

## Galatians #16

November 17, 2024

## Series: Galatians: Treasuring the Gospel of Grace

## Today's Message: Bearing Good Fruit; Galatians; 5:19-25

What does it mean to “walk by” or “live by” the Spirit?

Many things we learn we take for granted and accept it, like  $2 + 2 = 4$ . We can accept it because we understand the steps taken to come to the conclusion. But some things are not as easy. If I say, “Walk by the Spirit,” or “Live by the Spirit,” you should ask the question, “What does that mean?” Without context the saying does not provide a concrete explanation.

Our main text of Scripture is a continuation of Galatians 5:16-18 but with the added clarification of what does it mean to walk by the Spirit, or what does it look like and sound like when we walk by the Spirit. If we walk by the Spirit what goes on in the mind when the wheels are turning; in other words, how do we think? How do we know when we are walking by the Spirit? We covered the big idea last week. But this week we will get a practical lesson in what it means to walk by the Spirit.

- l) **(Gal. 5:19-21) The Necessary of walking in the Spirit for producing Christ-like characteristics in a believer's life.**
- A) Basic, or Fundamental Truths concerning walking in the Spirit:
- 1) You must be “born again” (John 3:3, 5-7)
    - (a) It is the work of the Holy Spirit in perfect accord with the will and pleasure of God the Father.
      - (i) John 3:8: “born of the Spirit”.
      - (ii) John 1:13: “born of God [the Father].”
    - 2) John 15:1-5: There will be life giving connection to Christ that produces the fruit of Christlikeness.
      - (a) You can easily see necessity of being spiritually attached to Christ before fruit-bearing.
        - (i) You can easily see the connection between the Father and the Son (John 15:1-2),
        - (ii) and the connection between Son and believers (John 15:3-4) through the Holy Spirit (John 16:14-14),
        - (iii) resulting in “much fruit bearing. (John 15:5)”
    - 3) You will delight more and more in the richness of soul and spirit that comes from being spiritually united with Christ through the indwelling person of the Holy Spirit.
      - (a) For a fuller appreciation of this concept read John 14-16.
        - (i) John 16:13-15: “But when He, the Spirit of Truth, comes, He will guide you into all Truth. He will not speak on His own; He will speak only what He hears, and He will tell you what is yet to come. He will bring glory to Me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine...”
- B) (Gal. 5:19-21) Hindrances to walking in the Spirit and a **note** for our encouragement.
- 1) Not walking in the Spirit, by way of self-righteousness, or straight disobedience.
    - (a) Galatians 5:19-21 and Ephesians 4:30-31 teach about hindrances to fruit bearing.
      - (i) Gal. 5:17 defined believers' daily struggle as the flesh wars against the Spirit.
        - (a) Then in 5:19-21 he provides a hard **list** depicting the acts and attitudes which war against the Spirit, hindering fruitfulness in a believer's life.
      - (b) Eph. 4:30: Paul counsels believers to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit and “do not grieve the Holy Spirit.”
        - (i) Then he tells us what actions and attitudes grieve Him. **See Eph. 4:31**
          - (a) That which grieves the Spirit brings about our **censure**.
        - (ii) We also get a taste of what pleases Him for our good and joy: **see Eph. 4:32-5:2**
    - 2) **Note:** The Bible teaches that there is a fulness that walking in the Spirit affords a believer.

1. That which is of God brings joy and fulness and delight.
  - a. If it's true about Christ, then by way the Spirit it is, then, true about us.
    - i. Hebrews 1:9: "You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy."
    - ii. Psalm 40:7-8 (I delight to do your will. See the pleasure!)

II) **(5:22-23) The Fruit of the Spirit is the expression of the character of Christ in a believer's life.**

- A) "Fruit" not "fruits". In other words, the life of a person who is spiritually united with Christ through the bond of the Holy Spirit, having been born again by the Spirit, will yield the fruit of the love of God in Christ, which has many expressions displayed toward one another, yet is considered "Fruit" not "fruits." The fruit of the Spirit is the expression of Christ-like character in and through our lives!
- 1) Love: agape. Self-giving; self-sacrificing; self-denying; serving; encouraging. (1 Cor. 13:4-7)
  - 2) Joy: Divine joy; doesn't come from not having troubles, but in all circumstances, found in Christ!
  - 3) Peace: originates from God's gift of His peace through Christ (John 14:27; Rom. 5:1; Phi. 4:7)
  - 4) Patience: Longsuffering—mercy expressed toward the meanness and folly of broken people.
  - 5) Kindness: thoughtful consideration of others, without thought to our own circumstances, whether they are favorable or difficult for us. (Phil. 2:1-4 describes this well.)
  - 6) Goodness: practical helps to aid or assist others. Again, consider Philippians 2:1-4.
  - 7) Faithfulness: obedience obviously to God, but also keeping your commitments with others.
  - 8) Gentleness (meekness): humility, not forcing our way on others; learning; accepting God's will.
  - 9) Self-control (temperance): not just over drunkenness, but mastery over our sinful desires.

III) **(5:24-26) Keeping in step with the Spirit yields a life which expresses the character of Christ.**

- A) (5:24) This runs parallel to Romans 6:11, which says, "In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus."
- 1) It is a daily struggle. Romans 6:12-13 says, "Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to Him as instruments of righteousness."
- B) (5:25) Keep in step with the Spirit
- 1) When resisting the flesh, do it cheerfully. With the Spirit's help we will be filled with His Fruit!
    - (a) How? Do your part by choosing to yield to God's sovereign will in your life.
      - (i) Yield to His hand on your life (the circumstances, the trials, disappointments)
        - (a) Believe that He is doing the work of the Gardener!
          1. Cultivating
            - a. Your job is to trust Him as He moves the soil/ situations in your life to create a more fertile environment in which the roots of your faith can grow deep.
              - i. "That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields in fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever he does he prospers. (Psalm 1:3)"
          2. Pruning
            - a. When God prunes there is a wound. But He is the master gardener and what He prunes heals and bears more fruit! Your job is to trust Him when your hurting. And there will be deeply painful experiences in your life.
              - i. **But He is never closer to you than when He takes hold of you by His righteous loving hand and prunes away that which is unfruitful.**
        - (b) Your responsibility is to trust Him in all things, knowing what His desire is for you.
          1. His desire for you is to be conformed to the image of Christ! (See Rom. 8:28-30)
            - a. Your faith can come alive bearing the fruit of Christlikeness today if you will only trust Him. Only trust Him now!