

WALKING BY THE SPIRIT

September 18, 2022 Galatians 5:13-25 by Bob Branch
Alive In The Spirit, part 15 of 17

Walking with God can easily become work & rules, moralism & conforming—having little to do with relationship with God.

BIG IDEA: Walk in continual conversation and in sync with the Spirit, aiming at loving others by serving them.

¹³ For you were called to be free, brothers and sisters; only don't use this freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but serve one another through love. ¹⁴ For the whole law is fulfilled in one statement: Love your neighbor as yourself. ¹⁵ But if you bite and devour one another, watch out, or you will be consumed by one another.

God's practical antidote to the flesh-driven life is to serve others thru love.

"Love God completely. Love others like you want to be loved."
Matthew 22:37-38

¹⁶ I say, then, walk by the Spirit and you will certainly not carry out the desire of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh desires what is against the Spirit, and the Spirit desires what is against the flesh; these are opposed to each other, so that you don't do what you want. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

2 opposing forces living inside you!

¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, moral impurity, promiscuity, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, hatreds, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambitions, dissensions, factions, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, carousing, and anything similar. I am warning you about these things—as I warned you before—that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Our sin-leaning flesh exposes itself plainly.

Sow these seeds, reap a crop of stark consequences.

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control. The law is not against such things.

These qualities naturally grow from walking in the Spirit.

²⁴ Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit." **Galatians 5:13-25** CSB

"If your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out." **Matthew 5:29**

"The LORD my Lord is my strength; he makes my feet like those of a deer and enables me to walk on mountain heights!"
Habakkuk 3:19 CSB

HOW DO YOU FOLLOW THE SPIRIT'S LEAD?

- _____ yourself with the Spirit's movements. He will always move you toward love—and the fruit are the way love moves.
- **Sit still with and _____ to God's Spirit each day.**
- _____ throughout the day.
- **Daily orient yourself to _____ everyone who comes into your sphere.**