

WALKING IN THE SPIRIT

*The basic question every believer should be asking is,
“Holy Spirit, what’s the next step?”*

Disciples who follow Jesus...

- Understand their true nature is defined by God and His nature and not by their performance. *Colossians 2:9-13*
- Know that God has credited His Righteousness (God’s own perfection in every attribute, attitude, behavior, and word) to every one of His followers. *2 Cor. 5:21*
- Trust that their right-ness comes through faith in Jesus. *Philippians 3:9*
- Believe that they are justified (In right standing before God) by faith alone, not by works. *Gal. 2:16; Eph. 2:8-9*
- Walk by faith in the Truth that all their sins are forgiven, that God’s grace upholds them through every challenge, and rejoice in the hope that God will one day make everything perfect again. *Romans 5:1-2; Isaiah 41:10; Psalms 63:8*

... Therefore, your commitments are:

- Video: “[Walking in the Spirit](#)’ Part 1 and [Part 2](#) by Caleb Burton
- Read Chapter 12 in BIFSG
- Bible Study: “Walking in the Spirit”
- Memorize **one** of the following verses about walking in step with the Holy Spirit and in fellowship with our Lord and Savior:
 - Galatians 5:25 with topic: Walking in Step with the Holy Spirit
 - Galatians 5:16 with topic: Walk in the Spirit
 - Ephesians 5:18 with topic: Be Filled with the Spirit
 - Proverbs 28:26 with topic: Walking with God in Wisdom
- Practice asking your Abba Father these questions throughout the week.
 - “What’s the next step?”
 - “What do you want today?”
- Discuss with your group and your leader how you could hear God speak to you
- Walk around on campus with a member of your group and ask the Holy Spirit where He is working and how you can join Him in that work, even right now.
- Share in group time what the Holy Spirit has been speaking to you this week, and what happened as a result of following His leading.
- Write down a key thought (on the Action Plan page at the end of the manual)
- Attend CV and take notes

BEFORE YOU MOVE ON:

Consider what is TRUE about Galatians 5:25, and ask the Lord to make it REAL in your life. Talk as a group about what it would take for each of you to LIVE this TRUTH out every day.

“Walking in the Spirit” Bible Study

1. You are focusing on building a relationship with God. Walking with someone (The Holy Spirit) provides an opportunity to talk at length with Him about your life. What excites you about this? Scares you?

2. What are some prerequisites for walking in step with the Holy Spirit?
 - a. Amos 3:3 (NLT)
 - b. John 14:16-17

3. What does the Spirit being our counselor add to your understanding of walking with the Spirit? (John 14:16)

4. What are some natural consequences of walking in the Spirit?
 - a. Gal. 5:16, 18, 22-25 [Commentary: Eph 5:18 The Greek illustrates to “keep on being (walking) with the Spirit.]
 - b. Psalms 73:23-26
 - c. John 14:26-27

5. What choice(s) do I need to make in order to “walk in step with the Spirit?” (Gal. 5:25)

6. What truth about Jesus and the Holy Spirit do you see here? (John 14:18 & 26)

7. How does God reveal truth? What things below the surface does the Spirit search out in us/life? With the Spirit, we have Jesus' mind on how life works His way.

1 Corinthians 2:9-16

8. What should be some noticeable differences with a Christian who is walking in the Spirit and one who isn't?

Note: The Holy Spirit's Voice will never contradict the Words of God in the Bible. In fact, the Holy Spirit uses the Word of God to accomplish the work of God. (Eph. 6:17)

9. Write a paragraph on how you would explain walking with the Spirit to another person.

Basic Ingredients for Spiritual Growth

Chapter 12: The Holy Spirit

At a Young Life meeting years ago, I heard about a conversation between two cows. They were in the pasture and saw a milk truck pass on a nearby road. Painted on the truck were these words: "Milk: Pasteurized, Homogenized, Fortified with Vitamin A, Fortified with Vitamin D." The one cow turned to the other and said, "It makes you feel a bit inadequate, doesn't it?" Well, folks, that's the way I often feel when I open the Word of God. And I suppose I'm not alone. We know in the depths of our souls that we desire to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, strength, and mind. And we know that we desire above all else to follow God's leading, do what He wants us to do, and go where He wants us to go. But at the same time, we can be struck with a profound sense of inadequacy. The standards of discipleship can overwhelm us.

These standards have as their base the very character of Christ Himself. You will find yourself crying out with the Apostle Paul, "Who is sufficient for these things?" (2 Corinthians 2:16). Can you and I love as Christ loved? His new commandment to love one another as He loved us seems out of reach (John 13:34). And even if we can love one another, we will be staggered by the Word of Christ, as recorded in Matthew 5:44, "But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you." And when we read that we are to be imitators of God (Ephesians 5:1), if we are honest we will admit that we can't imitate Chuck Swindoll or Ray Stedman or even the late Bing Crosby. And as we are confronted by these and many other commands in Scripture, we come to the conclusion that they are not only difficult -- they are impossible.

Try to imagine the sense of inadequacy the apostles must have felt when Jesus told them they were to make disciples of all nations and preach the Gospel to every creature. After all, they were only eleven very ordinary men, none of whom even *spoke* the language of the Parthians or of the Medes or the people of Mesopotamia. They could not even understand these peoples, let alone evangelize them.

I'm sure their devotion was severely tested, but Jesus had a plan. Yes, they were weak. Yes, they were but a little band. Yes, they still had a long way to go in their character development and their commitment to the mission. But Jesus had no intention of sending them out as they were. He told them, "Behold, I send the Promise of my Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high" (Luke 24:49). When they received that power from on high, they could then launch forth with confidence -- not in themselves but in God. Jesus told them, "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

Paul summarized it all with these words, "Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God, who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit it gives life" (2 Corinthians 3:5-6). And in his further word to the church at Corinth, Paul painted a graphic picture of the strength and indispensability of inadequacy. He wrote, "But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us" (2 Corinthians 4:7). His reliance

was on the very power of God Himself, a power that speaks of a dynamic, an ability, energy, and capability. So when the Word of God calls us to walk even as Christ walked (1 John 2:6), we do not throw up our hands in despair and cry out that we can't do it. No, we launch out in confidence in His strength. We obey the commands of God by the power of God.

The Power of the Spirit

Over the years Christians around the globe have found comfort in the words of Christ, recorded in John 14:16-17. "And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever, even 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." Here Jesus tells us that this One who will come to us in power will be a Helper and will be with us forever.

The Holy Spirit never answers calls for temporary help. We have in our town a company that furnishes assistance to other companies who need someone to come for a day or a week - possibly even for a month. But the Holy Spirit would not qualify for that kind of position. He never lends assistance for a day or two. Jesus said that this unfailing source of wisdom and strength would not render occasional aid, but would be with us forever. But bear in mind that in order for the Spirit of God to function unhindered in and through our lives, our hearts must be filled with an obedient love for Christ. It was for that reason that Jesus prefaced His remarks about the ministry of the Holy Spirit with these words. "If you love Me, keep My commandments" (John 14:15). And bear in mind also that these men who deeply loved the Lord Jesus, and who knew His departure was near, were not to be abandoned as orphans but were to have another Helper who would take His place. The restraints imposed on Jesus while He was on earth were to be taken away, giving the Holy Spirit free reign to be actively involved in the lives of Christ's followers around the world, transforming their inadequacies into confidence and power. This was driven home to me in an experience I had while in Kota Kinabalu, a city in Sabah, East Malaysia. I was to speak at a conference at 7:30 p.m. It was 7:25 and I was lying in a crumpled heap on the bathroom floor, throwing up everything I had eaten. I was a soggy, perspiring mess, so weak I could hardly move. I called out to my wife, and asked her to contact the emcee and say I couldn't make it to the meeting. Then I remembered that people had been planning and praying for this conference for over a year. The Lord brought to mind some verses that I had memorized, "You shall receive power" (Acts 1:8), and, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart" (Proverbs 3:5). I began to reconsider. Would God enable me to fulfill the task He had given me? I took courage and asked my wife not to contact the emcee. I staggered to my feet, washed up as best I could, put on a clean shirt, and got my Bible. In minutes we were on our way to the meeting.

When I arrived it was as though I had never had a sick day in my life. I have never experienced a greater sense of God's presence and strength. By all accounts God mightily blessed the meeting. But five minutes after I returned to my hotel room, I was back on the bathroom floor, perspiring and vomiting. If I had not gone to the meeting, the people would have excused me and understood. But God was waiting for me to take a step of faith so He could provide the power I needed. There is a tremendous power and an abundance of fruitfulness that results when your primary

objective in life is in perfect harmony with the primary objective of the Holy Spirit.

The Work of the Spirit

We have been created to glorify the Lord. And, of course, that is the primary goal of the Holy Spirit as well. Jesus told us the Holy Spirit “will not speak on His own authority, but ... He shall glorify me” (John 16:13-14). I saw an example of this truth some years ago when my wife and I attended an opera at the magnificent opera house in Vienna, Austria. We were seated in the top row of the highest balcony. As the opera progressed I became aware of some activity just behind us. There was a man with a spotlight whose job was to keep the light focused on the prominent persons on stage. As the singers walked back and forth on the stage, the job of the man behind us was to keep the light on them.

As I watched all of this, it occurred to me that that’s the way the Holy Spirit works. It is the Spirit’s job to keep the light of the Word of God focused on Christ as He performs His ministry around the world. And it would have done a great disservice to the man with the spotlight to ask him to leave his post and go down to the stage and share the spotlight with the central figure of the opera. That was not his place. His place was behind the scenes, in the shadows, calling our attention to the one who was the preeminent person in the story.

And so it is with the Holy Spirit. His desire is to remain in the shadows and make the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the head of the church, the object of our devotion, “that in all things He may have the preeminence” (Colossians 1:18). Yes, we are completely dependent on the Holy Spirit, relying on His power, wisdom, and ability. And the pages of church history are littered with the ruins and wreckage of the lives of people who relied on their own power and wisdom. Recently, I had dinner with a man who was mightily used of God in the lives of scores of young men and women. He taught them the basics of the Christian life and led many of them into lives of fruitfulness and great spiritual usefulness in the kingdom of God. But he had some potential problems that plagued him throughout these years of outstanding service for Christ. One potential problem was his I.Q. He had a brilliant mind and found it easy at times to figure things on his own and leave God out of the picture. Another potential problem was his outstanding speaking ability. He could put messages together and deliver them with such convincing clarity that oftentimes he relied on that ability and left God out of the picture. He had memorized Proverbs 3:5 which says, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding,” but he abandoned the truth of that verse. He had memorized 2 Samuel 22:33 and could preach on that verse which says, “God is my strength and power, and He makes my way perfect,” but he began to trust in his own strength and ability. He became just one more slick professional who thought he could make it on his own. He fell into a variety of sins and was shortly out of the race. He had no interest in laying aside every weight and the sin which entangled him. He got his eyes off the Lord Jesus Christ, the author and perfecter of our faith (Hebrews 12:1), and began to rely on himself. His sufficiency came not from the Holy Spirit but from his own energy and mental powers. Soon his energy ran out and his usefulness to God came to a standstill.

Something like this happened to King Saul. There stood the armies of Israel quaking at the sight of Goliath. Saul looked at Goliath. He knew the command of God to

rid the land of the Philistines, but he got his eyes off God and fixed on this nine foot nine-inch giant. Then he looked around at his men. He looked at himself. He looked at his spear and compared it to the gigantic spear of his enemy. And so there he sat, a man who understood the will of God but not the power of God. And then into the story walks David, the shepherd lad. "And David said to Saul, 'Let no man's heart fall because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine' " (I Samuel 17:32). He then turned his attention to the giant. "Then said David to the Philistine, 'You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied ... All this assembly shall know that the Lord does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord's, and He will give you into our hands'" (I Samuel 17:45, 47). What happened after that is known by millions around the world. A youth -- totally inadequate for the task -- defeated the Philistine through the power of God.

The Filling of the Spirit

It is a wonderful thing to memorize Ephesians 5:18 which tells us to be filled with the Spirit. It is helpful to go to our study books and discover that the command to be filled with the Spirit, is in the present imperative, which means we should be doing it all the time. We understand that we should walk in the Spirit, and that if we do, we will not fulfill the lust of the flesh. But how? How do we live by the power of the Holy Spirit? Let's begin by taking a look at Philippians 2:12-13, "Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure."

The first step is to realize that the Holy Spirit is already busily at work in you to create in you both the will and the power to do His good pleasure. The work is God's. He does it all. But in His working He puts us to work, although our part is secondary to His. The instant we turn to Christ in repentance and faith, and receive Him into our hearts, He begins His work in us by His Spirit and He never stops.

One of His first acts in my life when I came to Christ was to create in me a distaste for my sinful lifestyle. Things that had brought me much pleasure before I came to Christ now left a bitter taste in my heart. Before I came to Christ, I spent every Sunday with a few buddies guzzling beer, smoking cigarettes, and playing poker. After I came to Christ, I stopped all of that and went to church. Before I came to Christ, lewd remarks and blasphemy filled my speech. After I came to Christ, I not only stopped swearing, but I hated it when I heard others take the name of the Lord in vain. God was at work in me. Before I came to Christ, I was a self-centered person. After I came to Christ, I became concerned for others and wanted to learn how to pray for them. Before I came to Christ, the Bible meant nothing to me. After I came to Christ, I had a deep hunger to learn what it taught. And God continued to do His work in me.

Some years after I became a Christian, I was in a filling station getting the car serviced and I stepped inside to get a bottle of pop from the pop machine. I dropped a coin in the machine and out came a Coke. I was elated. Why? Because the sign of the machine gave the price and I had gotten that bottle for half price. For some reason the machine had released the Coke before I had a chance to deposit the second coin. I had beat the machine! But then the Holy Spirit took over. "LeRoy," He said, "what you are

doing is not right.” “But wait,” I pleaded, “surely somewhere in my past a machine has beaten me out of my money and now I am just getting even.” “LeRoy,” the Holy Spirit answered, “you know that is not your money.” So after a brief argument I went to the station attendant and gave him his money. God was at work in me.

The second step is to realize that He desires to lead you in a new direction. “I say then, ‘Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh’” (Galatians 5:16). And then Paul goes on to say that there is a fork in the road up ahead and we must choose our path carefully. He says, “For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish” (Galatians 5:17). The Spirit wants to take us in one direction and the flesh tries to take us in another. So, step number two is simply a matter of obedience. We are made to understand that we will have to say no to the flesh and yes to the Spirit, because they are going in two different directions. So the obvious conclusion is, “If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit” (Galatians 5:25). The Holy Spirit desires to lead us, and if we are to live by His power and experience His sufficiency, we need to follow where He leads.

Follow the One Up Front

A few years ago my wife and I were asked to go to Semarang, a city of around a million people in North Central Java. I had been asked to teach a ten day course on spiritual leadership to sixty up and-coming young leaders who assembled from all over Indonesia. The organizers of the seminar arranged for us to stay in a small downtown hotel.

As is my custom, the next morning after our arrival, I attempted to get some exercise. I put on my sweats and my athletic shoes and prepared to go for a walk around the downtown area. I went down to the street that led downtown but was afraid to step off the curb. The traffic was horrendous. I had never seen anything like it in my life. Huge trucks came rumbling along at breakneck speed. Taxicabs, motorcycles, and buses, roared through the intersection. And just to add a bit of exotic flavor, there was an ox cart or two. I turned back and got my exercise by walking up and down the hill in front of the hotel. And from time to time I would glance over at the intersection and watch the traffic. The worst were the young men on their huge, loud motorcycles. No, I take that back. The worst were the young ladies sitting side saddle on the backseat behind the young men. These girls were absolutely unconcerned for their safety. Some were painting their fingernails. Others were reading a book. As I watched them, I asked myself, “How can they be so relaxed? How can they be so unconcerned about their safety? And then it hit me. The only way these young ladies could get through that wild and crazy intersection with such calm assurance was to have absolute confidence in the one up front.

And as I stood there, I saw it as a parable of the Christian life. You and I live in a dangerous world. With Paul, “we are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed” (2 Corinthians 4:8-9). We are constantly stalked by “a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour” (1 Peter 5:8). We are tempted by “the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life” (1 John 2:16). And the only way we can make it through this life is by absolute confidence in the One up front, the Lord Jesus who continually

admonishes us by His Spirit to follow Him. If we are to live by His power and experience His sufficiency, we need to follow Him with all our hearts. So the way we live by the power of the Holy Spirit is *first* of all to recognize that *He is already at work in us creating in us both the will and power obey His every command to do His good pleasure; that, He desires to lead us in an entirely new direction; and that, we must stay close to Him and obey His every command.*

But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies by His Spirit who dwells in you. Therefore, brethren, we are debtors -- not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are the sons of God (Romans 8:11-14).