

Walk by the Spirit, Part 2 **Galatians 5:16-26**

To walk by the Spirit is to seek to live all of life in a way that is empowered and controlled by the transforming influence of the Spirit in our inner man, so that our whole outlook on life is in harmony with His.

Verse 16: *walk by the Spirit*

The phrase is a command: “choose to approach the Christian life in a ‘walk by the Spirit’ kind of way.”

By the Spirit means:
Empowered by the Spirit
Directed by the Spirit

Verse 16 is a command: We must approach the Christian life depending entirely upon the Spirit of God for both power and direction.

Verse 25: *keep in step with the Spirit*

Keep in step with suggests being in harmony or agreement with

Keep in step with the Spirit means to harmonize your desires with the desires of the Spirit.

Verse 25 is a conclusion: because of who we are in Christ by the Spirit, let us harmonize our desires with the desires of the Spirit.

Our life is empowered and directed by the Spirit as our desires are harmonized with the Spirit.

For this to happen, our inner man will have to be transformed by the Spirit, so that our entire outlook / worldview/ mindset / perspective / priorities / desires are harmonized more and more with His.

Galatians 5:22-23

Confirming truth: The fruit of the Spirit is less about action and more about desire / attitude / perspective / motivation. It is the increasingly new outlook on life of a person who has been united with Christ in His death and resurrection.

Galatians 5:24

Confirming truth: There has been a decisive and permanent change in our relationship to the flesh with its passions and desires.

Galatians 5:26

Confirming truth: There has been a decisive and permanent change in our relationship with God: we are now alive to God by the Spirit. This new creation makes it possible for us to know God, fellowship with God, understand His word, love Him, trust Him, and even share His desires in our renewed spirit.

Galatians 5:6

Confirming truth: Love is the result of an inner transformation from unbelief to growing faith.

Galatians 5:16-17

Mark 7:21-23 *“For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”*

James 1:14-15 *Each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin.*

Confirming truth: Sin comes from the gratification of internal fleshly desires; obedience comes from the desires of the Spirit within us.

Galatians 5:18

Confirming truth: The Spirit leads us away from sin and toward Christlikeness from the inside out, like a captain adjusting a ship's course by turning the motor or rudder.

Romans 8:13 *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.*

Colossians 3:5 *Put to death therefore what is earthly in you...*

Galatians 4:6

Romans 8:16 *The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God*

Confirming truth: God's Spirit and our spirit are connected in a very personal way as the Spirit works with our spirit.

Psalms 37:4 Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Confirming truth: A living, loving relationship with God results in transformed desires.