keep in step with the Spirit means to live in agreement with the _____ of the Spirit, _____ your desires with His.

Verse 16 is a command: We must _____ the Christian life depending entirely upon the Spirit of God for both _____ and _____.

Verse 25 is a conclusion: because of who we are in Christ by the Spirit, let us _____ our desires with the desires of the Spirit.

Our life is empowered and directed by the Spirit as our desires are harmonized with the Spirit.

Desires:

If our life is going to be directed by the Spirit, our inner man will have to be transformed by the Spirit, so that our entire outlook / worldview/ mindset / perspective / priorities / desires are harmonized more and more with His.

Definition

To walk by the Spirit is to seek to live all of life in a way that is empowered and controlled by the transforming influence of the Spirit in our inner man, so that our whole outlook on life is in harmony with His.

1. Be heart-centered and God-centered as you think about your own spiritual growth. Resist every sort of externalism, which is appearance-centered and man-centered.
2. Pray that the Father will grant the transformational work of the Spirit in your inner man.
3. Pursue inner transformation in all of the God-ordained ways.

4. Seek to allow each life decision to be shaped by that inner transformation.

Why?

- It is living in grace (not law, and not flesh).
- It is the best way to stand firm in grace, rather than nullifying it.
- It is true Christian freedom.
- It will not distort or confuse the gospel.
- It will always be in line with the gospel.
- It is living by faith and living to God.
- It is the only way we can truly say “Yet not I, but Christ lives in me.”
- It depends on God, not ourselves.
- It is not an addition to the gospel. It is not Jesus+ anything, but is the natural result of the gospel.
- It protects against an atmosphere of spying, forcing, comparing, judging, or performing.
- It results in healthy local church families.
- It eliminates the need for endless laws.
- It will result in faith expressing itself in love, which is the fulfillment of the law.
- It results in God’s will being accomplished in our lives.
- It will draw us to Jesus and His Word, rather than distracting us away.
- It will result in Christ being formed in us and the image of God restored in us.
- It is how we enjoy God’s blessings, rather than trying to earn them.
- It protects us from the temptation to try to prove ourselves to God and others.
- It guards against the allure of spiritual secrets and short-cuts.

- It guards against legalistic thinking, externalism, self-righteousness, and humanly-derived checklists for spiritual maturity.
- It guards against empty formulas for Christian living that have no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh.
- It guards against casual, lazy, passive, or selfish approaches to Christian living.
- It guards against frantic and futile self-effort.
- It is God's one guaranteed solution for the eternal danger of the flesh.
- It is the evidence of a kingdom citizen, an encouraging assurance for kingdom citizens, and a preview of the coming kingdom of God.
- It is the God-ordained way to complete the Christian life.
- It is the path home.

