

Bible Conference 2023
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Walking in the Spirit: The Remedy for a Sinful Life After Salvation

Main Passage: Gal. 5:16-17 - *“This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. 17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.”*

Introduction: In all of our Christian lives we face an opposing enemy who is out to destroy our lives. Just because you place your faith in Christ does not mean this enemy will stop. It is always there seeking to get what it wants 24/7. It is up to you (through the power of God) to combat it and starve it until one day you see it all destroyed. Are you wondering what/who this enemy is? - It is You. The sinful flesh of man is universal. We all deal with the sin inherited by Adam. God has provided a way to combat this sin and live a life that pleases Him and a life with complete fulfillment and bestowment of His blessings. However, we have a responsibility we must do in order to keep from sinning in our Christian lives. Though we cannot lose our salvation, we must strive to not lose our fellowship with the Savior. There is a remedy for a Christian’s sinful life and the believer has a responsibility in order to see that remedy take effect.

God wants you to walk in the spirit so you will not sin.

I. The Responsibility of the Remedy (v. 16a)

A. “Walk..”

1. Paul has just brought to their attention how they are free from sin.
2. And he knows that the sin nature is still there so he is going to show them how they are to combat it.

a) First, they walk.

b) **Walk** = *peripateo*

(1) Root: *peri* (around, about, on behalf of) and ***pateo*** (“path”, to trample/tread upon, advance by setting your foot upon)

(2) Go/Be occupied with/deport oneself (forcibly move oneself)

(a) When someone is deported they are forced to be alienated from a country.

(3) When you walk you take one step at a time to make progress towards your destination.

(a) When Pablo Casals reached 95, a young reporter threw him a question: "Mr. Casals, you are 95 and the greatest cellist that ever lived. Why do you still

practice six hours a day?" And Mr. Casals answered, "Because I think I'm making progress."

(4) *Walking is that purposeful action which must be done every single day, it doesn't happen naturally nor by chance because we are all sinners (Romans 1:20). You must decide to do it everyday.*

B. "In the Spirit.."

1. *Spirit = pneuma*

a) *Root: pneo (movement of air/breath/wind/gentle blast)*

(1) When God created man we find that He gave him the *breath* of life (Gen. 2:7).

(a) This word *breath* can also be translated spirit.

(2) Because of sin man died spiritually (Gen. 3:8), fellowship with God had been broken.

(3) Man's spirit was now separated from God.

(4) However, God had a plan to redeem man back to fellowship with Him (Gen. 3:15).

(5) Once a believer is saved he is no longer spiritually dead but spiritually alive (Eph. 2:5).

2. Notice Paul does not say to walk around the Spirit, over the Spirit or even beside the Spirit...he says to walk **in** it.

a) When we are saved the Holy Spirit dwells within us (**2 Timothy 1:14**)

b) We are **in** Christ the moment we are saved (**Romans 8:1**)

c) The Spirit is apart of us but we must remember that our sin nature is also still apart of us (**Romans 7:18**)

d) **We are to walk in the spirit keeping our focus on what truly matters...eternity.**

II. The Result of the Remedy

A. "And ye shall not fulfill..."

1. *Fulfill = teleo*

a) *Root: telos (end, result)*

b) *Complete, execute, to bring to a close, finished*

- c) **James 1:15** - “Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin and sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.”
(1) *Death is the grandchild of lust.*
- d) David lusted upon Bathsheba and allowed that sin to be conceived resulting in a separation from His God, the murder of Uriah, and the loss of his son.
- e) Paul says that we will not find the end result of temptation and sin if we walk in the Spirit.

B. “The lust of the flesh..”

1. **Lust = epithymia**

- a) **Root: epithymeō** (to long for; to have a desire for)
- b) **A desire for what is forbidden**
- c) Adam and Eve were forbidden to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil; Satan tempted them to a desire for that which was forbidden.
- d) They gave in to that desire (**Gen. 3:6**) and they immediately faced the consequences of spiritual death (**Gen 3:7-8**).
(1) **1 John 2:16** tells us that this lust is not from God but from the world.
(2) *^This passage parallels Gen 3:6.^*

2. **Flesh = sarx**

- a) **Can also be translated carnal**
- b) This is that part of man which is tainted with sin; the flesh and bones of man are against the Spirit (Rom. 7:18).
- c) It is that material part.
- d) After we are saved the Holy Spirit dwells in us and we are born again *spiritually* not physically (John 3:3)
- e) The flesh can be compared to a ravenous wolf: when it is nourished, it gains strength and vigor but when it is starved, it fades into frailty.
- f) *We have the free will to choose which one we feed - the flesh or the Spirit. However, Paul says we are not to use our freedom for an occasion to the flesh (Gal. 5:13)*

“Accordingly the duty here recommended to us is that we set ourselves to act under the guidance and influence of the blessed Spirit, and agreeably to the motions and tendency of the new nature in us; and, if this be our care in the ordinary course and tenure of our lives, we may depend upon it that, though we may not be freed from the stirrings and oppositions of our corrupt nature, we shall be kept from fulfilling it in the lusts thereof; so that though it remain in us, yet it shall not obtain a dominion over us.” - Matthew Henry

III. Final Realizations

A. There is a Fight (Gal. 5:17)

1. The flesh and the spirit are at odds with one another.
2. The flesh literally turns (lusteth [*epithymeō*]) on the spirit and the spirit on the flesh.
 - a) When you are saved your spirit and your flesh are immediately against one another.
 - b) Paul addressed this conflict in Rom. 7:15.

B. There are Fruits (Gal. 5:19-22)

1. Fruits of the flesh (v. 19-21)
 - a) **Adultery**
 - b) **Fornication**
 - c) **Uncleanness - *physical/moral***
 - d) **Lasciviousness - *unbridled lust***
 - e) **Idolatry**
 - f) **Witchcraft - *sorcery, magical arts***
 - g) **Hatred - *enmity***
 - h) **Variance - *contrition/strife***
 - i) **Emulations - *zeal, embracing contentions and rivalry***
 - j) **Wrath - *passion/angry/heat***
 - k) **Strife - *desire to put oneself forward***
 - l) **Seditions - *division***
 - m) **Heresies - *chosen opinion/tenet***
 - n) **Envyings - *jealousy***
 - o) **Murder - *slaughter***
 - p) **Drunkenness - *intoxication***
 - q) **Rioting - *feasts and drinking-parties that are protracted till late at night and indulge in revelry***
2. Fruits of the Spirit
 - a) **Love - *brotherly love***
 - b) **Joy - *gladness***
 - c) **Peace - *exemption from rage/tranquility***
 - d) **Longsuffering - *endurance/steadfastness***
 - e) **Gentleness - *kindness/integrity***
 - f) **Goodness - *uprightness***
 - g) **Faith - *belief***
 - h) **Meekness - *gentleness***
 - i) **Temperance - *self-control***

Conclusion:

Though we are in this fight, we are not in it alone. God has provided a way that we can be victorious over our sin. We are to strive to live with the realization of who our faith is in and what we have through Christ. We have the power of the Holy Spirit to fight off the enemy and live with the confidence that we will not sin. There is a remedy for your sin...are you going to yield to that remedy and walk in the spirit?