



Living a Life in Step with the Spirit – Counter to Culture of World

“Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit” – Galatians 5:25 (NIV)

Jesus teaches a better way of life, one that is in lockstep with the Spirit that lives within us and that often seems opposite to our culture. So how do we live in this world and engage with the world without becoming like the world? How do we stay focused on being led by the Spirit, allow Him to guide us, and still be impactful to those in the world whose culture is vastly different?

Staying in Step with the Spirit

1. **Never lose your sense of how great, powerful, awesome and wonderful that God IS.** God lives in us by His Spirit, but He remains God Almighty. He is God and we are not. God’s ways are higher than our ways. Never come to that place where you feel like you have attained equality with God. Read Isaiah 40:12-14 or passages from Job chapters 38-41 and then meditate on these questions.

- How do these passages form your thoughts about who God is; what He has done; who we are?
- How does God’s knowledge, wisdom, sovereignty compare to man’s knowledge, ideas, desires?
- How do the works of God compare to that of man?
- What are things we can do to turn our thoughts, sense of wonder towards Him when struggling?

2. **Fueled by God.** Remember the old marketing slogan for computers – *“Intel Inside”*? Remember that we have **GOD inside!** Realize, accept, and acknowledge that this

same all-powerful God lives inside of you by His Spirit. (1 Cor 3:16, 2 Cor 6:16, 1 Cor 6:19, John 14:16)

- Where does the God of **everything** live? Acts 17:24, 1 Cor 6:19
- How does knowing that this awe-inspiring God lives inside you change how you live?
- What does Rom 8:11 reveal about the power of the Spirit that lives in you?
- Do we have a full-strength version of God living in us or one diluted for man? How do you know?

3. **You are united in Spirit with God.** How incredible, comforting, and peaceful is it to know that we are united with God through the Spirit He has placed within is? 1 Cor 6:17

- What does it mean to you to be united in Spirit with God?
- How does this influence the choices you make in how you live your life?

Living in a World that Opposes God and the Spirit within You

1. **Love God.** Matt 22:34-38, Matt 6:33, 7:21-23. The life of a Christian MUST be lived IN Christ, putting God above all else, (yes, even above what friends, teachers, coaches, parents, media, etc. say)

- What is the greatest and first command? On it everything else depends
- What does it mean to seek first the kingdom of God?
- How do we make sure that we always use the standard of God whenever we consider what the world around us is trying to influence our thoughts, desires, choices?

2. **Love your Neighbor.** Matt 22:39-40; Luke 10:30-37.

- What does Jesus challenge us to do when we encounter things that divide us?
- How do you love others that are so different from God, Spirit without compromising to FIRST love God?

3. **Love to Follow.** Luke 18:18-23. Jesus requires that when we follow Him, we must be willing to give up the things that we hold dear in this world for a better life of eternity with Him.

- How does this mean we need to think about trading and giving up the world's ideas, philosophies, and "movements," when they are counter to God's?
- How can we look to and let the Spirit guide us in these times that the world has made confusing?

4. **Love to Forgive.** Mark 11:25 Jesus calls Christians to forgive others just as He has forgiven them.

- How can we be more effective in our forgiveness of others?
- How can the Spirit help us realize the importance of forgiveness?
- What does it mean to you to forgive as we have been forgiven?
- What happens if we are unable and unwilling to forgive?

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