

Walk by the Spirit (Gal 3:3; 5:16-25)

I. Introduction

A. *Been studying Eph 5:15-21 – WALK in WISDOM*

[Eph 5:15](#) Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, [16](#) making the most of your time, because the days are evil. [17](#) So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. [18](#) And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit,

1. Notice the Progression of CONTRASTS

a) V.15 not as unwise men as but wise

- (1) VERY GENERAL!
- (2) Really HAVE to UNDERSTAND biblical wisdom

b) V.17 do not be foolish but understand what the will of the Lord is

- (1) “foolish” still requires biblical understanding
- (2) But “understand what the will of the Lord is” CAN be found in Scripture!
 - (a) Lots of COMMANDS, right?
 - (b) AND – many verses stating EXACTLY what the will of the Lord is!
- (3) SO –
 - (a) Paul has gotten more specific
 - (b) AND – has introduced GOD directly into the WISE WALK!

c) Then v.18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit,

- (1) NOW Paul gets specific again – wrt the Holy Spirit!
- (2) Says – Be FILLED, BE CONTROLLED by the HOLY SPIRIT

d) Paul has FOLLOWED a PROGRESSION that PEAKS with “be filled with the Spirit”!

e) That is THE MOST IMPORTANT PHRASE for WALKING in WISDOM!

- (1) He then goes on to SHOW the RESULTS of “be filled with the Spirit”

f) The CONTRAST to the Ephesians is “do not get drunk with wine”

- (1) Instead of Spirit Controlled, they were “spirits” controlled
- (2) = used alcohol to reach high states of ecstasy to “commune” with the Gods

B. *What is the CONTRAST for US?*

1. Probably MORE PRACTICAL for us, is Paul’s CHASTISEMENT and

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COMMAND to the Galatians

a) Chastisement

[Ga 3:3](#) Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?

b) Command

[Ga 5:16](#) But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.

2. This is OUR CHALLENGE TOO!

3. We BEGIN our SPIRITUAL LIFE “by the Spirit” BUT we TRY to GROW SPIRITUALLY through the flesh – through man’s methods and wisdom and not God’s

C. *Did you know? ANYTHING OTHER than “walk by the Spirit” / “be filled with the Spirit” DOES NOT GIVE ANY SPIRITUAL GROWTH!???*

→ It’s just MORE FLESH! GARBAGE trying to GROW Spiritually

D. *Just a QUICK look at the book of ACTS and the EARLY Church shows HOW the HOLY SPIRIT was the MEANS for EVERYTHING!*

1. You can literally follow the flow of Acts and outline the book by the Ministry of the Holy Spirit!

2. AND – you can clearly see that ALL of the KEY people of the EARLY CHURCH were filled with the Spirit / being LED by the Spirit / WALKING by the SPIRIT!

3. Peter 4:8

4. Prototype Deacons Acts 6 (Steve 6:5) / Steven (when stoned) 7:55

5. Paul 9:17 / 13:9

6. Barnabas 11:24

7. And – of course, they weren’t first, either!

a) John the Baptist – filled with the Holy Spirit FROM THE WOMB

b) Jesus Christ – Luke 4:1 full of the Holy Spirit

(1) John 3:34 Given the fullness of the Holy Spirit

E. *BL: CANNOT DO GOD’S WORK / CANNOT GROW into CHRIST-LIKENESS – CANNOT GROW PERIOD!*

1. → UNLESS you are FILLED with the SPIRIT / WALK by the SPIRIT!

2. So – today – let’s just be VERY PRACTICAL and START the NEW YEAR with FOUR STEPS to the SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE! (PUN)

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II. W-A-L-K by the Spirit

A. W: Word of Christ richly dwell in you (Col 3:16, Eph 5:18-19)

† **Colossians 3:16**

16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms *and* hymns *and* spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

1. “richly” = abundantly
 - a) Really filled up!
 - b) Jammed full!
2. “dwell” = to be at home in and to influence for good
 - a) be at home
 - (1) likes to be there
 - (2) wants to be there
 - (3) Not a stranger – at home in you
3. **One author: When the word of Christ richly dwells in you they can cut you anywhere and you bleed Bible verses.**
 - a) **In other words, NO MATTER WHAT LIFE EXPERIENCE YOU FACE – YOU WILL RESPOND BIBLICALLY – I.E. ACCORDING TO THE WILL AND MIND OF GOD.**
 - b) **As the word dominates your thinking, it dominates your action.**
 - c) **THE BIBLE IS FULL OF COMMANDS TO BE KNOWLEDGEABLE**
 - (1) In the OT, Israel was destroyed for lack of knowledge
 - (2) Jesus Christ said over and over “Do you not know?”
 - (3) Epistles cover this extensively
4. **Eph 5:18-19 are parallel verses to Col 3:16**

† **Ephesians 5:18-19**

18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit,

19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord;

- a) **Be filled with the Spirit = Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly – THE RESULTS ARE THE SAME, IDENTICAL! (ALL THE WAY THROUGH THE FAMILY VERSES!).**

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- b) As the word moves through your heart and mind it is that by which the Spirit of God directs your life.
 - c) **THE WORD OF CHRIST AT HOME IN YOU IS THE “HANDLE” BY WHICH THE HOLY SPIRIT LEADS YOU!**
5. **DON'T YOU THINK THAT A PERSON WITH THE WORD DWELLING IN THEM, FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT IS GOING TO ENJOY THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT INSTEAD OF CARRYING OUT THE DESIRES OF THE FLESH?**
6. **LOOK AT THE RESULTS IN COL 3:16**
- † **Colossians 3:16**
...with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another = KNOWLEDGE
with psalms *and* hymns *and* spiritual songs, singing = EMOTIONAL
with thankfulness in your hearts to God. = THANKING GOD ALL FROM DEEP WITHIN YOUR HEART
- a) **AND THEN BOTH COLOSSIANS AND EPHESIANS GO ON TO APPLYING THIS TO HUSBANDS, WIVES, PARENTS, CHILDREN, SLAVES!**
7. **A OLD, CLEVER ACROSTIC FOR THE WORD:**
- a) **HEED IT (Matt 13:9)**
 - b) **HANDLE IT (2 Tim 2:15)**
 - c) **HIDE IT (Ps 119:11)**
 - d) **HOLD IT FORTH (Phil 2:16)**
8. **DON'T BE A SUNDAY DINNER CHRISTIAN – YOU'D NEVER EAT ONE BIG MEAL ON SUNDAY...**

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B. A: Ask (Rom 8:26) = PRAY

† **Romans 8:26**

26 In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for *us* with groanings too deep for words;

1. **ANOTHER KEY MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IS TO HELP US PRAY!**
2. **Keys to Prayer**
 - a) **Ask according to God's will**

† **1 John 5:14**

14 This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

- b) **Ask so that God may be glorified in the Son**

† **John 14:13-14**

13 Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

14 If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it.

- c) **Ask with Christ's words abiding in you – ties to having the word dwell richly in you!**

† **John 15:7**

7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

- (1) Abide = remain, stay around, dwell

3. **Ask in Jesus' name and you will receive, so that your joy may be made full! (Jn 16:24).**

† **John 16:24**

24 Until now you have asked for nothing in My name; ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be made full.

4. **As you spend time in the word and prayer communing with the living God, building an intimate relationship, learning His word, you are in a position where Holy Spirit can move you down the path walking as He wants you to walk.**

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C. L: Led by the Spirit (Gal 5:18) = YIELD

1. Let the Spirit Lead – I.e. We follow, We yield

† **Galatians 5:18**

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

- a) To be led by the Spirit, **WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO DO? YIELD YOUR WILL TO HIS!**

2. Ask that God's will be done!

† **Matthew 6:10**

10 'Your kingdom come.

Your will be done,

On earth as it is in heaven.

- a) **Jesus gave His will over to God (Jn 5:30)**

† **John 5:30**

30 I can do nothing on My own initiative. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.

- b) **Ties "asking" and being led together!**

3. **DAY-BY-DAY, WE NEED TO LEARN THE WORD, PRAY FOR GOD'S GUIDANCE, YIELD OUR WILL – TRUST GOD AND DO IT HIS WAY!**

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D. K: Kill the deeds of the flesh (Rom 8:13)

† **Romans 8:13**

13 for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

† **Romans 13:14**

14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to *its* lusts.

† **2 Timothy 2:3-4 (or athlete of 1 Cor 9:24-27)**

3 Suffer hardship with *me*, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.

4 No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier.

† **1 John 2:3-6**

3 By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments.

4 The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him;

5 but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him:

6 the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.

1. **THIS LIFE IS NOT A "LET GO AND LET GOD"**
2. **THE COMMANDMENTS OF THE BIBLE ARE NOT FOR GOD TO HEAR HIMSELF SPEAK!**
3. **WE ARE COMMANDED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE.**
4. **Ask while keeping His commandments, and You'll receive what you ask for! – ties asking to obeying**

† **1 John 3:22**

22 and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight.