

Walking in the Spirit

Galatians 5:16-18

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction

- Immigration crisis today. We are a nation of immigrants.
- The promise of the Statue of Liberty in New York harbor
- Freedom always comes at a price, usually the price of blood.
- We can do three things with our freedom...
 - We can lose it!
 - We can abuse it!
 - We can use it and control it.
- The key to controlling our freedom is to *“walk in the Spirit”*.

Walking in the Spirit

A. The Command: Walk in the Spirit -- Galatians 5:16, 18

1. What is meant by *“walking in the Spirit”*?
 - a. Not the same as being *“indwelt”* by the Spirit—Galatians 4:6; Romans 8:9
 - b. Not the same as being *“sealed”* by the Spirit—Ephesians 1:13-14
 - c. Not to be confused with the *“baptism”* of the Spirit—1 Corinthians 12:13
 - d. Closely connected to the *“filling”* and *“leading”* of the Spirit—Ephesians 5:18-21; Galatians 5:18
2. *Walking in the Spirit* is a moment-by-moment, step-by-step journey with God through life whereby you are submitting your intellect, emotions, and will to the control of the Spirit of God. It is walking in an intimate, submissive, obedient relationship with God.
3. *“Walking”* implies progress and active submission and obedience, not passive.
 - a. Not *“let go and let God”*—passive submission and yieldedness to God
 - b. We must exert effort and commitment in living the Christian life. – 1 Corinthians 9:24
 - c. The tension between the human and divine effort – Philippians 2:12-13
We “work out” as God “works in”.
4. The Consequences of *“walking in the Spirit”*—Galatians 5:16b *“not fulfill the lust of the flesh”*

B. The Conflict: Between the Flesh and the Spirit—Galatians 5:17

1. Before salvation, we were controlled by our flesh—selfish, self-centered, old sinful nature
2. At salvation the “old man” died, but was not eradicated but is very much alive—Romans 6:6
3. In the conflict between the flesh and the Spirit, we do have a choice as to who we will obey—Romans 6:11-13, 17-18
4. But we do not always obey the Spirit—Galatians 5:17b
5. Paul’s life-long struggle with the flesh—Romans 7:15-23
6. Ultimate victory over the flesh and sin comes at death—Romans 7:24-25
7. While ultimate victory is impossible in this life, we can win individual skirmishes.
 - a. Most effective way is to *“make no provisions for the flesh”*.—Romans 13:14
 - b. The only way is by *“walking in the Spirit”*—relying upon the Spirit of God for power and guidance as we work out our salvation with fear and trembling.
 - 1) God’s commitment to us—2 Peter 1:3-4
 - 2) Our commitment to diligently follow after and obey the Spirit—2 Peter 1:5-8
8. The absence of conflict may indicate...
 - a. The grieving and quenching of the Spirit—1 Thessalonians 5:19; Romans 8:22-23, 26
 - b. The absence of the Spirit—not saved.