

The Holy Spirit—The Believer's Walk

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I. Introduction.

A. All of us have struggled in the Christian life at one time or another.

B. Text: Galatians 5:16-26.

II. The believer is committed to walk by the Spirit.

A. To walk refers to a lifestyle.

B. A step is simply a step. A walk is a continuation of that step.

C. Walking by the Spirit is walking in reliance upon the Spirit.

D. If we walk by the Spirit, we will be able to live a life of contentment. God empowers us to do this to the Holy Spirit.

E. Living by the Spirit is for our good.

F. We are incapable of living the Christian life. The true Christian has discovered a wonderful liberating principle that God does not expect us to live up to His standards on our own. One does not have to live by the 10 Commandments to be accepted by God. Salvation is a gift that God gave us. Grace is God's unmerited love given based on God's nature.

G. The Christian life is responding to the Holy Spirit empowering the believer to be like Christ. The responsibility of the Christian life is decision-making.

H. A person must be born again. A person must yield his life to the spirit. One cannot rely on the Holy Spirit to whom he has not yielded. (Ephesians 2:8-10)

III. The problem is the desire of the flesh.

A. The believer can be victorious in circumstances by the power of the Spirit.

B. The believer has three enemies: the devil, the world, and the flesh.

1. The devil deceives to destroy as a slam against God.

2. The devil and the world system are exterior—we cannot change them.

3. The flesh must be dealt with. (Ephesians 4:30)

4. There are some parts of the believer that are not redeemed yet. We still have the potential to sin against God any moment.

C. Knowing that we have not been fully redeemed, God gives us the Holy Spirit to enable us. To walk in victory we must rely on the Holy Spirit. (Romans 6:18)

D. When the Holy Spirit is in charge, we are capable of the fruit of the Spirit. Apart from the Holy Spirit, one is only capable of the deeds of the flesh.

E. The Christian will come through victorious. (I John 4)

Application questions:

1. How would you respond to someone who says that the Christian should no longer have any difficulties because of the Holy Spirit?

2. What does it mean that God does not expect a person to live the Christian life on his or her own accord?

3. How can you grow in your dependence upon the Spirit this week in a practical and provable way? Explain.
