

## Message #6- Precepts Sermon Series- "Let's Go for a Walk!" Galatians 5: 16-25

**Introduction: IL-** Deciding to walk from Garden City to the Grand Canyon, 408 miles, 20 days. Training to get ready, route to take, where to stop at night, what to take with you, what shoes to wear! Give it considerable thought, make a decision, then follow through with appropriate action! Training to win daily victories over my old self, the flesh, and to seek the help of the Spirit! **Gaining victory daily over my old nature is possible IF I choose to...**

**...walk by the Spirit- verse 16- Control!**

**IL-** God's Word Translation- "Let me explain further- live your life as your spiritual nature directs you. Then you will never follow through on what your corrupt nature wants!"

Walking is a metaphor for daily practical living.

"By means of" dependence and submission- NOT a passive surrender!

Why? We can do nothing on our own! John 15 :6- "Apart from Me you can do nothing!"

"**Works** of the flesh"- 15 plus sins- "Things like these" 9 **fruit** of the Spirit based on love!

Sons of Adam inherit sinful flesh, sons of God receive LIFE as God intended it to be, enriched by the Holy Spirit.

We receive the Spirit at salvation by faith- we walk with Him by faith! Indwelt forever!

Walk away from sin- example of Joseph in Genesis 39: 12- <sup>12</sup> "She caught him by his garment, saying, "Lie with me." But he left his garment in her hand and fled and got out of the house."

Walk toward the truth, God's precepts in His Word.

Walk in: **love-** Ephesians 5: 2-<sup>2</sup> And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. **Light-** 1 John 1: 7- But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. Newness of **life-** Romans 6: 5- <sup>4</sup> We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. ALL by **faith-** 2 Corinthians 5: 7- For we walk by faith, not by sight.

Opposite- example of sexual sin: adultery- pride is a core issue- 1 Corinthians 1: 29-30- <sup>29</sup> so that no human being<sup>a</sup> might boast in the presence of God. <sup>30</sup> And because of him<sup>b</sup> you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption,

Victory requires practice and solves our inner crisis with flesh!

The text doesn't say we won't HAVE the desires, only that we won't carry out those desires!

Holy living is never produced by SELF. I can only choose to do what is right through the Spirit!

1 Corinthians 6: 9-11- <sup>9</sup> Or do you not know that the unrighteous<sup>a</sup> will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality,<sup>b</sup> <sup>10</sup> nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers

will inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>11</sup> And such **were** some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

Yielding to the Holy Spirit's **control**- Ephesians 5: 18- <sup>18</sup> And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit. HE chooses what is best for you and me!

### **...be led by the Spirit- verse 18- Contentment!**

NOT free to sin but to serve our Master! Romans 8: 14- <sup>14</sup> For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons<sup>of</sup> of God.

Follow the Spirit's leading out of love, not legalism!

NOT free to serve SELF, only others and the Lord!

Natural, sinful tendencies affect and afflict ALL of us!

The "flesh" opposes God and His will and His Word, making endless demands and expectations.

The flesh and the Spirit are diametrically opposed, they do not agree on anything!

My best life is when I am obedient to the Spirit and follow His leading!

Being led by the Spirit brings great **contentment** which the flesh can never offer!

It is the opposite of resisting, grieving, quenching the Spirit, just as joy is the opposite of sin's despair!

A life of holiness means that sinful appetites are less and less desirable!

The will to do good and godly things comes from the Spirit who is in the lead! Let HIM lead and you'll find wonderful **contentment** and deep peace and joy!

### **...live by the Spirit while keeping in step with Him- verse 25- Consistency!**

Colossians 3: 2- <sup>2</sup> Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

Living by the Spirit produces consistency in my Christian lifestyle- stability and faithfulness!

The word picture here is that of consistent forward progress! "keeping in step with..."

What about temptation in my flesh? Temptation is NOT sin, how we respond to it may be!

With every temptation there comes a point when I have to make a decision!

It is best at that time to follow HIS lead and let HIM influence me for good!

That is where prayer comes in to play- it stirs our hearts and minds to do what is right and honoring to God, confident that the Spirit will show me the steps to take!

We should thank God for every victory over sin, and at the same time want that victory more and more- not lagging behind but pushing ahead! Not 70% of the time but all the time!

Jesus taught that the greatest commands were: Love God, love others! Romans 8: 3-6- <sup>3</sup> For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the

likeness of sinful flesh and for sin,<sup>1a</sup> he condemned sin in the flesh,<sup>4</sup> in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.<sup>5</sup> For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.<sup>6</sup> For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.

The Spirit was given, according to John 16: 14 to glorify Jesus and my walk can do that too! <sup>14</sup> He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

I need to be a student of the Word so that I can learn through study and application what a walk in the Spirit looks like, with a goal to develop that lifestyle to the glory of God!

Bible reading, meditation, memorization. Prayer each day and throughout the day, fellowship with God's people, sharing our faith: if we're doing those things from the heart we won't have time to dabble in our flesh!

I can sustain that God-honoring lifestyle, be consistent in daily victories over sin and Satan through the Spirit in me?"

The issue is NOT how long I should read or pray or how many Sundays in a row I need to attend church- the issue is simply- "Am I focusing my attention on the Spirit's work in and through me? Am I saying an emphatic No! to temptation from my flesh and Yes! To the Spirit's call?"

**Conclusion:** Listen to a man named Asaph in Psalm 73: 23 and 24- <sup>23</sup> Nevertheless, I am continually with you; you hold my right hand. <sup>24</sup> You guide me with your counsel and afterward you will receive me to glory. He had a handle on victory through a close walk with the Lord!

**IL-** Quote by author Chris Edmundson- "Anybody who is walking by the Spirit can't help but talk about **Jesus!**"

MY paraphrase of verse 16- "Walk by means of the Holy Spirit and talk much about your Savior, Jesus and you won't want to yield to the flesh at all!"

**Closing Song:** "I Need You More!"