

“Walk In The Spirit”
Galatians 5:16-26
8/20/23
Message 8

Introduction

- Title Of The Message: “Walk In The Spirit”

- **Review**

- **1st The Letter was sent to**
 - The area known as Galatia
- **2nd Purpose for The letter**
 - **1st To Confront the Evil LIES of the Judaizers (Legalist)**
 - Their LIE - Salvation PLUS the Law (Circumcision)
 - **2nd To Stand UP for the TRUTH**
 - The Truth Salvation By Faith & Grace Alone
 - **3rd Paul’s Defense**
 - Judaizers - UNDERMINED Paul’s Authority
 - Judaizers - UNDERMINED Paul’s Teaching
 - **4th Paul has been talking about 2 PATHS**
 - The LAW
 - Self-Righteousness
 - Makes the Cross of NO Effect!
 - Tramples on GRACE

- Leads to death
- The GRACE of God received by FAITH
 - Leads to LIFE in Christ
 - Brings VICTORY

• **Now Our Text This Morning**

- **Paul Hammers Home the KEY to the VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN LIFE**
 - **The Secret To...**
 - Living a godly life!
 - Having victory over my fleshy nature!
 - How do I stay close to the Lord!
 - How do I stay usable for Him!
 - **The Answer is FOUND in our text this morning**
 - The Answer is **NOT IN...**
 - Man made Attempts to clean ourselves up
 - Human Philosophies that may look like we are getting better on the outside BUT the core (inside) is still a mess
 - The answer is NEVER FOUND in US
 - The Answer is **IN CHRIST**
 - 1st Salvation

- You don't need to clean yourself up – COME AS YOU ARE
- 2nd Lordship
 - Is He Lord of your LIFE – I have been crucified with Christ
- 3rd Walk IN THE SPIRIT – Our text this morning
 - Led by the Spirit
 - That we LIVE The Spirit-Filled Life
- Critical we Understand
 - WORKS Even Good WORKS don't produce this Victorious life
 - Even Bible study, prayer, worship, witnessing
 - ALL of these are CRITICAL & COMMANDS for the Believer
 - BUT CANNOT Produce
 - HOLINESS – RIGHTEOUSNESS
 - Holiness & Righteousness
 - Comes only from God, Jesus & Holy Spirit
 - AT the Moment that we Receive & believe IN CHRIST

• **This Morning 4 POWERFUL Truths to “Walk In The Spirit”**

- The Command Paul Gives v. 16
- The Conflict We Can Expect vs. 17-18
- The Contrast Between The Flesh & Spirit vs. 19-23
- The Conduct Of the Believer vs. 24-26

The Command Paul Gives v. 16

• **First: The Requirement “Walk in the Spirit” v.1a**

Galatians 5:16 (NKJV)

16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

○ **1st The Definition Of “Walk”**

▪ **Again - Simply PUT**

• 2 PATHS

○ If we Walk In The Spirit (Instead of trying to live by the LAW)

- We naturally shall NOT fulfill the lust of the flesh.

○ It's Simple

- Paul will contrast
- The efforts of the flesh with the Spirit in our text this morning
- The Flesh = Sinful actions
- The Spirit = Fruit of the Spirit

▪ **The Word “Walk”**

• Greek: Peripateo

• Means:

- To walk; to walk around; to make one's way, progress; to make due use of opportunities; to live

• This Word WALK - Is in the Present Tense

- Means a continuous, regular action
 - In other words, a habitual way of life.
- The verb is also in the Imperative Mood
 - This indicates it's NOT an option BUT A COMMAND
- The Desire To Walk
 - Our Job –
 - Walk in the Spirit
 - HOW
 - Submit to the Spirit's control
 - Step by step the Spirit moves us from where we were to where God wants us to be
- **2nd The Description Of The Work Of The Holy Spirit**
 - **1st The Holy Spirit**
 - **The 3rd Person of the Trinity**
 - He is God the Spirit
 - He is unseen...
 - So He seems to go unnoticed (By Design)

John 15:26 (NKJV)

26 "But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.

- He is NOT a force!

- He is a distinct person of the trinity
- **He empowers you & I to walk like Christians**
 - Without the power of the Holy Spirit, we can't do anything!!!
 - We need the power of the Holy Spirit
 - MY PRAY of LATE –
 - A fresh filling of the HS in our LIVES in the CHURCH as a whole

▪ **2nd The Holy Spirit Convicts Unbelievers**

John 16:7–8 (NKJV)

7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.

8 And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.

▪ **3rd The Holy Spirit Regenerates Unbelievers**

Titus 3:5 (NKJV)

5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,

▪ **4th The Holy Spirit Indwells The Believer**

1 Corinthians 6:19–20 (NKJV)

19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?

20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

John 14:16–17 (NKJV)

16 And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—

17 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.

- **5th The Holy Spirit Seals Us**

- This deals with our security

Ephesians 1:13–14 (NKJV)

13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,

14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

- **6th The Holy Spirit Gives Spiritual Gifts**

1 Corinthians 12:7 (NKJV)

7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:

- **7th The Holy Spirit Fills The Believer**

Ephesians 5:15–18 (NKJV)

15 See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise,

16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; **but be filled with the Spirit,**

- **8th The Fruit Of The Holy Spirit**

- More on this in a Minute and MUCH more NEXT week

- **Second: The Result “and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh” v. 16a**

Galatians 5:16 (NKJV)

16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, **and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.**

- **1st The Contrast**

- **The 2 behaviors are mutually exclusive**
 - SO you are EITHER
 - Walkin in the Spirit Or In The FLESH
 - BUT never both at the same time.
- **SO Is it Possible to Be a Born Again Believer and Walk in the flesh?**
 - YES
 - The Corinthians were a sad example of this
- **2nd To Walk in The Spirit**
 - HOW
 - SUBMIT
 - To the work of the Holy Spirit in your life
 - So HOW to Handling the flesh
 - The Flesh is still with us
 - The Bible tells us our flesh does not go away after salvation
 - We will have the sinful nature until we see Jesus
 - Instead - it shows how the Holy Spirit Comes into our lives and the flesh losing it's power to control us
 - The Bible gives 2 Important Truths
 - **1st Kill IT!**

Matthew 16:24 (NKJV)

24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, *"If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.*

Galatians 2:20 (NKJV)

20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Galatians 5:24 (NKJV)

24 And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

Romans 6:10–11 (NKJV)

10 For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God.

11 Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

▪ **2nd Walk in the Spirit.**

- Stop putting your focus on the flesh
- Start focusing on the things of the Spirit.
- Feed that Spirit-influenced part of you.
- Illustration:
 - The old Eskimo once said that it was like a pair of dogs were fighting inside of him.
 - The dog that he fed was the dog that usually won the fights.
- How do I "feed the Spirit"?
 - Prayer
 - Worship

- Bible Study
- Fellowship
- Serving - Witnessing

The Conflict We Can Expect vs. 17-18

• First: The Fight Is Continual v. 17

Galatians 5:17 (NKJV)

17 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.

○ **1st The CONFLICT**

- AND SO the Battles Begins
- As Non-Believers
 - We only had FLESH –
 - So no Conflict – they may have regrets BUT they don't know this battle
- Now As Believers
 - Were Still in the body = Flesh
 - But Now we have the Holy Spirit
 - Paul - Romans 7:17-25

• Second: But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law v. 18

Galatians 5:18 (NKJV)

18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

- **1st The solution to the flesh is NOT found in the LAW - BUT in the Spirit –**
 - The Whole Point of Galatians
 - It's all about escaping the legalism that the Judaizers were teaching.
 - They were teaching that a person had to try to keep the whole law in order to be righteous before God.
 - Paul tells us
 - All you need to be doing is to walk in the Spirit, Be led by the Spirit SUBMIT to the Spirit
 - And God will begin clean you from the inside out

The Contrast Between The Flesh & Spirit vs. 19-23

• First: The Works Of The Flesh vs. 19-21

- **1st Now the works of the flesh are evident v. 19a**

Galatians 5:19 (NKJV)

19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness,

- **Nothing Good can come from the FLESH**
 - So why in the World are you attempting to have salvation by your own efforts
 - All the flesh produces is EVIL
- **2nd Adultery, fornication, uncleanness... lewdness v. 19b**

Galatians 5:19 (NKJV)

19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: **adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness,**

- **First set of SINS Are**

- Sensual sins, relating to sex!

- **1st Adultery**

- This is violating the marriage covenant by sexual immorality
 - This is cheating on your husband or your wife.
 - Sex with someone other than your spouse
 - Jesus even gives another spin on the traditional definition:

Matthew 5:28 (NKJV)

28 *But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.*

- Application
 - A Real Struggle
 - For Men –
 - They by nature have a wondering eye
 - For Women –
 - When they aren't getting the love the deserve from their husband they can be tempted to
 - A Serious SIN
 - This is one of 2 reasons given for a Biblical divorce

Matthew 5:32 (NKJV)

32 *But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife for any reason except sexual immorality causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery.*

- Matthew 19:1-10

- **2nd Fornication**

- Greek: Porneia
- Means: It speaks of sexual immorality in a broad sense – Any SEX outside of Marriage
- Application
 - It is NOT okay to have any sex outside of marriage
 - Don't play games with this like a president once did
 - "It depends on what the meaning of the word 'is' is."
 - It not uncommon in the so called "christian culture" to now live with someone

- **3rd Uncleaness**

- Greek: Akatharsia –
- Means: Either in a physical sense or in a moral sense as in the impurity of lustful, luxurious, profligate (extremely wild and loose, like Hugh Hefner) living
- Referring more to a person's mental state than any kind of physical act.
 - This is kind of like the dirty thoughts you can get.

- **4th Lewdness**

- Greek: Aselgeia
- Means: Unbridled lust, excess, licentiousness, lasciviousness (lewd or lustful), wantonness, outrageousness, shamelessness, insolence.
- With NO Restraint

○ **3rd Idolatry... sorcery vs. 20a**

Galatians 5:20 (NKJV)

20 idolatry, sorcery, *hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies,*

▪ **Second Set of SINS**

- Religious sins.
- They are sins of worship
- They remind us that it isn't only tragic to worship the wrong God, or seek the wrong spiritual power – it is sinful as well.

▪ **1st Idolatry**

- Greek: Eidololatreia –
- Means:
 - The worship of false gods, idolatry
 - Is the worship of any god except the LORD God revealed to us by the Bible and in the person of Jesus Christ.
- Application
 - 1st People still do worship little statues!

- 2nd There are all sorts of other modern "gods" that people worship.
 - The idea of worshipping is the idea of praising, adoring, and serving.
 - Sports
 - What's the big deal about "Super Bowl Sunday"?
 - Movie and TV stars
 - The Worship of stars
 - Money and success
 - One of the "gods" mentioned in the New Testament was named "Mammon".

- **2nd Sorcery**

- Greek: Pharmakeia – DRUGS
- Means:
 - The use or the administering of drugs
 - Poisoning
 - Sorcery, magical arts, often found in connection with idolatry and fostered by it
- Application
 - Drug use is off the charts
 - Please hear me on this

- A country that would promote the use of DRUGS is only after one thing CONTROL
- I Have deep concerns about many of the drugs they are given for mental illness / anxiety

○ **4th Hatred, contentions, jealousies... vs. 20a-21**

Galatians 5:20–21 (NKJV)

*20 idolatry, sorcery, **hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies,**
21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.*

▪ **Third Set of SINS**

- These are “People” Sins.
- They are sins that primarily express themselves in how we treat others.

▪ **1st Hatred**

- Greek: Echthra
- Means: Enmity; personal animosities; internal hatred of any man's person, even of our very enemies
- It's the person who is characteristically hostile to his fellow men.
- Is an attitude of heart, and it somehow expresses itself in actions such as contentions, outbursts of wrath, or many other works of the flesh.
- But hatred is the inner motivation for the ill treatment of others.

- Application
 - Are we Treating people well?!

▪ **2nd Contentions**

- Greek: Eris
- Means: Contention, strife, wrangling; rivalry, discord
- Most commonly it is translated as strife (as in Romans 13:13 and 1 Corinthians 3:3)
- Simply speaks of a combative and argumentative spirit

▪ **3rd Jealousies**

- Greek: Zelos
- Means: Excitement of mind, ardour, fervour of spirit; zeal; but here it is used as "an envious and contentious rivalry", jealousy
- It means the desire to have what someone else has, wrong desire for what is not for us

▪ **4th Outbursts of wrath**

- Greek: Thumos
- Means: Speaks of a sudden flash of anger, not a settled state of anger.
- It means to lose your temper, being unable to control your anger. The Holy Spirit never led anyone into outbursts of wrath

▪ **5th Selfish Ambitions**

- Greek: Eritheia

- Means: What's in it for me?

▪ **6th Dissensions**

- Greek: Dichostasia - dis (twice) + stasis (a standing; split) = splits in two
- Means: Dissension, division

▪ **7th Heresies**

- Our English word is based directly upon the Greek.
- Means:
 - Which originally simply meant “to choose.”
 - Over time, it came to mean someone who divisively expressed their “choices” or opinions.
 - We think today of heresies in terms of wrong ideas and teachings

▪ **8th Envy**

- *Greek: Phthonos* –
- Means: envy; feelings of ill-will
- It doesn't so much want what someone else has (as in jealousies), but it is bitter just because someone else has something and we don't.

▪ **9th Murders**

- Greek: Phonos
- Means: murder, slaughter

▪ 10th Drunkenness... Revelries

- Greek: Methe –
- Means: Intoxication; drunkenness
- It applies both to alcohol & drugs – Alcohol is a DRUG by the way
- Illustration
 - From a longtime member of A.A., as reprinted in Dear Abby, 4-22-93
 - I drank for happiness and became unhappy.
 - I drank for joy and became miserable.
 - I drank for sociability and became argumentative
 - I drank for sophistication and became obnoxious.
 - I drank for sleep and woke up tired.
 - I drank for strength and felt weak.
 - I drank for relaxation and got the shakes.
 - I drank for courage and became afraid.
 - I drank for confidence and became doubtful.
 - I drank to make conversation easier and slurred my speech.
 - I drank to feel heavenly, and ended up feeling like hell.

- Some say drunkenness, or, alcoholism, is a disease.
 - If alcoholism is a disease
 - It is the only disease that is bottled and sold;
 - It is the only disease that is contracted by the will of man
 - It is the only disease that requires a license to propagate it
 - It is the only disease that requires outlets to spread it.
 - It is the only disease that produces revenue for the government
 - It is the only disease that provokes crime;
 - It is the only disease that is habit forming;
 - It is the only disease that brings violent death on the highways;
 - It is the only disease that is spread by advertising;
 - It is the only disease without a germ or virus cause.
 - It just might be that it's not a disease at all.
 - Author unknown

- **Revelries**

- Greek: Komos
- Means: It means unrestrained partying

- **And the like:**
 - This demonstrates that Paul understands that his list is not exhaustive.
 - These are not the only works of the flesh.
- **5th The danger and the destiny of those who live in the works of the flesh**

Galatians 5:21 (NKJV)

21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

- **1st Of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past:**
 - Paul often instructed Christians in how they should live!
 - This is NOT Legalism – This HOLINESS
- **2nd Practice**
 - Greek: Prasso –
 - Means: To exercise, practise, to be busy with, carry on
 - The verb is a "present, active, participle", implying a continuous kind of action.
 - Paul isn't saying that if you do one of these things once that you lose your eternal life!
 - But if, these kinds of things are a way of life for you, and there's no progress at all
 - Then you better start worrying about whether or not you have come to know Jesus at all.

- **3rd Will not inherit the kingdom of God:**

- The Consequences are serious

- **Second: The Fruit Of The Spirit vs. 22-23**

Galatians 5:22–23 (NKJV)

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

- **1st But the fruit of the Spirit:**

- BUT if you WALK in the SPIRIT

- God is good enough and big enough to change everything with the fruit of the Spirit.
- The fruit of the Spirit can always conquer the works of the flesh.

- **2nd Love**

- Greek: Agape -

- Means: The Way God loves us

- A word about this "love".

- Different Words for LOVE in the Greek

- 1st Eros

- There was a word to describe physical, sexual love

- 2nd Storge

- Family Love

- 3rd Phileo

- Brotherly
- 4th Agape
 - God's LOVE
 - Choosing to value you demonstrated by unconditional giving.
 - Love based not in the emotions, but in the will.
 - It is unconditional.
- **2nd JOY**
 - Greek: Chara –
 - Means: Joy, gladness
 - Joy is different than happiness
 - Happiness depends on Circumstances
 - Joy in Jesus can never be taken away
- **4th PEACE**
 - This peace is peace with God peace with people,
 - It is filled with blessing and goodness – not simply the absence of fighting.
- **5th LONGSUFFERING / PATIENCE**
 - Longsuffering means that one can have love, joy, and peace even over a period of time when people and events annoy them.
 - God is not quickly irritated with us (Romans 2:4, 9:22), so we should not be quickly irritated with others.

○ **6th KINDNESS - GOODNESS**

- These two words are closely connected.
- About the only difference is that goodness also has with it the idea of generosity
- Tender concern for others, reflected in a desire to treat others gently, just as the Lord treats all believers (Matt. 11:28, 29; 19:13, 14; 2 Tim. 2:24).

○ **7th SELF-CONTROL**

- This refers to restraining passions and appetites

○ **8th Against such there is no law:**

- If a person has this fruit of the Spirit, he doesn't need the Law. He already fulfills it.

The Conduct Of the Believer vs. 24-26

• **First: In Acceptance Of The Facts v. 24**

Galatians 5:24 (NKJV)

24 And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

○ **1st The Word CRUCIFIED**

- The verb tense of the word "crucified."
 - It's an aorist, active, indicative.
 - Aorist –
 - Simple completed action.
 - Active –
 - The subject performs the action.

- Indicative –
 - A simple statement of fact
 - Not speculation or assumption – it's something real.
- It Means
 - Indicates something that happened decisively in the past.
 - It actually occurred at the time of our conversion!
- When we repented
 - There was a sense that we DIED on the CROSS
 - We Nailed the OLD man to death
 - We also Determined to NO LONGER live for SELF and our FALLEN nature
 - Of Course we need to stay on the CROSS (Romans 12)
- **2nd Application**
 - Here's the thing
 - Living in grace, walking in the Spirit,
 - Means making a conscious decision to die to self-effort in pleasing God or growing in Christ.

• **Second: In Application Of These Facts v. 25**

Galatians 5:25 (NKJV)

25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

- **1st LIVE In The SPIRIT**

- The word “IF” carries the thought of “SINCE”
- Since we have eternal life by the work of the Holy Spirit in us
- Let us live out the new life by the power of the same Spirit.

- **Third: In Attitudes Toward One Another v. 26**

Galatians 5:26 (NKJV)

26 *Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.*

- **3 Attitudes to be Avoided**

- **1st Conceited**

- Desiring vain glory
 - If we are LIVING in the SPIRIT
 - Knowing it all a work of GRACE
 - Then being conceited is crazy
 - BUT on the Other hand – If were living in the FLESH
 - We need to watch out for this!!!

- **2nd Provoking**

- Greek: Prokaleomai –
- Means: To call forth; esp. to challenge to a combat or contest with one; to provoke, to irritate
- It's doing something to get a reaction from someone else.
- A bad reaction.

- **3rd Envying**

- Envyng one another.
- It's one of the works of the flesh:
- Wanting what another person has.
- Being bummed that someone has something nicer than you.

Closing

- May we ALL continue to GROW in the LORD and the Submit to the Holy Spirit work in our lives